

## GEOG 3441G: Conservation and Development Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2025

### 1. Course Information



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 6	February 17-23	April 4	April 5 & 6	April 7-30

January 14, 2025: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 17, 2025: Family Day

March 31, 2025: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Evan Bowness	ebowness@uwo.ca	Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:30

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Sara Clarke	sclar368@uwo.ca	Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30

Drop-in office hours will be held in SSC 1411.

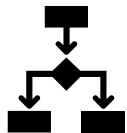
### 2. Calendar Description

Examines struggles over conservation and development in a global context. A central aim is to consider the transformation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, and struggles for alternatives in relation to the vast and growing inequalities in wealth, power, and resource consumption that exist within and between countries.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Prerequisite(s): 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. Course Materials



All course materials will be available in OWL

This course does not have a textbook.

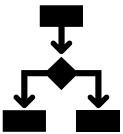
## 4. Course Objectives and Format

This course takes a political ecology approach to topics related to conservation and development. It contains readings and other learning materials, lectures and discussions, with assignments that have written and oral components. We will explore course topics through different case studies drawn from Brazil.

The course is organized into two sessions per week: One longer lecture and a shorter more participatory session where students will engage with course content through critical reflection.

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

- **Understand the political ecology of conservation and development**  
Develop and apply knowledge of the political ecology framework to see “development” as a driver of global environmental challenges which are inequitably experienced across large and growing disparities in wealth and power.
- **Critically reflect on course concepts and apply them to real-world examples**  
Examine contemporary conservation and development challenges using key course concepts, including “progress traps” and “environmental justice.”
- **Communicate key aspects of issues discussed in the course effectively**  
Demonstrate the ability to convey key aspects of conservation and development issues through written assignments and tests and an oral presentation, with a particular focus on synthesizing information and articulating key ideas with clarity and concision.



Attendance is required. We will take random attendance over the course of the term.

All course material will be posted to the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace 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:

- Develop knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental characteristics, processes, temporal changes and landscapes of social and biophysical systems and their interactions.
- Combine breadth of knowledge of Geography with specialized understanding in selected sub-fields.
- Critically reflect on the scope and intellectual development of the discipline of Geography
- Analyze real-world problems and policy applications using geographical concepts, skills and understanding.



## 6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings and Course Materials
1	January 6-10	Intro to the Course	See OWL
2	January 13-17	A short history of "Progress"	
3	January 20-24	Mapping Environmental Justice	
4	January 27-31	Towards a Political Ecology of "Sustainable Development"	
5	February 3-7	Towards a Political Ecology of "Conservation"	
6	February 10-14	Review	
	February 17-21	Spring Reading Week	
7	February 24-28	Conservation and Development Case Studies from Brazil: The Southeast	
8	March 3-7	Conservation and Development Case Studies from Brazil: The Northeast	
9	March 10-14	Conservation and Development Case Studies from Brazil: Amazônia	
10	March 17-21	"Progress" and the Climate Emergency	
11	March 24-28	Virtual Live Paper Defences (you will be assigned a date/time). Note: All make up Defenses will be scheduled for Friday, April 4.	
12	March 31-April 4		



## 7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Students should email their instructor and teaching assistant using OWL Brightspace.
- 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
- Students should post all course-related questions to the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors or teaching assistants

## 8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Random attendance checks and exit tickets</li> </ul>	10%	Various
Mid-Term Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-Class Short Answer and Critical Reflection(s)</li> </ul>	20%	February 12
Term Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abstract</li> </ul>	5%	February 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline and Annotated Bibliography</li> </ul>	10%	February 14
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Paper</li> </ul>	10%	March 18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence</li> </ul>	20%	March 25, March 26, April 1, or April 2 (you will be assigned a date/time). Note: All make up Defenses will be scheduled for Friday, April 4.
Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short Answer and Critical Reflection(s)</li> </ul>	25%	TBD



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 and other assigned materials.

- 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, reach out within 7 days
- ☒ The use of generative artificial intelligence tools in this course is acceptable.

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

**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](#).

### General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

### Formal Documentation Designation statement:

**Midterm Test on February 12:** Please note that this assessment is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the following opportunity to make up this work: up exam.

### Flexibility statements

**Participation.** Participation in this course is assessed through random attendance checks and exit tickets, taken at various times throughout the term. The total number of these checks will not be announced in advance. Academic consideration will not be granted for missed

participation opportunities. If a student misses one or more of these random checks, the missed instances will be recorded as zeroes and factored into the final participation grade.

**Term Paper.** Please note that because the submission deadline for three components of this assessment (the Abstract, Outline and Annotated Bibliography, and Final Paper) already includes flexibility in the form of 48-hour submission window, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.

### **Absence from Course Commitments**

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

### **Course Assessments that Require Supporting Documentation**

For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: **Midterm Test on February 14**

### **Academic Consideration for Course Components with Flexible Deadlines**

This course employs flexible deadlines for the Term Paper assignment (the Abstract, Outline and Annotated Bibliography, and Final Paper). The assignment deadlines can be found above in the course outline. Students are expected to submit each component of this assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 48 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted. If you have a long-term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline.

### **Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

## 10. Make-up Examinations

Make-ups 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. Do the readings and review all course materials before the lecture. Come to class prepared to ask questions.
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 and/or teaching assistant(s).



## 13. 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 assignment submissions 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>).

## **14. 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.

## **15. 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.

## **16. Support Services**

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

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

## **17. Important Dates**

Monday January 6: Classes resume

Tuesday January 14: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 17: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 17-23: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Friday March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course

Friday April 4: Classes end

April 5 and 6: Study days

April 7-30: Examination Period