



Society and Nature

GEO 1500 F – Fall 2012

Overview

Society and Nature provides an introduction to global environmental change and inequality through time, focusing on some of the most pressing environment and development problems facing the world today, including tropical deforestation, desertification, climate change, and fossil energy dependence and limits. These are explored through a series of case studies which integrate physical and social science perspectives, in an integrative approach that provides a basis for further study in the discipline of geography.

Format

This course is based upon lectures, readings, and 5 tutorials/short assignments. You will find it helpful, and get more out of each lecture, if you keep up with the reading assignments for each unit (pages are specified in the lecture). The course will follow the thematic outline below, but the schedule is subject to some flexibility.

Instructor Information

Name: **Dr. Tony Weis**
Title: Associate Professor
office: Dept. of Geography, SSB, room 2314
office hrs: Wednesdays 10-11.30
email: aweis@uwo.ca
phone: 519-661-2111 x. 87472

Lectures Location: WSC-55
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:30

Tutorials Location: SSC-2333
Bi-weekly – see schedule below for weeks

Day	Time
Mon.	8.30-10.30
Mon.	10.30-12.30
Mon.	12:30-2:30
Mon.	2:30-4:30
Mon.	4:30-6:30
Tues.	4:30-6:30
Wed.	12:30-2:30

-questions regarding tutorial scheduling see Angelica Lucaci, Undergraduate Assistant in the Geography Department: alucaci@uwo.ca (x. 86052)

Outline

DATE	#	UNITS & TOPICS	TUTORIAL DATES
Sept. 6		Introduction	
	1	THEME: APPROACHING GLOBAL SYSTEMS	
Sept. 11		Controls on Climate and the Spread of Humans, pre-1492	
Sept. 13			
Sept. 18		Imperialism and the Making of the Modern World	Mon-Wed. Sept. 17 th to 19 th
Sept. 20			
	2	THEME: TROPICAL DEFORESTATION case: Amazonia	
Sept. 25		The Geophysiology of the Amazon Basin	
Sept. 27			
Oct. 2		The Political Ecology of Amazonian Deforestation	Mon-Wed. Oct. 1 st to 3 rd
Oct. 4			
	3	THEME: DESERTIFICATION case: The Sahel	
Oct. 9		Physical Processes in Sahelian Africa	
Oct. 11			
Oct. 16		Food Insecurity & Famine in a Historical Context	Mon-Wed. Oct. 15 th to 17 th
Oct. 18			
Oct. 23		* MID TERM TEST (25%) -- IN CLASS *	
	4	THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE & FOSSIL ENERGY case: Carbon Cycle / Middle East	
Oct. 25		Fossil Fuels and the Carbon Cycle	
Oct. 30			
Nov. 1		The Geopolitics of Oil	Mon-Wed. Nov. 5 th to 7 th
Nov. 6			
Nov. 8			
	5	THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE case: The Arctic	
Nov. 13		Polar Systems and the Canadian Arctic	
Nov. 15			
Nov. 20		Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples	Mon-Wed. Nov. 19 th to 21 st
Nov. 22			
Nov. 27		The Geopolitics of Climate Change	
Nov. 29			
Dec. 4		Conclusions & Review	
Dec. 5		classes end	
Dec. 6-7		study days	
Dec. 8-19		* FINAL EXAM (40%) -- DATE TBA IN EXAM PERIOD *	

NOTE: Thanksgiving – October 8

Course Materials

Customized Course Reader (Pearson Online), compiled by Tony Weis.
Available the campus bookstore: cost: \$70.~

Methods of Evaluation

Labs/Short Written Assignments _____ **35%**
-5 x 7% marks each

Mid-term Test – Tuesday, October 23, 2012 (in class) _____ **25%**

Final Exam – TBA during Final Exam period (Dec. 8-19, 2012) _____ **40%**

Note on Exams

Both the mid-term test and final exam are a combination of multiple choice and paragraph written answers, and will cover the content in course lectures, seminars, and readings. **If you fail to write the mid-term or the final on the scheduled date and time, you will be given zero, unless you communicate and receive permission from the instructors prior to the exam, in which case you will require a note from your physician (see note on special examination policy below).**

Note on Labs and Written Assignments

You are expected to attend all of the lab sessions in your assigned time-slot. The room will be full, so only under special circumstances can you arrange to attend a different time. Some of the labs will be completed during the tutorial period itself, but others will require a short written component which will be due one week following your lab period. Unless you communicate and receive permission from your lab instructor, missed assignments will be given a 0.

Additional Information

Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Support Services

Western Registrar: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students with Special Needs

Any student with documented special needs should contact the instructors as soon as possible so we can discuss any necessary accommodations to make this course a positive learning environment.

UWO's Special Examination Policy

A special examination is any examination other than the regularly scheduled exam. Special exams will be allowed only on receipt of medical documentation verifying a serious illness that kept the student from writing the exam as originally scheduled. Such documentation is strictly confidential and kept in the student's file. In the case of missing a final exam for documented medical reasons, a special exam will be set within 30 days.

Special exams will not be granted for occasions such as employment interviews, weddings, bar mitzvahs, family reunions, vacations, misreading an exam timetable, or oversleeping. Neither will special exams be granted in order to facilitate transportation arrangements, such as booking flights for home or holidays. It is the policy to discourage informal arrangements by faculty which circumvent this regulation.

Counseling Services

Students in need of counseling about the geography program and related matters should contact Undergraduate Assistant and Program Advisor Ms. Angelica Lucaci in the Department of Geography. Angelica Lucaci: alucaci@uwo.ca (x. 86052)

UWO's Fire Alarm Policy

UWO Occupational Health and Safety requires that all students are required to evacuate the building when the fire alarm is activated. This is imperative, not an option.

Final Marks

The mark awarded by an instructor in a course at UWO is only final when students receive it from the Registrar, and even then they can be changed on receipt by the Registrar of a Marks Revision Form. In all cases, the final marks are not final until the department chair has signed off.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

For a downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC) see: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

Statement on Academic Offences

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http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf