

GEOG 1500 – Environment and Development Challenges Course Outline: Fall 2022

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information



	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lectures	In person	Mon/Wed 12:30-1:30	MC-110
Tutorials	In person	Tues 2:30-4:30 Tues 4:30-6:30 Wed 8:30-10:30 Wed 10:30-12:30 Thurs 11:30-1:30 Thurs 2:30-4:30	SSC 1004

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 8	Oct 31-Nov 6	December 8	December 9	December 10 - 22

September 16, 2020: Last day to add a first-term half course

November 12, 2020: Last day to drop a first-term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Sections (lectures)	Email	Office Hours
Dr. Carol Hunsberger	All	chunsber@uwo.ca	TBD

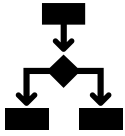
Teaching Assistants	Sections (tutorials)	Email	Office Hours
Minoo Assari	TBD	massari@uwo.ca	TBD
Kavanagh Lambert	TBD	klambe7@uwo.ca	TBD
Sarah Bradshaw	TBD	sbradsh6@uwo.ca	TBD



Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom.

Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using Sign-Up on OWL.

2. Calendar 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.

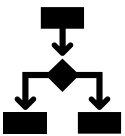
0.5 course; no prerequisites.

3. Readings



- All resources will be posted in OWL. There are no required textbooks to buy.

4. Format



- Lectures** will be held in person. Video recordings will not be provided. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to catch up on notes from a classmate.
- Tutorials** will be held in person; they will involve discussions and other activities. Unless you have special permission, you must attend the tutorial session you registered for.
- Students are expected to come to tutorial having reviewed any assigned materials and ready to participate.
- Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures, tutorials and readings.
- All course material will be posted to [OWL](#). Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and announced to 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, click [here](#).
- For assistance, students can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) (phone: 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;
- 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;
- Critically engage with alternative points of view using solid evidence and reasoning;
- Articulate well informed, convincing statements in writing;
- Connect theory to practice by performing and reflecting on a 30-day behavioural change;
- Collaborate and work constructively with peers.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Lesson topic	Tutorials	Due dates*
1	Sep 12 – 16	Global Systems: Key concepts	Introductions	
2	Sep 19 – 23	Global Systems: Drivers	Lab 1	
3	Sep 26 – 30	Biodiversity	Change assignment	Lab 1
4	Oct 3 – 7	Biodiversity case: The Amazon	Lab 2	Change 1 (plan)
5	Oct 10 – 14	Cities	No tutorial	Lab 2
6	Oct 17 – 21	Cities case: Resilient cities	Lab 3	
7	Oct 24 – 28	Food and agriculture	Exam preview	Lab 3
-	Oct 31 – Nov 4	Reading Week: No classes or tutorials		
8	Nov 7 – 11	Food Case: The Horn of Africa	Lab 4	
9	Nov 14 – 18	Energy Systems	Change assignment	Lab 4
10	Nov 21 – 25	Energy case: Western Canada	Exam review 1	Change 2 (reflection)**
11	Nov 28 – Dec 2	Climate Change	Exam review 2	
12	Dec 5 – 8	Climate case: Colorado River	No tutorial	
-	Dec 11-22	Take-home exam to be scheduled during December exam period		

* Unless otherwise indicated, assignments are due at the beginning of your tutorial time.

** The Change 2 reflection is due Wed, Nov 23 at noon for everyone.

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every day or two.
- If emailing the instructor or a teaching assistant, state which course you are writing about.
- Students are responsible for checking their UWO e-mail address in a timely manner.
- Post course-related questions to the OWL discussion forum so everyone can see the answers.
- Instructor and TA messages and the discussion forum will be monitored daily. Students can expect a response within 24 hours from Monday-Friday and within 48 hours on the weekend.
- 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

Grades will be allocated based on the following tasks. Completing each task in its assigned format is essential to the course learning objectives. Due dates are noted on the Schedule.



Assessment	Weighting
Lab assignments	40%
Change assignment	20%
Participation	10%
Final assessment	30%

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 the start of your assigned tutorial time** on the weeks

shown. Make sure you complete all tutorial preparation work in the week's Course Content section **before** your tutorial. You are expected to attend all tutorials at your assigned time.

Change Assignment (20%)

The Change assignment involves choosing and completing a 30-day action that contributes to sustainability in some way. You will produce a plan (worth 10%) and a final reflection on the experience (worth 10%) and share them with the class through the course OWL site. Detailed instructions will be provided separately.

Participation (10%)

In lectures, you will be asked questions using iClickers: an online platform where you submit answers using your laptop or phone. Answers must be relevant to receive points! Because there may be times when you legitimately have to miss class (e.g. illness, quarantine), or the technology may glitch, there is a cushion built into the grading: your participation mark is calculated as 1.25 times the percentage of questions you answered, up to a maximum of 100% (10/10). In other words, you can still get 10/10 even if you miss up to 4 lectures.

Final Assessment (30%)

The final assessment, held during the December exam period, will be a **collaborative take-home exam** that you will complete with two or more classmates. The questions will go beyond memory recall: you will be asked to apply course material to new situations, make connections between topics, and/or critique example arguments drawing on course material. Students in the same group will receive the same grade, subject to a peer assessment of how equally the work was shared. More information, example questions, and a study guide will be provided separately.

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

Submission Policy and Late Policy

- Assignments should be submitted online through OWL, on or before the due date.
- Late assessments without accommodation will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day. The clock "starts" at the beginning of tutorial on the due date.
- Late assessments with accommodation must be submitted by the date and time agreed with the instructor.
- 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

Accessible Education (formerly SSD) provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. See the policy on [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#) for details.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, to ensure fairness and consistency, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade shall be granted only in cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities. Where medical documentation is required, the student must submit it to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office. A student seeking accommodation for work worth less than 10% need not provide medical documentation, but must contact the instructor.

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students Student Medical Certificate](#) (SMC)

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 or extensions to the take-home final will be granted with approved documentation only. 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. How to Be Successful in this Class

1. Use a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Enter all deadlines at the start of 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.
3. Follow weekly checklists on OWL, or create your own, to help you stay on track.
4. Hand in all assignments, no matter how small. Read the instructions carefully and ask your TA if you are not sure what the expectations are.
5. Take notes during lectures and tutorials. Keeping handwritten notes or notes on a Word document will help you learn more effectively.
6. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and meet weekly for peer support.
7. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion forum or contact your instructor or teaching assistant.
8. Reward yourself for success. It is easier to motivate ourselves knowing there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.



12. **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.

13. **Information on COVID-19**

Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical 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 require formal [academic considerations](#) (see section 9). Students who show a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

14. **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 offence is failure to cite properly. If you draw on someone else's ideas, you must cite the source!

All required papers may be submitted for textual similarity review to commercial plagiarism detection software. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database to help detect plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](#).

15. **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 any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also contact [Accessible Education](#) at 519-661-2147 for any questions regarding accommodation. More information about [Accessibility at Western](#) is available. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

16. **Mental Health**

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

17. **Support Services**

[Western's Support Services](#)

[Student Development Centre](#)