

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
GEOGRAPHY 2153A: ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY AND SOCIETY  
**PROVISIONAL** (FALL, 2014)

Instructor: Abednego Aryee (PhD)  
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Office hours: By appointment  
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Lecture schedule: Tuesday 10:30-1:30 pm  
Lecture room: Health Science Building room 240

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

The human uses of and impacts on environment and resources; the concept of sustainability; current resource issues.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. This course provides a contemporary introduction to scientific and social concepts which are necessary for the study and understanding of ecological functioning of our global environment.
2. It enhances students' understanding of the breadth of human activities and their impacts on the natural environment such as agriculture, mining, forestry, energy production, urbanization, water extraction and fishing, among others.
3. It highlights current environmental issues that Canadians face and efforts being made to address these issues in an integrated fashion.
4. These responses identify international and local actions and discuss the activities of local individuals, environmental nongovernmental organizations, industry and governments.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Draper Dianne and Reed Maureen 2009 (Fourth Edition). Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective. Nelson education, Toronto.

**METHOD AND SCHEDULE OF STUDENTS EVALUATION**

Term test 1	October 7, 2014	20 %
Term test 2	November 4, 2014	20 %
Individual essay	November 18, 2014	20 %
Final exam	TBA	40 %

**WEEKLY LECTURE SCHEDULES & TEXTBOOK READINGS**

<b>WEEKS</b>		<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>READINGS &amp; RESOURCES</b>
Week 1	Sept 9	Introduction: Concepts: Sustainable Development; carrying capacity; ecological footprint and the tragedy of the commons.	Pages 3-31
Week 2	Sept 16	Human-environment interaction systems	Pages 62-136 <i>“Economic development: a global challenge”</i>
Week 3	Sept 23	Atmosphere; global warming and climate change	Pages 140-194
Week 4	Sept 30	Agriculture and food production systems	Pages 196-251 <i>“Food Inc”</i>
Week 5	Oct 7	<b>TERM TEST 1</b> <b>10:30-12:30 PM</b>	
Week 6	Oct 14	Cities and urban environments	Pages 524-557
Week 7	Oct 21	Minerals, mining and environmental impacts	Pages 404-435
Week 8	Oct 28	Fossil fuels and renewable energy resources	Pages 438-476 <i>“Tipping point: the age of the oil sands”</i>
Week 9	Nov 4	<b>TERM TEST 2</b> <b>10:30 – 12:30 PM</b>	
Week10	Nov 11	Forestry and protected areas	Pages 356-401 <i>“Forbidden forest”</i>
Week 11	Nov 18	Fresh water systems and water resources  Guest Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Mensah	Pages 256-297 <i>“Water under fire”</i>
Week 12	Nov 25	Fisheries & oceans	Pages 300-353 Video: <i>“Empty oceans, empty nets”</i>
Week 13	Dec 2	Environmental impact assessment, environmental policies and agencies of change	Pages 560-587 <i>“When is enough, enough?”</i>
Week 14	TBA	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

### **SAKAI (COURSE WEBSITE)**

Course syllabus, articles and lecture notes can be downloaded from the Sakai. Updates regarding this course will be posted in the announcement section. It is students' responsibility to visit the WebCT or course website frequently for current information pertaining to this course.

### **MISSED TERM WORK & EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students are expected to complete all assignments, tests, and exams within the time frames and by the dates indicated in this outline. Exemption or deferral of an assignment, term test, or final examination is only permitted for a medical or personal emergency. The instructor must be notified by e-mail **prior to** the due date or test/exam date, and the appropriate documentation must be submitted.

### **MEDICAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

In event of acute (short term) or chronic (long term) illness, documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible. See the following websites for further information.

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). You can obtain downloadable student medical certificate from the following website:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

#### **A. Documentation from Family Physicians and Walk-In Clinics**

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required if you are seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. Hard copies are available from Academic Counseling in the Faculties.

#### **B. Documentation from Student Health Services**

Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a "release of information." This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student's home Faculty.

#### **C. Counseling service**

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that his/her ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities was seriously affected. See detail information from the following website:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

### **STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Plagiarism is a serious university offence of handing in (part or whole) essays, thesis, ideas, oral works, artistry, drawings or data of another person, that are not your own. Students are

hereby encouraged to properly acknowledge sources of all secondary materials used in writing their projects and exams and strive for personal ingenuity or originality. Students are advised to uphold academic integrity and avoid all forms of activities which will result in gaining unfair advantage in the pursuit of their academic work. For further information on academic misconduct consult the following website:

*<http://www.uwo.ca/unisec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>*. For students' code, check:

*[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)*

*<http://www.uwo.ca/unisec/board/code.pdf>*.

**SUPPORT SERVICES:** Registrarial Services: *<http://www.registerar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>*

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

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELNESS**

*[http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/resources.html](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html)*

*<https://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/students.html>*