

ENST 5311: Interactions of Environment and Culture

Instructor: M. Boyd

BB-2001-F, 807-343-8279, mboyd1@lakeheadu.ca

Office hours by appointment

Course Description:

A student-driven, weekly, seminar addressing aspects of human-environmental interactions (past and present). This course is designed to:

1. Strengthen your ability to critically evaluate scholarly (peer-reviewed) literature;
2. Develop your presentation and collaboration skills, as well as your skills in leading small group discussions;
3. Strengthen your written communication skills;
4. Expose you to the varied literature in environmental studies and allied disciplines.

Evaluation:

Seminar leadership: **20%**

- Every week, one student will be responsible for selecting a topic and leading the discussion of approx. 4 key articles (minimum). These articles must be distributed to the other students in the class well in advance of the seminar (at least 5 days). The topic chosen is open but it should comfortably fall within the overall 'theme' of the week and make sense in relation to the previous week's topic. Students should work together in order to come up with a sequence of topics for each theme near the start of the term. Evaluation is based on: the appropriateness and relevance of papers selected; the quality of seminar leadership; and depth of background knowledge of the selected topic.

Class participation: **15%**

- Regular attendance and thoughtful, informed, participation are expected for each seminar.

Written assignments: **65%**

- **Paper #1:** A concise summary of sub-topic selected under theme #1. Length: ~1500 words. Value: **15%**. This paper must be well-researched and referenced. Due: **Week 4**.
- **Paper #2:** A concise summary of sub-topic selected under theme #2. Length: ~1500 words. Value: **15%**. This paper must be well-researched and referenced. Due: **Week 7**.
- **Paper #3:** A concise summary of sub-topic selected under theme #3. Length: ~1500 words. Value: **15%**. This paper must be well-researched and referenced. Due: **Week 10**.
- **Paper #4:** *Mock research proposal* (~2500 words). Include: background context and significance, theoretical approach, methods, expected outcomes. Must be well-referenced and convincing to a specialist and general audience. Value: **20%**. Due: last class (**Nov. 28**).

Seminar schedule:

Week 1 (Sept. 5): Introduction to course, expectations, etc.

THEME #1: Human-Environmental interactions—method, theory, and practice

Week 2 (Sept. 12): Presenter: Laura

Week 3 (Sept. 19): Presenter: Andrew

Week 4 (Sept 26): Presenter: Victoria

THEME #2: Indigenous Landscapes

Week 5 (Oct. 3): Presenter: Timothy

Week 6 (Oct 10): Presenter: Andrew & Laura

Week 7 (Oct 24): Presenter: Victoria & Timothy

THEME #3: Contemporary issues

Week 8 (Oct 31): Presenter: Andrew

Week 9 (Nov 7): Presenter: Laura

Week 10 (Nov. 14): *Research proposal workshop*

Week 11 (Nov. 21): Presenter: Victoria

Week 12 (Nov. 28): Presenter: Timothy