

GEOG 2153A – Environment, Economy, Society

Course Outline: Section 001/Fall 2018

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location

Class Location and Time:
3M-3250 at 10:30am-1:30pm

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Susan Dupej
Office: SSC 2223
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30pm
Email: sdupej@uwo.ca

T.A.: Steven Vanloffeld
Email: svanloff@uwo.ca

2. Calendar Description

2.1 Course Description

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

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

2.2 Extended Course Description

This class provides an overview of the environment's social dimensions by examining the changing interrelationships between people, technology and natural resources. It introduces principal biophysical processes and how humans have utilized resources from a geographical perspective. This includes understanding the economic and social influencers of environmental degradation, resource depletion and overall ecological functioning. It also includes identifying environmental management strategies of individuals, nongovernmental organizations, industry and governments in helping to provide sustainable solutions. With examples from Canada and countries from around the world, we examine a breadth of human activities and their impacts on the natural environment including: agriculture, fishing, mining, and energy production.

2.3 Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

3. Textbook

Draper, D. and Zimmerman, A., Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective, 5th edition, ISBN-13: 978-0-17-650260-7

The textbook is available at the Western University bookstore. It is also on short-term loan at the Weldon Library.

Any other readings used in lecture will be made available on OWL.

4. Course Format

4.1. Lectures

Lectures are primarily based on textbook material. Students will get more from lectures if they read the required chapters before class.

5. Learning Outcomes

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

- understand the complex connections between the environment and socio-economic conditions
- think critically about their own environmental ethic
- identify and describe current environmental issues that face Canadians and the efforts being made to address these issues
- use core concepts and theories in their own areas of research interests
- articulate a position with respect to important environmental issues and engage in discussions about topics of interest to them

6. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Essay Proposal	10%	October 2
Essay	30%	November 15
Midterm	25%	October 16
Final Exam	35%	TBA

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

7. Class Schedule

	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Sept. 11	Welcome, Course Introduction, Key Concepts and Terms	Chapter 1
2	Sept. 18	Human Relationships with Nature	Chapter 2
	Sept. 25	Physical and Biophysical Environmental Systems	Chapter 4
4	Oct. 2	Water Resources, Uses and Consumption	Chapter 9
5	Oct. 9	Reading Week – No Classes	No Reading
6	Oct. 16	Midterm (In-Class)	No Reading
7	Oct. 23	Fishery Resources and Tragedy of the Commons	Chapter 10
8	Oct. 30	Forest Resources and Environmental Ethics	Chapter 11
9	Nov. 6	The Atmosphere, Climate and Air Pollution	Chapter 12
10	Nov. 13	Energy, Resources and Politics of the Environment	Chapter 13
11	Nov. 20	Agriculture	Chapter 8
12	Nov. 27	Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainability	Chapter 7
13	Dec. 4	Managing Waste Final Exam Prep	Chapter 15

8. Key Documents and Details

8.1. Assignments

Please download (from OWL) and read the following assignment instructions in their entirety:

[Geog 2153A 2018 Instructions for Proposal.pdf](#)

[Geog 2153A 2018 Instructions for Report.pdf](#)

8.2. Tests and Exams

Students must attend the midterm and final exam. The midterm and exam may only be written after the fact with a valid medical or personal note. The midterm is multiple choice. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations. Please read the following study guide on tips for writing multiple choice exams:

[Geog 2153A 2018 Multiple Choice Exams – A Study Guide.pdf](#)

9. Assignment Submission

Assignments for this course are submitted online through OWL. It is the student's responsibility to double-check that the upload has worked successfully and that the uploaded files are not corrupt. When the instructor or TA encounters a corrupt or incorrect file during grading, they will contact the student and offer a chance to re-send; however, late deductions from the original due date will apply.

10. 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, you should 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 in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about 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.

11. Academic Accommodation on Medical Grounds

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.

For Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC please refer to the [Academic Handbook](#) and the [Policy on Accommodation for Illness](#).

12. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. 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.

Also, make yourself aware of December examination dates and do not make any travel arrangements until you are aware of your examination dates, as alternative exams will not be set for travel reasons.

13. Late Submissions

The penalty for late submission of assigned coursework for non-medical reasons is 5% per day, or part day, 7 days a week (including weekends and holidays) to a maximum of 10 days unless accompanied by medical documentation.

14. Email Policies

14.1. Email communication from students to the instructor and TA

Correspondence should be brief, courteous and questions should be basic. The instructor and TA will do their best to respond to emails within 1-2 working days. Although emails will be addressed as quickly as possible, do not expect immediate responses during the regular day. Do

not expect responses over the weekend. Plan ahead. If you do not receive a response in 48 hours, then it is appropriate to send a follow-up email. In all email communications indicate your first and last name, student number, course number and name of your TA.

14.2. Communication from the instructor and TAs to students

Students should check their university email account and the course website on Owl on a daily basis for announcements. Announcements are the primary means through which I communicate with students outside of lecture. Students are expected to keep informed by reading announcements regularly.

15. Lecture Slides

Before each lecture, PDF's of lectures slides (both in large and small formats) will be posted to Owl. Slides will have blanks for students to fill in as they follow along in the lecture and take any of their own additional notes. If students miss a lecture, it is up to them to make arrangements with another student to borrow notes. It might be possible to receive full lecture notes from the instructor with proper documentation (e.g. a medical note).

16. Re-Grading Policy

Students need to wait 24 hours after receiving their essay grade to contact TAs for further explanation/clarification of grades and comments. Requests to review assignment grades must be made within 8 days of when grades are released on gradebook.

TAs will respond to students over email or in person and adjust grades (or not), accordingly.

If students are not satisfied with this further explanation, they can contact the instructor.

On contacting the instructor, students are required to submit a written statement that outlines: (a) how they think their essay satisfies the criteria of a higher grade, (b) detail where they think they deserve higher marks and why and, (c) explain why they are not satisfied with the TA's explanation.

Students must first contact and receive feedback from TAs before contacting the instructor. TAs will forward to the instructor the names of those students with whom they speak and or cc the instructor on emails sent to students.

On submitting the essay to the instructor in search of a higher grade, students run the risk of forfeiting the original grade awarded by the TA for a lower grade awarded by the instructor.

17. 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.

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://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

18. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

19. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

20. Support Services

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

21. 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 9-13: 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

22. Tips for Success

22.1. Prepare

It is highly recommended that students dedicate time to prepare for lecture each week. Spending time preparing for class will help students to make the most out of the course and increases the likelihood of a higher grade. Lectures are primarily based on textbook material.

22.2. Contact the instructor in advance

If at any point during the semester students experience trouble with course material, it is highly recommended that students contact the instructor or teaching assistant as soon as possible to receive clarification.

22.3. Regularly consult the syllabus and assignment instruction documents

It is highly recommended that students frequently consult the course schedule/syllabus for due dates, topics and important details about assignment submissions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are clear on assignment requirements, in addition to when, where, and in what format assignments are due.

22.4. Monitor your grade

Keep track of your progress. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all grades are entered and accurate.