

# CAMOSUN COLLEGE GEOGRAPHY 100 ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN ACTIVITY

## Course Outline, Spring 2004

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### *COURSE DESCRIPTION:*

This course is intended to acquaint students with the characteristics of our physical environment and the influence our human activity has on these surroundings. At the conclusion of the course, the student will be expected to know the properties of earth's major ecosystems and biomes; human population dynamics; and resource availability and conservation. Lectures will be based upon, but not limited to, the assigned textbook. The emphasis of lecture coverage will range from a global scale to local issues and concerns. In addition, I hope that you will be able to think critically about environmental issues and about the human relationship with the Earth's ecosystems.

### *LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:*

Lectures: There will be two hours of lecture per day. The use of overheads, slides and video will augment the traditional lecture style.

Labs: There are eight labs in the course. Each lab contains exercises to familiarize students with the tools of geography and many of the issues faced by geographers. 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. All labs are due at the end of the lab period, except where noted. Each lab is worth 3.5%.

Presentations: The material in this course is highly topical in a resource-dependent place like British Columbia. To emphasize this, 17% of your mark is placed on a presentation of an environmental based project. You are responsible for researching and designing a 7-8 minute presentation on an environmental issue, problem or solution. A list of possible topics will be posted on my door.

Midterm Exam: A midterm exam will be given Wednesday, May 26 from 1:00 to 3:00pm. 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	17%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

## TEXTBOOK:

Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective by Diane Draper, ITP Nelson Publishing, 1998.

There are two versions of the textbook available; the newest edition is sold by the bookstore but, since it is an expensive hard-cover, you are welcome to use second-hand copies of the old edition. I have also requested that two copies of the textbook be placed on reserve in the library for your use.

## GRADING:

The standard grading scale of the Division 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

Date:	Section A: 1:00 - 2:45	Section B: 3:00 - 4:50	Readings
May 3	Intro to Ecosystems	Lab 1 - Topographic Maps	Chap 1
May 5	World Views / Earth's systems	Lab 2 – Ecological Footprint	Chap 2,3
May 10	Ecosystems	Lab 3 - Rithet's Bog	Chap 3
May 12	Human Population	Lab 4 – Population	Chap 4
May 17	Atmosphere	Lab 5 – Air Pollution - GVRD	Chap 5
May 19	Fresh Water / review	Lab 6 – Water Supply - CRD	Chap 7
May 24	<b>Holiday</b>		
May 26	<b>Midterm</b>	Getting ready for Presentations	Chap. 1-5, 7
May 31	Oceans and Fisheries	Lab 7 – Forestry	Chap 8
June 2	Forestry	<i>PRESENTATIONS</i>	Chap 9
June 7	Energy	<i>PRESENTATIONS</i>	Chap 11
June 9	Biodiversity	<i>PRESENTATIONS</i>	Chap 12
June 14	Lifestyle Choices & Challenges	<i>PRESENTATIONS</i>	Chap 13,14
June 16	Course review	Lab 8 - Video Review	
	<b>Exam</b>	Chap. 1-5, 7-9, 11-14	

## Summer Session Notes

Due to the condensed nature of this course the schedule is flexible. Depending on the weather we may get outside more or less.

You are requested to attend each day as a lot of material is covered (*We cover one week of regular course in one day!*). No lecture notes will be made available, if you are not able to make a class you must make arrangements ahead of time for what will be covered.

Your labs are due the same day unless otherwise noted on the lab. You will need to bring graph paper, pencil, eraser, ruler and a calculator for lab periods. The only lab that must be typed is the final lab (8); that said your handwriting must be legible for me to mark your other labs.

You are responsible for reading your text. I will draw from the text but will also present other material in the lecture. Your text should be used as a base on which you build other knowledge. Examinations will also look to the text for basic concepts. Lecture and labs will provide more specific information and examples that will be on the exams.