

WELCOME
to the "Distributed Education" Version
of
Geography 100: Ecosystems and Human Activity
developed and delivered by
Camosun College
SPRING 2003

INSTRUCTOR: Barry Weaver

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Office Hours:

Monday 10:30 - 12:30pm

Tuesday 10:30 - 12:30pm

Thursday 10:30 - 12:30pm

Other times by arrangement

Course Description

Geography 100: Ecosystems and Human Activity, a university transfer course, provides an introduction to the nature of ecosystems and the variety of resource and environmental issues facing us today. In particular, the course examines environmental worldviews, earth support systems, resource use and concerns, and sustainability challenges.

The approach is to integrate humanistic, social science and science perspectives on the environment from a geographic point of view. Where possible, attention is given to examples drawn from our own province. In the process, you will come to an understanding and appreciation of the structures and uses of environmental and resource systems as well as the challenges facing them.

Specifically, Geography 100 is divided into four main themes:

I. Ways of Viewing Our Environment

II. The Place Where We Live

III. Resources, Ecosystems and Human Impacts

IV. Achieving Sustainability

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of ecological systems and the impact of human activity on those systems.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of key environmental issues
3. Demonstrate knowledge of courses of action, which address environmental concerns

Course Text and Exercises

Draper, Dianne. *Our Environment (2nd ed.)* Toronto: Nelson. 2001.

The text provides an excellent introduction to and overview of the subject of ecosystems and human activity. It is well organized and well written. The text focuses on environmental and resource issues in Canada.

Take the time to look through the text before beginning to formally read it.

In addition to the text, you will also need to purchase the Exercise Package, available for purchase in the bookstore.

Course Organization

This section of Geography 100 is taught over the internet, using Webct. The quality, content and standard of the course is identical to a classroom section of the course.

To deliver the content of this course, a combination of materials is used. They include readings from the course textbook, notes written by the instructor, 11 audio programs of approximately 30 minutes each.

The assigned readings from the textbook are to be treated like assigned readings in a regular classroom section. The materials written by the instructor are similar to lecture notes; and they are designed to provide, clarify and enhance the basic content of the course and, as well, to introduce additional material not emphasized or discussed in the text.

The audio programs offer a further source of material for the course. Each of the programs focus on topics related to the course. In some cases, the topics relate specifically to the course content that particular week; and in other cases, the program enhances your awareness of topics related to the environment. In either case, you will find the topics and speakers stimulating. The programs are an integral part of the course and chances are you will find them interesting and informative even outside of the course. The audio programs are streamed on the course site. However, if you have difficulty accessing or hearing the programs, a set of audio cassette tapes for each program is "on reserve" in the Lansdowne Campus Library.

In addition to the learning materials, there are 6 exercises to be handed in for marking during the term. They are an integral part of the course as they provide an opportunity to apply or augment the content and text material to the development of your knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. The exercises are in the Exercise package. As well as the exercises, there is a field assignment and an audio review; details of which are also in the Exercise package.

Course Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be determined by your results in the following categories:

Mid Term Exam: 25% of the total grade

Final Exam: 30% of the total grade

Exercises: 27% of the total grade

Audio Review: 6% of the total grade

Field Assignment: 12% of the course grade

The exams will be based on the readings, course notes and audio programs. The Mid Term Exam is scheduled during the semester; whereas the Final Exam is

scheduled during the final exam period. The Mid Term will cover World Views to Water Resources inclusive; and the Final Exam will cover Fishery Resources to Achieving Sustainability inclusive. More detailed information will be available closer to each exam. The Mid Term Exam will be a take home exam, to be completed during the period of May 26 to June 2 inclusive; whereas the Final Exam will held at the college during the Final Exam Period.

The exercises draw on the textbook, course notes and audio programs. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EXERCISES ARE TO BE HANDED IN IN CLUSTERS BY PARTICULAR DATES. CLUSTER 1 CONSISTS OF EXERCISES # 1, 2 & 3 TO BE HANDED IN BY MONDAY MAY 26th. CLUSTER 2 CONSISTS OF EXERCISES # 4, 5, & 6 TO BE HANDED IN BY MONDAY JUNE 16th. The exercises are to be handed in at the instructor's office or emailed to the instructor by the appropriate due dates. In turn, marked exercises can be picked up at the instructor's office one week later.

The audio review focuses on expressing your view and commenting on other views regarding one of the audio programs Instructions for the review are contained in the exercise package. THE DUE DATE FOR THE AUDIO REVIEW IS Friday May 23rd.

The field assignment will take place in a local area and will be based on techniques of observation and understanding the selected environment. THE DUE DATE FOR THE FIELD ASSIGNMENT IS FRIDAY JUNE 20th.

For your information, the following is the college grading scale:

% Grade

95 - 100 A+
90 - 94 A
85 - 89 A-
80 - 84 B+
75 - 79 B
70 - 74 B-
65 - 69 C+
60 - 64 C
50 - 59 D
0 - 49 F

(N.B. The last day to withdraw from the course without receiving a failing grade is Wednesday June 4,2003)

Some Suggestions For Success

Although this course is being delivered over the Internet, without scheduled class time, please do not treat it any differently from a regular classroom section. The requirements are the same. In other words, readings need to be done on a weekly basis as should the relevant notes on the course website. The audio programs also need to be heard during the appropriate week.

By doing so, you not only stay on top of the contents of the course, but you also receive a more comprehensive view of the topic. Perhaps the best way to handle this course is to schedule 8 hours a week - the equivalent to a classroom version - in which to do read the course notes and complete the appropriate exercise. Additional time will likely be required to do the reading from the text and studying the material each week.

In addition, it is wise to make your own notes, especially for the Final Exam.. There is too much material for you to assume that you can review it all when it comes to the exam.

It is also critical for your success in the course to complete and hand in your exercises and the assignment on time. On average, each exercise is worth close to 4.5% of the course grade. Thus if you did not hand in an exercise, it has almost enough value to affect a full letter grade for the course! Moreover, the assignment has enough value to affect two full letter grades!

If you have any questions or are having difficulties, please contact the instructor. You can do it either by telephone, fax, email or in person.

Please regularly check the notice board and your email on the course site. When there is important information about the course the instructor will post it on the site notice board; or when the instructor

contacts you specifically, it will be done either by email or by phone.

Basic Navigation Through The Course Site

This should be fairly simple; but then again is anything that simple!

But really, don't let this site scare you, if you are not that comfortable with the internet or computers. It really is quite simple and easy to navigate your way around it. But if you have any problems, please don't hesitate to call. Here, though, are the four parts of the site; when you need to access them, just point and click!

Course Outline: If you are reading this then there is nothing else to be said about this area!

Course Content: This is the start point for the course material. This area contains the course notes as written by the instructor. The audio programs are found in each content area, by clicking onto the audio bar at the top of the respective content page.

Private Mail: This system will allow you to send and receive email to and from other students in the course and the instructor.

Bulletin Board: Using this message system we can all send and receive messages that are available to everyone in the class.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you check this area regularly, as it will contain notices

about the course and the site.

Help with Webct: Because you may be unfamiliar with the use of Webct, there is a short guide on how to use it.

You can access it through "My Webct".

VII COURSE SCHEDULE

Below is a detailed course schedule, listing dates, readings, audio/radio programs, exercises, and exams. Please read it very carefully.

All of the audio programs are streamed on the course site; but they are also available on cassette tape in the Audio Room in the Lansdowne Library. They can be accessed through "Course Contents".

DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (May 5 - 11)

THEME: WAYS OF VIEWING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Topics: Worldviews; Sustainability; & Environmentalism

Course Contents: Read all of Theme I: "Ways of Viewing Our Environment"

Textbook: Read Chapters 1 & 2

Audio/Radio Program: Dr. John Robinson, Director of the Sustainable Development Research Institute at the University of British Columbia discusses the concepts of sustainable development and sustainability.

WEEK 2 (May 12 - 18)

THEME: THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

Topics: Ecosystems

Course Contents: Read Theme II-Section A: "Ecosystems"

Textbook: Read Chapter 3

Audio Program: Chief Tom Happynook talks about the value of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in understanding our connections to the environment.

WEEK 3 (May 19 - 25)

THEME: THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

Topic: Human Population

Course Contents: Read Theme II-Section B: "Population"

Textbook: Read Chapter 4

Audio/Radio Program: Rick Searle, environmentalist journalist for the NEW VI Television Station, discusses the role and responsibility of the media in covering environmental stories.

THEME: RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN IMPACTS

Topics: Agriculture

Course Contents: Read Theme III-Section A: "Agriculture and Soil Resources"

Textbook: Read Chapter 6

Audio/Radio Program: Sharon Butala, a write and rancher, discusses the Old Man on His Back Prairie Conservation Area in southwest Saskatchewan.

AUDIO REVIEW DUE: FRIDAY MAY 23rd

WEEK 4 (May 26 - June 1)

THEME: RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN IMPACTS

Topic: Water Resources

Course Contents: Read Theme III-Section D: "Water Resources"

Textbook: Chapter 7

Audio/Radio Program: Dianne Draper, Professor of Geography at the University of Calgary and author of the course textbook, discusses issues related to water resources

EXERCISES # 1, 2 & 3 ARE DUE: MONDAY MAY 26th

MIDTERM EXAM: WRITE AT HOME EXAM, posted on the course site on Monday May 26th DUE: MONDAY JUNE 2nd BY 7:00pm AT THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE

THEME: RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN IMPACTS

Topic: Fishery Resources

Course Contents: Read Theme III-Section: "Fisheries"

Textbook: Read pages 251 - 274

Audio/Radio Program: Lynne Hunter of the David Suzuki Foundation discusses the issues related to fish farming on the coast of British Columbia.

WEEK 5 (JUNE 2 - 8)

THEME: RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN IMPACTS

Topic: Forest Resources

Course Contents: Read Theme III-Section C: "Forest Resources"

Textbook: Read Chapter 9

Audio Program: Merv Wilkinson the founder of the Wildwood Ecoforest discusses ecoforestry practices as alternatives to large scale forest harvesting.

THEME: RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN IMPACTS

Topic: Land Resources and Solid Waste

Course Contents Read Theme III-Section F: "Land Resources and Solid Waste"

Textbook: Read Pages 465 - 470

Audio/Radio Program: Richard Jablonski, President of Syntal Products in Victoria, explains the process that the company uses in taking recycled plastic and using it to manufacture synthetic lumber.

WEEK (JUNE 9 - 15)

THEME: RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN IMPACTS

Topic: Energy Resources

Course Contents: Read Theme III-Section B: "Energy Resources"

Textbook: Read Chapter 11

Audio Program: Guy Dauncey of Victoria, whose work is in the areas of community economic development, sustainability, and environmental matters, discusses the various electrical energy projects proposed for Vancouver Island.

THEME: RESOURCES, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN IMPACTS

Topic: Atmospheric Resources

Course Contents: Read Theme III-Section G: "Air Pollution and Climate Change"

Textbook: Read Chapter 5

Audio/Radio Program: Dr. Andrew Weaver (no relation), climatologist at the University of Victoria, discusses climate change and its potential impacts.

WEEK 7 (JUNE 16 - 20)

THEME: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY

Topic: Sustainability

Course Contents: Read Theme IV: "Achieving Sustainability"

Textbook: Read Chapter 14 and pages 16 - 23

Audio/Radio Program: Briony Penn, Environmental Journalist with the NEW VI Television station in Victoria, talks about making a difference.

EXERCISES # 4, 5 & 6 ARE DUE: MONDAY JUNE 16th

THE FIELD ASSIGNMENT IS DUE FRIDAY JUNE 20th

JUNE 23 - 25: FINAL EXAM IN FINAL EXAM PERIOD

DATE & FORMAT: TBA