

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: GEOG-100-Environment and Sustainability

CLASS SECTION: B02

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Hybrid

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Hilary Sandford

EMAIL: sandford@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Fisher 342C

HOURS: M, W, Th 1:30-2:30; T 4:30-5:30

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the impact of human activity on ecological systems. Topics include: ecosystem structure and function, human population change, resource management, and pollution.

PREREQUISITE(S): One of:

C+ in English 12

C in English 12 Camosun Alternative

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Demonstrate knowledge of ecological systems and the impact of human activity on those systems.

Demonstrate an understanding of key environmental issues.

Demonstrate knowledge of courses of action which address environmental concerns.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

There is no textbook for this course and instead, weekly lecture and lab materials can be found on Camosun College's learning support site, D2L.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. *ITALICIZED* will be remote content, **bold will be in-class**. Note: **there will be class every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30** – the only thing that shifts is whether it is a lecture or a discussion.

WEEK OF:	LECTURE TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
January 6	Course Introduction	<i>Lab 1: Personal Introduction</i>
January 13	Environmental History	<i>Lab 2: Environmental Event</i>
January 20	Global Biomes	<i>Lab 3: Global Forests</i>
January 27	Global Biomes	<i>Lab 4: Biodiversity Hotspots</i>
February 3	SDG Discussion	<i>Lab 5: Global Hunger</i>
February 10	Quizzes & Checklists	Midterm Exam
February 17	-----Reading Break-----	
February 24	Fossil Fuels	<i>Lab 6: Solar Project*</i>
March 3	Renewable Fuels	<i>Lab 7: Renewable Nations</i>
March 10	Agriculture	<i>Lab 8: Depth of Field</i>
March 17	<i>Forestry</i>	Old Growth Discussion
March 24	Freshwater	<i>Lab 9: Freshwater</i>
March 31	<i>Fisheries</i>	Fisheries Discussion
April 7	Climate Change	<i>Lab 10: Environmental Optimism</i>

*dependent on project status

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Lab Assignments (10)	30
Discussions (3)	9
Term Paper	11
Midterm Exam	25
Final Exam	25
	TOTAL
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

There are a number of components to this course.

Class Time: There will be two hours of class per week, on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm. That time will be used for in-class lecture when the weekly topic requires close instruction and, alternately, will be used for in-class discussions and testing. This is a blended class, so the expectation is that there is **additional but flexible work** required of your outside of the two hours of weekly class time.

Lectures: **Weekly lectures will be presented during class time**, will use the white-board for diagrams and explanations, and will give you an opportunity to ask questions about the content. Lecture material will also be available online for you to read and use for studying purposes. As a result, there is no textbook required for this course.

Discussions: There will be three in-class discussions this term. The first will be on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on **February 3rd**, the second will be on Old Growth Forestry on **March 19th**, and the third will be on Fisheries on **April 2nd**. These discussions will require you to have read the materials provided in advance, to have prepared notes and points for discussion, to discuss the topic in small groups, and to turn in your contributions in at the end of class. For this component of the course, use of Artificial Intelligence is allowed; it is useful to organize the material for discussion.

Assignments: There are ten assignments in the course. Each one contains exercises to familiarize students with environmental issues, government and non-profit web sites, and the tools of geographic analysis. Most assignments, due to their use of Internet information will require computer access and can be done off-site but those that require supplies and supervision will be done during the Wednesday class block. Each assignment will have specified due dates and it is expected that each student submits their own work**, either online or in person.

Term Paper: You will be asked to write a short paper this term on the 2021 BC Supreme Court case Yahey vs. British Columbia, a precedent-setting ruling the legality of industrial extraction (logging, mining, gas & oil extraction) on the territories of the Blueberry First Nation in northeast BC. It will be assigned in mid-February and will be due on **Tuesday, March 25th**.

Tests: There will be two tests this term. The midterm exam will be on **Tuesday, February 11th** and the final exam will be during **Camosun's exam week in April**. The final exam schedule will be posted in February, and it is your job to ensure you are available to attend. Attendance is mandatory. If you fall sick or find yourself unable to attend the exam due to calamity, you must notify the instructor in advance of the exam.

Late Assignment Policy: Each assignment will be due in-class, or electronically by the specified date and time. If you are turning in your assignment in-person, you have a week grace period – I must receive it before the marked assignments are handed back the following week. If you are handing in electronically and you missed the closing date, you may print your assignment and hand it in the following class. Emailed assignments will not be considered.

****Cheating**: I will assign a zero-grade to any assignment submitted that uses another person's work directly. That includes copying from another person, copying from a website, or copying from an AI content generator. Because it is time consuming to handle cheated assignments, the balance of proof that you didn't cheat will fall to you – if I flag your assignment for cheating, you will have the opportunity to speak to me before the zero grade is finalized and you will need to prove you didn't copy your answer. I will determine that by asking you a series of verbal questions about the answer you provided and the broader topic it was exploring.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international

Support Service	Website
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.

