

*Camosun College*

**Geography 100:  
ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

*Course Outline, Fall 2002*

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is intended to acquaint students with the characteristics of our physical environment and the influence human activity has on these surroundings, primarily through our use of natural resources. Topics and examples will range from global to local scale. Lectures will be based upon, but not limited to, the assigned textbook. At the conclusion of the course, the student will be expected to know the structure and function of earth systems and ecosystems; human world views and population dynamics; and resource availability, use and conservation. My goal is for you to be able to engage in informed and rational discussions and analyses of natural resource management and environmental issues.

**LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Lectures: There will be two hours of lecture per week. Overhead notes will be the main style of presentation, possibly with the occasional slideshow or film to spice things up.

Labs: There are eight labs in the course. Each contains exercises to familiarize students with the tools of geography and some real-world resource management issues. Attendance during lab periods is mandatory. In the case of illness, the instructor must be contacted prior to the class time and an alternate arrangement must be made; otherwise, a mark of zero will be assigned. Labs are worth 3.5% each.

Presentations: The material in this course is highly topical in a resource-dependent place like British Columbia. To emphasize this, 12% of your mark is placed on a current-events related project. You are responsible for researching and designing a 7-8 minute presentation on a contemporary environmental issue of your choice. Topics can include current environmental problems, people or groups making a positive contribution to the environment, or ways in which government decisions are affecting the environment. The topic may be local, regional, national or international, but it must have been in the news within the past year.

Midterm Exam: A midterm exam will be given during lab period the **week of October 21**. It will be a mix of short-answer, multiple-choice, and short essay-type questions.

Final Exam: There will be a 2.5-hour final exam during Exam Week. This exam will be comprehensive, requiring students to demonstrate knowledge of the important concepts presented **during the whole course**, though the emphasis will be placed on material from the second half of the course.

**EVALUATION:**

Lab Exercises	28%
Presentation	12%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Dianne Draper, ITP Nelson Publishing, 2002.

This textbook is in a new edition this year. Since it is an expensive hard-cover, you are welcome to use second-hand copies of the old edition (I used to do this all the time). It is your responsibility, however, to cover any new material which is missing from the old edition. Two copies of the new edition will be placed on reserve in the library.

Note that additional readings may be required as part of some lab exercises.

**GRADING:**

The standard grading scale of the School of Arts and Science will be used for this course.

A+	>95%	B-	70-74%
A	90-94%	C+	65-69%
A-	85-89%	C	60-64%
B+	80-84%	D	50-59%
B	75-79%	F	<50%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week of:	Monday	Wed. / Thur.	Readings
Sep 2	<b><i>Labour Day</i></b>	Course Introduction	Ch. 1
Sep 9	Earth Systems	Lab 1	Ch. 1
Sep 16	Ecosystems	Lab 2	Ch. 3
Sep 23	World Views	Lab 3	Ch. 2
Sep 30	Human Population	Lab 4	Ch. 4
Oct 7	<b><i>Thanksgiving</i></b>	<b>Presentations</b>	Ch. 13, 14**
Oct 14	Energy	<b>Presentations</b>	Ch. 11
Oct 21	Atmosphere	<b>Midterm</b>	Ch. 5
Oct 28	Wildlife	<b>Presentations</b>	Ch. 12
Nov 4	Agriculture	<b>Presentations</b>	Ch. 6
Nov 11	<b><i>Remembrance Day</i></b>	Lab 5	-
Nov 18	Water	Lab 6	Ch. 7
Nov 25	Forestry + Fisheries	Lab 7	Ch. 8, 9
Dec 2	Mining	Lab 8	Ch. 10
Exam Week	<b>Final Exam</b>		

**\*\*NOTE:** Chapters 13 and 14 of the text deal with sustainability and environmental solutions. They span many of the specific topics covered in lecture, so from Oct. 7 onward, you are responsible for reading the relevant sections of these chapters for each week. For the final exam, any part of these chapters is fair game, so you are advised to read both of them in full quite early in the term.