

## Geography 1500: Environment and Development Challenges

### Course outline: Fall 2018 (Aug 29 version)

#### Course Description

This course examines environmental change over long periods of earth history, considering both physical processes and human impacts. An integrative approach (which combines physical and social science perspectives) provides a basis for understanding some of the world's most pressing environment and development challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, energy use, and persistent hunger and inequality. (0.5 credit)

#### Place and Time

**Lectures:** Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:20, Talbot College 141

**Tutorials:** Every other week – see course schedule below.

Date	Time	TA	Room
Monday	2:30-4:30	Samantha	SSC 1004
Monday	4:30-6:30	Maria	SSC 1004
Tuesday	12:30-2:30	Awâsis	SSC 1004
Tuesday	4:30-6:30	Samantha	SSC 1004
Wednesday	10:30-12:30	Awâsis	SSC 1004
Thursday	2:30-4:30	Maria	SSC 1004

#### Contact information

Role	Name	Email	Office	Office hours
Instructor	Dr. Carol Hunsberger	<a href="mailto:chunsber@uwo.ca">chunsber@uwo.ca</a>	SSC 2409	Thurs 1:30-3:00
TA	Cortney (Awâsis) Dakin	<a href="mailto:cdakin2@uwo.ca">cdakin2@uwo.ca</a>	SSC 1430	Mon 2:00-3:30
TA	Samantha Doris	<a href="mailto:sdoris@uwo.ca">sdoris@uwo.ca</a>	SSC 2316	Thurs 10:00-11:30
TA	Maria Sia	<a href="mailto:msia@uwo.ca">msia@uwo.ca</a>	SSC 2316	Fri 10:00-11:30

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and explain major drivers of environmental change;
- Explain how physical and human processes interact to shape the course of key environmental and social challenges;
- Apply geographical concepts of space, place and scale to world issues;
- Articulate well informed, convincing statements in writing;
- Connect theory to practice by reflecting on a 30-day behavioural change.

**Prerequisites:** None

### Format

The course involves lectures, tutorials, readings and written assignments. Although it is a large class, lectures will be interactive and will involve discussions and other activities. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and ready to participate. Students are responsible for all material covered in lectures and tutorials as well as the readings.

### Readings

There is no required textbook. Readings for each topic will be posted on OWL.

### Lecture and tutorial schedule (may be changed with notice)

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorials	Due Dates
Sept 10	Global systems	No tutorial	
Sept 17	Drivers of environmental change	Lab 1	
Sept 24	Biodiversity and conservation: Valuing the diversity of life	No tutorial	
Oct 1	Case Study: The Amazon	Lab 2, Change assignment	Lab 1 due in tutorial
Oct 8	<b>Fall Reading Week</b>		<b>No lectures or tutorials</b>
Oct 15	Cities and global systems	Practice exam	Lab 2 due in tutorial
Oct 22	Food and agriculture: Feeding 7+ billion	No tutorial	Change Reflection 1 due Oct. 22 at 12:30
Oct 29	Case study: The Horn of Africa	<b>Lab 3</b>	Peer response to reflection due Oct. 29 at 12:30
Nov 5	Energy systems: Powering human activities	No tutorial	Change reflection 2 due Nov. 5 at 12:30
Nov 12	Case study: Canada's oil sands	Lab 4	Lab 3 due in tutorial
Nov 19	Climate change: The politics of co-operation	No tutorial	Change reflection 3 due Nov. 21 at 12:30
Nov 26	Case study: The Colorado River	Review session	Lab 4 due in tutorial
Dec 3	Course synthesis	No tutorial	Final exam to be scheduled Dec. 10-21

## Evaluation

Grades will be allocated based on the following tasks:

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade
Tutorial assignments	40%
Change assignment	15%
Participation	10%
Final exam	35%

### ***Tutorial Assignments (4 x 10% = 40% total)***

Each tutorial explores a specific topic in depth and involves a written assignment, due on the dates shown. You are expected to attend all tutorials at your assigned time. Only under special circumstances can you arrange to attend at a different time. Unless you discuss and receive permission from your lab instructor, missed assignments will be given a zero.

### ***Change Assignment (15%)***

The Change assignment involves choosing and completing a 30-day behavioural challenge that contributes to sustainability in some way. You will write a series of reflections about the experience and share them with the class through the course OWL site. Evaluation will be based on the written reflections. Detailed instructions will be provided separately.

### ***Participation (10%)***

In lectures, you will be asked questions using “iClickers” – a system where you use your laptop or phone to submit answers electronically. Answers will be graded for completion, not correctness – but must be relevant. Because there may be times when you have to miss class or the server fails you, your participation mark is calculated as 1.25 times the percentage of questions you answered, up to a maximum of 100% (10/10).

### ***Final Exam (35%)***

The final exam, to be scheduled during the December exam period, will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, definition and short-answer questions. It will draw on material from all lectures, tutorials, and readings. If you fail to write the final on the scheduled date and time, you will be given zero, unless you qualify for a makeup exam (see note on makeup examinations below). No books, notes or electronic devices will be allowed at the exam.

### **Submission Policy and Late Policy**

Hard copies will be handed in at the beginning of class or lab on the due date. The penalty is 5% per day for late assignments (weekends count as one day; the clock “starts” at the beginning of class/lab on the due date). Assignments will no longer be accepted after they have been handed back to the rest of the class. Material should be printed double-sided and stapled. Do not use folders or covers. Put your name, the course name, instructor’s name and TA’s name on the front page. Late assignments should be put in the drop box outside SSC 2322.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department – see note on Medical Issues below.

## Additional Information

**Mental Health:** If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are resources here at Western to assist you. Visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information.

**Medical Issues:** The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. The Student Services website provides greater detail about the University's policy on [medical accommodation](#). This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors about the accommodation. Once the instructor has decided whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams. Students must see the [Academic Counsellor](#) and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

**Statement on Electronic Devices:** Using electronic devices in class for non-academic purposes distracts you and everyone around you. Do not surf, text, tweet, chat, shop, etc. during class.

For interactive learning we will use iClickers, a free app for any Wi-Fi enabled device. Register and sync to this course by selecting the iClickers link in the Class OWL. Then 'Sign Up' for an account using your UWO email. Your student ID in this case is NOT a number: it's the part of your UWO email address before the @. Enter 'Western University' as your institution, then select 'Western University Ontario' from the options.

**Makeup Examinations:** Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. For missed exams, you must take your documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero. The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination. Makeup exams will not be granted for occasions such as employment interviews, weddings, family reunions, vacations, misreading an exam timetable, oversleeping, or booking flights home for holidays.

**Accessibility:** UWO is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 if you require material in an alternate format or any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website. See also ["Accessibility at Western"](#).



**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](#). The most common offense is failing to cite properly. If you quote directly, you must cite the author!

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 for such checking 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).

### **Support Services**

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

### **Important Dates**

September 6: Classes resume

September 14: Last day to add a full course or a second term half course

October 8: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 9-23: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty

December 7: Classes end

December 8 and 9: Study days

December 10-21: Examination Period

December 21: Fall term ends