

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY – ORILLIA CAMPUS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**GEOG 4431 WAO – CONSERVATION GEOGRAPHY- 2024**

**Course Outline**

**A) COURSE INSTRUCTOR:**

Florin Pendea (OA, Room 3026)  
Office hours – by appointment

**B) COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the complex relationships between environmental conservation, culture and economic development. Course themes include the analysis of a diversity of environmental conservation schemes, such as national and provincial parks, marine protected areas, and biosphere reserves, as well as planning and management practices currently in place in Canada and around the world. We will concentrate mainly on large natural areas from Canada, managed primarily for the conservation of biodiversity and recreational use. Students will gain understanding of various planning and management issues facing Canada's parks and protected areas and will become familiar with the current status of major national and provincial parks.

The second part of the course will target global issues regarding environmental conservation and will focus on protection and rehabilitation of valuable biological resources that have the power to assure human survival in conditions of increasing threats, such as over-population, climate change and environmental degradation. Topics will include case studies from around the world that have achieved various levels of success in the conservation of Earth's natural heritage as well as "forgotten" plant and animal species that have the potential to increase future environmental sustainability, boost food security, and reduce human pressure on landscapes and ecosystems.

**C) PREREQUISITES**

GEOG 1120 or permission from the Instructor.

**D) STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME**

At the end of semester students will be able to:

1. **Explain** how Canadian environmental conservation system works and summarize the relationships existing between conservation, culture and economic development. This will help students prepare for a potential career with Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada or provincial ministries responsible for environmental conservation and provincial parks.
2. **Identify and critically discuss** the main planning, management, and economic issues facing conservation efforts in Canada and elsewhere;
3. **Analyze and critique** the potential role of various biological resources to increase community sustainability, food security and environmental protection and **identify** policy, social and economical tools that may ensure their conservation in perpetuity.

\* Lecture calendar is subject to change without notice. Discussions flow freely and therefore cannot be strictly timed

### **E) IMPORTANT DATES**

Lectures are Tuesday and Thursday from 16:00 to 17:30 hrs in OA Room 2008. Winter term runs from January 8 to April 9, as the semester progresses lectures in PPT format, assigned readings and supplementary material will be put on D2L.

### **F) PAPER and ASSIGNMENTS**

Assisted by the instructor, each student will choose a topic of interest that she/he will then develop into a paper/essay. **The paper is due February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**

One assignment is planned for this class: **Proposal for a future natural park, protected area or biosphere reserve in Canada.** The students will submit a full-fledged proposal for creation of a new conservation unit (park, protected area, biosphere reserve, game reserve), which will include a: a) description of the area of choice emphasizing the main elements that require protection; b) a general rationale on the relevance of the proposed area in the context of existing parks and protected areas in Canada; c) a SWOT analysis of the proposed conservation area emphasizing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and d) a logistical plan to be carried out for the integration of the proposed unit into the national and provincial infrastructure (this section may include a map of the area). **Assignment is due April 4<sup>th</sup>.**

### **G) EVALUATION**

Midterm Exam	25%
Paper	20%
Assignment 1	25%
Final Exam	30%

The midterm test and final exam will include multiple choice and "short answer" questions as well as hand-written essays. The "short answer" questions may require one or two paragraph answers. The essays should normally be 1-2 pages long but should not exceed 3 pages. Typically, one or two short-answer questions come from textbook material not covered in lectures. Definitions make up 10-15 percent of the exams. One-third of the final exam will be comprehensive (i.e. from the entire semester's material).

Please realise that departments have no control over the scheduling of final examinations and that individual professors do not have the authority to allow students to write the final exam outside the designated time slot. Furthermore, there will be no opportunity to "re-do" or "make-up" missed or failed assignments and midterms. Additional work to improve a grade is not an option. If you miss the midterm or fail to submit an assignment without a doctor's certificate a mark of "1" will be awarded. Students with disabilities, however, can arrange to write the exam in a special setting. Please contact Student Affairs for more information.

### **GRADING SCHEME:**

A+	90 to 100%	Outstanding understanding of the course concepts including
A	80 to 89%	integration of materials and ideas, ability to apply knowledge to situations

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B	70 to 79%	Above average to excellent knowledge, ability to apply knowledge to situations
C	60 to 69%	Satisfactory knowledge including ability to recognise and apply major course concepts, and to progress to next level of course
D	50 to 59%	Some grasp of course concepts; will likely encounter difficulty with higher levels
E	40 to 49%	Failed to meet minimum requirements of the course
F	1 to 39%	Failure
F	0	Failure resulting from academic dishonesty

## **H) REFERENCE TEXTS**

### **Recommended:**

Borgerhoff Mulder M. & Coppelillo P. (2005) Conservation: Linking Ecology, Ecology, and Culture. Princeton University Press, New Jersey.

Dearden Ph. & Rollins R. (eds) 2015. Parks and Protected Areas in Canada. Planning and Management, 4th Edition. Oxford University Press Canada.

## **D) LECTURE TOPICS AND TENTATIVE\* CALENDAR**

9 January - Introduction and course outline

11 January – From Wild Places to Endangered Spaces – a History of Protected Area creation.

16 January – Social Science, Conservation, and Protected Areas Theory

18 January – Biological basis of Conservation and Biodiversity

23 January – Biological basis of Conservation and Biodiversity cont'

25 January - Biological basis of Conservation and Biodiversity cont'

30 January - Threats to Biodiversity

01 February – Applications of Ecological Concepts to the Management of Protected Areas

6 February – Planning and Managing for Ecological Integrity in Canada's National Parks

8 February – Managing National Parks

13 February – Managing National Parks cont'

15 February – **Midterm**

19-23 February - **Reading Week**

27 February – Northern Parks and Protected Areas

29 February – Indigenous Stewardship and Culturally Appropriate Protected Area Creation

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5 March – Tourism, Eco-tourism and Protected Areas

7 March – Marine Protected Areas

12 March – Protecting the future: the many roads to conservation

14 March – Protecting the future: the many roads to conservation cont'

19 March – Protecting the future: case studies in success and failure

21 March – Protecting the future: case studies in success and failure cont'

26 March – Protecting the future: case studies in success and failure cont'

28 March – Sustainable futures: Conservation of Crops and Livestock Diversity

02 April – The bigger picture – lessons in Political Ecology

04 April – Global Issues, Economics, and Policy

09 April – Course wrap-up / Exam Preparation

## **J) Student responsibilities and Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to participate in all course activities and complete all assignments on time. Late assignments carry a 10% reduction in value per day, no exceptions.

### Academic dishonesty (plagiarism):

The most common offense under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism.

This could be material copied word for word from books, journals, internet sites, professor's course notes, etc. It could be material that is paraphrased but closely resembles the original source. It could be the work of a fellow student, for example, an answer on a quiz, data for a lab report, a paper or assignment completed by another student. It might be a paper purchased through one of the many available sources. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone - it can also refer to copying images, graphs, tables, and ideas. "Presentation" is not limited to written work. It also includes oral presentations, computer assignments and artistic works. Finally, if you translate the work of another person into French or English and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism.

Remember! Do not copy, paraphrase or translate anything from anywhere without citing where you obtained it!

University guidelines on the matter:

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

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(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.

(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.

2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e., no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e., no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct>

A complete listing of University Policies and Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/about/policies-procedures>

### **GenAI Use is Prohibited in this course**

Generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI or GenAI) is a category of AI systems capable of generating text, images, or other media in response to prompts. These systems include ChatGPT and its variant Bing (built by OpenAI) and Bard (built by Google) among several others. Other Generative AI models include artificial intelligence art systems such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and DALL-E.

***Any use of GenAI systems to produce assignments for this course is not permitted. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity ("Use of Unauthorized Materials").***

### **K) Class Etiquette**

Out of common courtesy, your professors request a few things of you. While students are in class, they are expected to give their full attention to the professor. Reading, talking, sleeping, and leaving before the end of class are impolite. If you know before class that you will have to leave early sit towards the back near the door so as not to disrupt the class. Likewise, if you arrive late, please enter from the back of the class.

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## **L. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS**

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities/medical conditions. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities/medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability/medical condition and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please email [sas@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:sas@lakeheadu.ca) or visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

*This course is designed to compliment other geography, geology and environmental courses. Certain important and "fundamental" topics are the domain of all of these courses and will probably be repeated.*

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