



Jamie Baxter  
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## Geography 2153 - Environment Economy and Society

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### GEOG 2153

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## SYLLABUS 2015 Environment Economy and Society

This syllabus is "dynamic" or a "living document", it will change throughout the term. Come back here before each lecture.

3 lecture hours, half course, Fall term

### Prerequisite and Modules

None! This course fits into several [Geography Modules](#) including the (relatively) **New** [Major in Environment and Health](#).

### News

#### Sept. 14/15

**Welcome!** - First class is Tues Sept. 15, 10:30 in [B&GS-0165](#). The purpose of the first class will be to give you a sense of how the course will be structured so you can decide if the course is right for your needs. We have just over 40 students registered so far.

### Description

#### Calendar Description

This course concerns the human uses of and impacts on the environment and resources through a social science and policy lens. While we will use the concept of "sustainability" throughout, we will critically analyze the meaning of this term in various contexts. We will examine contemporary environmental and resource issues using case examples throughout the term.

#### Format

This course consists of three lecture hours per week. The lecture hours will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. Some lecture class time will be devoted to tutorial-style break-out group discussion. Students are responsible for i) completing readings prior to each lecture and; ii) being prepared to engage in active group discussions.

### Contact Information

Instructor/TA	Room	Email	Office Hour	Student Surnames	Turnitin ID	Turnitin Pass
Jamie Baxter	SSC 1407	<a href="mailto:jamie.baxter@uwo.ca">jamie.baxter@uwo.ca</a>	Tue. 15:30-16:30		10691633	Draper
Sarah Mason	SSC1424 (eventually)	<a href="mailto:smason27@uwo.ca">smason27@uwo.ca</a>	Tues. 9:30 - 10:30	All	10691701	Reed

### Timetable

Lect/Tut	Day	Duration	Start Time	End Time	Room	Instructor/TA
Lecture	Tuesday	3hrs	10:30	13:30	B&GS-0165	Jamie Baxter

### Evaluation

Component	Weight
Assignments (two)	40%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

You must complete all course components to pass the course.  
No electronic devices - e.g., phones, calculators are allowed at the midterm or exam.

## Midterm

**Weight:** 25%

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

**Date:** Oct. 27

**Location:** B&GS-0165

**Possible Format:** mixed, all answers on exam paper - 85 marks

- i. Multiple choice and true/false - 20
  - o 1 mark ea.
  - o MC usually 1 of 5 choices (a - e)
  - o NOT scantron, circle on exam paper
  - o no "correction factor" (i.e., NO subtraction of incorrect answers from correct answers)
- ii. Definitions - 25
  - o 5 marks ea.
  - o choice - you will choose 5 from at least 7
  - o identify what the thing is, why it is important, how it relates to other things in the lectures and provide an example(s)
  - o I have been told by students that I, "expect a lot in a definition". I agree.
  - o only those definitions that include an example will receive full marks
  - o space - use only the space provided - approximately 1/5 of a page
- iii. Short Answer - 40
  - o 10 marks ea.
  - o choice - you will choose 4 from at least 6
  - o address the question directly and include at least one example
    - e.g., if you are asked to "compare" - identify and describe both similarities and differences. What are the implications of those similarities and differences e.g., for policy?
  - o examples- only those short answers that include at least one example will receive full marks
  - o space - use only the space provided - approximately 1/3 of a page

### Material Covered:

All lectures and readings up until the end of the class immediately prior to the midterm date. The focus will be on lectures, but the readings typically overlap the lectures considerably. Generally speaking you do not have to know specifics like who said what in what year for the multiple choice, but it would not hurt to know some of the more important figures mentioned in class to round out your definitions and short answer.

## Final Exam

**Weight:** 35%

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Date:** TBA (always verify on official exam schedule)

**Location:** TBA

**Format:** mixed, all answers on exam paper. (100 marks)

- i. Multiple choice and true/false - (15 marks)
  - MC usually 1 of 5 choices (a - e)
  - NOT scantron, circle on exam paper
  - no "correction factor" (i.e., NO subtraction of incorrect answers from correct answers)
- ii. Definitions  
(25 marks)
  - 5 marks ea.
  - choice - you will choose 5 from at least 7
  - identify what the thing is, why it is important, how it relates to other things in the lectures and provide an example(s)
  - I have been told by students that I, "expect a lot in a definition". I agree.
  - only those definitions that include an example will receive full marks
  - space - use only the space provided - approximately 1/5 of a page
- iii. Short Answer  
(30 marks)
  - 10 marks ea.
  - choice - you will choose 3 from at least 5
  - address the question directly and include at least one example
  - examples- only those short answers that include at least one example will receive full marks
  - space - use only the space provided - approximately 1/3 of a page

- iv. Essay  
(30 marks)
- choice - you will choose 1 from 2
  - address the question directly and include examples
  - space - use only the space provided - approximately 2 1/2 pages
  - outline - though there are no marks explicitly awarded for this, sketch an outline on the extra sheet of paper provided (back of last page)

### Material Covered:

All lectures and readings since the midterm date. You are also responsible for material you might use in an essay answer. That is, the essay question will be quite general and will allow you to draw on material from the entire course. The focus will be on lectures, but the readings typically overlap the lectures considerably. Generally speaking you do not have to know specifics like who said what in what year for the multiple choice, but it could not hurt to know some of the more important figures mentioned in class to round out your definitions and short answer.

### Readings

Course Text:

Draper, D. and Reed, M. (2009) *Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective (Fourth Edition)* Toronto: Nelson.

All other material will be made available via Sakai

### Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic - Lecture files now available on Owl in the "Resources" area	Reading/Passwords
Sept. 15	<a href="#">Scope of Course</a>	None
Sept. 22	<a href="#">Introduction - Key concepts</a> <a href="#">Discussion Assignment 1</a>	Draper and Reed Ch 1 rio, zimmermann, rees
Sept. 29	<a href="#">Role of science in environmental decision-making</a>	Draper and Reed Ch 2 chalmers
Oct. 6	<a href="#">Connections between physical and human systems on earth</a> <a href="#">Field camp week, some students may be away</a>	Draper and Reed Ch 3, 4
Oct. 13	<a href="#">Our changing atmosphere</a>	Draper and Reed Ch 5 ipcc
Oct. 20	<a href="#">Agriculture and food production</a> <b>Assignment 1 Due</b>	Draper and Reed Ch 6
Oct. 27	MIDTERM EXAM	None
Nov. 3	<a href="#">Water, oceans and fisheries</a> <a href="#">Discussion Assignment 2</a>	Draper and Reed Ch 7, 8
Nov. 10	<a href="#">Forestry and Mining</a>	Draper and Reed Ch 9, 10
Nov. 17	<a href="#">Energy</a>	Draper and Reed Ch 11
Nov. 24	<a href="#">Sustainable Cities</a> Guest Speakers: Jay Stanford and Jamie Skimming: " <a href="#">Sustainable Cities – Adjusting how we use Today's Built Environment and Positioning for Tomorrow</a> "	Draper and Reed Ch 13
Dec. 1	<a href="#">Meeting environmental challenges</a> <a href="#">Course instructor evaluation</a> Karen Van Kerkoerle to provide tips on creating posters	Draper and Reed Ch 14
Dec. 8	<b>Assignment 2 Due</b> - In-class <a href="#">poster session</a> and peer grading Review for exam	

### Handing in Material

**I cannot get it in on time! (Accommodation for Illness, Family Death etc.)**

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

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

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform\\_15JUN.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf)

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed graded course components must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

And now some messages from our lawyers...

### Mental Illness

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwoom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.

### Plagiarism

The Department of Geography has a zero tolerance policy towards plagiarism. If a student commits plagiarism, the instructor will assign a grade of zero to the assignment. A second instance of plagiarism is regarded as a scholastic offense and will be dealt with according to The University of Western Ontario policy for Scholastic offenses - [more on our policy on plagiarism via this link](#). The most common offense is failing to cite properly - if you quote directly, cite the author! You do *not* get the benefit of the doubt (you are not presumed innocent until proven guilty) when such offenses are committed. That is, the burden of proof is reversed. Can you prove "it was an accident" (this is a rhetorical question)? The following is an excerpt from the university secretariat:

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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Not citing the work of others is generally the main violation - ignorance is no excuse!** See next...

### Turnitin.com

**Unfortunately turnitin has "caught" several offenders in my classes**, please do not be the next one - it is awkward for everyone involved. If you do original work and write and cite properly you have nothing to worry about. The university has provided this mandatory wording: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com)"

Once logged in to Turnitin copy the id and pass below to the appropriate fields at the Turnitin website.

1. **Login** to turnitin - register if you do not have an account.
2. **Join** the course with the following credentials:

course ID: 10691633  
course password: Draper

TA "All Students" ID: 10691701  
"All Students" password: Reed

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