

## GEOG 1500F – Environment and Development Challenges Course Outline: Fall 2021

This course is taught in-person

### 1. Course Information



	<b>Delivery Mode</b>	<b>Day/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Lecture</b>	In person, weekly	<b>Monday and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30</b>	<b>SH-3345</b>
<b>Tutorials</b>	In person, check schedule  Only attend the tutorial in which you are enrolled.	<b>Monday 4:30-6:30 Tuesday 12:30-2:30 Tuesday 4:30-6:30 Wednesday 8:30-10:30 Thursday 11:30-1:30 Thursday 1:30-3:30</b>	<b>SSC 1004</b>

\*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6

<b>Classes Start</b>	<b>Fall Reading Week</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>Study day(s)</b>	<b>Exam Period</b>
September 8	November 1-7	December 8	December 9	December 10-21

September 16, 2021: Last day to add a first-term half course

October 11, 2021: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 12, 2021: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



<b>Course Instructor</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Office Hours</b>
Rebecca Ellis	Rellis25@uwo.ca	Wednesdays 1:30-2:30; SSC 2223

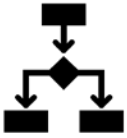
<b>Teaching Assistant(s)</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Office Hours</b>
Heather Jantzi	TBA	TBA
Oluwaseyl Ishola	TBA	TBA
Emma Fabri	TBA	TBA



- Office hours will be held in person or over zoom
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using Sign Up on OWL

## 2. Calendar Description

Examines environmental change over long periods of earth history, considering both physical processes and human impacts. An integrative approach provides a basis for understanding some of the world's most pressing environment and development challenges, such as biodiversity loss, desertification, climate change, energy consumption, and persistent hunger and malnourishment.



2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour, 0.5 course  
Prerequisite(s): None

## 3. Textbook

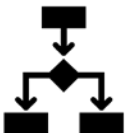


All resources will be posted in OWL

## 4. Course Objectives and Format

This is an in-person course. Attendance is required

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.



Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## 5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain major drivers of environmental change.
- Understand and explain the main concepts and debates surrounding environmental change and social challenges.
- Apply geographical concepts of space, place and scale to world issues
- Critically engage with alternative points of view using solid evidence and reasoning.
- Apply theory when analyzing real-world social movements and struggles.
- Communicate geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically.



## 6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Lecture Topic	Tutorial
1	Sept 8-10	Course Overview	No tutorial
2	Sept 13-17	Anthropocene or Capitalocene?	Introductions
3	Sept 20-24	Environmental Change: Key Concepts, Drivers, and Debates	Lab 1: Ecological Footprint
4	Sept 27-Oct 1	Biodiversity	No tutorial; Lab 1 due
5	October 4-8	Biodiversity: Global Pollinator Crisis	Lab 2: Your diet without bees
6	October 11-15	Cities	No tutorial; Lab 2 due
7	October 17-22	Cities: Struggles for just, green cities	Lab 3: Urban Futures
8	October 24-29	Global Food Systems	No tutorial; Lab 3 due
9	November 1-5	Reading Week	No tutorial
10	November 8-12	Global Food Systems: Feeding 9 billion	Lab 4: Migrant Dreams
11	November 15-19	Energy	No tutorial; Lab 4 due
12	November 22-26	Energy: The Oil Sands	Imagine 2030 discussion
13	Nov 29- Dec 3	Climate Change	No tutorial
14	December 6-8	Climate Justice	Exam Review



## 7. Communication

- Students should check the OWL site every day or two
- Course updates will be announced in class and posted on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL “messages”
- Students are responsible for checking their UWO e-mail address regularly.
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response within 24 hours for emails sent Monday to Friday and 48 hours for emails sent on Saturdays and Sundays
- Students should post course-related questions on the discussion forum so that everyone can see the answers
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their TA. To ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days.



## 8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Weighting	Due Date
Lab Assignments	4 x 10% = 40%	11:55 p.m. on the day of your tutorial.
Imagine 2030 Assignment	20%	November 26
Final Exam	30%	In person - TBA
Participation	10%	

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

### Lab Assignments (4 x 10% = 40% total)

Four of the tutorials involve a marked assignment. Instructions for these will be provided separately. **Lab assignments are due by 11:55 p.m. on your assigned tutorial day** on the weeks shown.

### Imagine 2030 Assignment (20%)

The Imagine 2030 assignment involves imagining how humans can sustainably deal with one of the following aspects of society by/in 2030: living in a biodiverse world; food & agriculture; cities; and energy. Although science fiction and fantasy are important tools in imagining different ways of living; the assignment **must** be based on the use of technology, skills, and resources that are currently available to humans and on a human population equal to or more than the current population of the world. Detailed instructions will be provided separately.

### Participation (10%)

The participation grade is based on attendance and participation in tutorials. You should come to tutorials prepared to actively participate. You are expected to attend all tutorials at your assigned time.

### Final Assessment (30%)

The final assessment, held during the December exam period, will be an in-person exam. It will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions



Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail



#### Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Assignments should be submitted online through OWL, on or before the due date.
- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 2%/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 48 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been marked and returned to the class.

**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.**

## 9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration

on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

## **10. Make-up Examinations**

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

## **11. Use of Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

## **12. How to Be Successful in this Class:**

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.



## **13. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or

asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## **14. Information on COVID-19**

### **Masking Guidelines**

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

### **Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire**

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling).

## **15. 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> ).

## **16. Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Department of Geography and Environment 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.

## **17. 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.

## **18. Support Services**

[Western's Support Services](#)  
[Student Development Centre](#)

## **19. Important Dates**

September 8: Classes resume

September 16: Last day to add a first term half course

October 11: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 1 to November 7: 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 penalty

December 8: Classes end

December 9: Study day

December 10-21: Examination Period