

GEOG 3901/F – Climate, Culture and Indigenous Geographies

Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2022

This course is taught in person

I take this opportunity to welcome students to the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-wonda-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g., First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

1. Course Information

	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In-person	9.30am – 12.30pm	UC2110

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



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

September 16, 2022: Last day to add a first-term half course

October 10, 2022: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr Lewis Williams	Lewis.Williams@uwo.ca	By Appointment

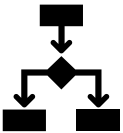
Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
N/A		



- Office hours will be arranged by appointment and will be held either in person or via zoom.
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment by emailing Dr Williams
- Students will have the option of attending a group session immediately after class

2. Calendar Description

This course offers an introduction to the interrelated dynamics of climate crisis and ongoing forms of colonialism including the ways in which geographies of epistemology, culture, place and power shape climate change impacts, strategies, and outcomes for different cultural groups at local, regional, and global levels. Adopting an anti-colonialist approach to addressing climate crisis and emphasising Indigenous Kinship and place-based approaches the course moves from theory to climate action in ways which are culturally and generationally inclusive.



3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Prerequisite(s): Two full courses or equivalent in Geography. Third or fourth year status at the University.

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll 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



- All resources will be posted in OWL

4. Course Learning Objectives and Format

This is an interactive and participatory course that will draw on your own developing knowledge of this subject area. Students are expected to be active contributors to learning and knowledge exchange activities. We are a community of learners. Students will be:

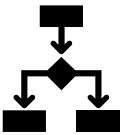
- be introduced to the key contextual factors shaping climate crisis, in particular its connections with ongoing colonialism and capitalism, as well as its relationship to other interconnected global challenges;

- Develop and/or deepen understanding of the ways in which the dynamics of epistemology, culture, intersectionality and power shape climate crisis impacts, strategies and outcomes for different cultural groups at global, regional and local levels;
- Identify key distinctions between Indigenous, kinship, Western Climate Justice and techno-capitalist approaches to addressing climate crisis, including underlying paradigmatic approaches;
- Demonstrate self-knowledge regarding the interrelationships between their cultural identities, social-power locations and the ways in which these inform their emerging climate action.

Attendance is required - While I do not assess this, you have a responsibility to your classmates and is required for group work.

Missed work undertaken in class should be completed within [48 hours] hours

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:

- Demonstrate knowledge of key contextual factors shaping climate crisis including its interconnections with colonialism, and capitalism.
- Describe and demonstrate application of the ways in which geographies of epistemology, culture and power shape climate crisis impacts, strategies and outcomes for different cultural groups at global, regional, and local levels
- Identify key distinctions and interrelationships between Indigenous Kinship, Western climate justice, and techno-capitalist approaches, to addressing climate crisis including underlying paradigmatic approaches.
- Demonstrate self-knowledge regarding the interrelationships between their cultural identities, social-power locations, and the ways these inform their emerging climate action.



6. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Sept 8-9	Loving the Earth	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
2	Sept 12-16	Climate crisis and the intensification of colonialism	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
3	Sept 19-23	Climate crisis and geographies of epistemology, culture and power	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
4	Sept 26-30	Climate crisis and geographies of epistemology, culture and power	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
5	October 3-7	Climate and Indigenous Kinship approaches	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
6	October 10-14	Knowledge Bundle One	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
7	October 17-21	Climate activism and Indigenous geographies of the Pacific	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
8	October 24-28	Knowledge Bundle Two	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
9	October 31-Nov 4	Reading Week	N/A
10	November 7-11	Climate Crisis Governance: Decolonizing climate policy	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
11	November 14-18	Digital Stories	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
12	November 21-25	To be decided	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
13	Nov 28- Dec 2	Climate: Indigenous, intercultural and intergenerational conversations	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
14	December 5-8	Wisdom Councils	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL “messages”
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use Zoom for discussions
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
One	Written Concept Paper	20%	27 th September
Two	Knowledge Bundle One: Group work and presentation	10%	13 th October
Three	Knowledge Bundle Two: Group work and presentation	10%	27 th October
Four	Digital Story	45%	10 th November
Five	Wisdom Council	15%	8 th December



The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

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

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

- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, please reach out to your instructor within 7 days.

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:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 5%/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been 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

In all cases where accommodation is being sought for work totalling 10% or more of the final grade in a course, students will be directed to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office.

Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

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), or it may be 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, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those 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.

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

N/A

11. Use of Electronic Devices

N/A

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 academic counselling). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course.

Students who demonstrate 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.

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>).

[Include this paragraph on computer marked multiple-choice tests if relevant. If not relevant delete the paragraph below]

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 10: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 31 to November 6: 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 10-22: Examination Period