

# **WELCOME**

to the "Distributed Education" Version

of

**Geography 100: Ecosystems and Human Activity**

developed and delivered by

**Camosun College**

**FALL 2004**

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**Office Hours:**

**Monday 1:30 - 3:00 pm**

**Tuesday 10:30 - 12:30pm**

**Friday 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. "Environmental Stuff"
- II. "Stuff That Makes Up The Place Where We Live"
- III. "Stuffing Ourselves And Realizing the Impacts"
- IV. "Enough Stuff"

#### 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 MATERIALS

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. Incidentally, if you

know someone who has taken Geography 100 in the last few years, maybe you can borrow their book!

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. Please be certain that you buy the package that states Geography 100: Distributed Education on the cover.

### **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 and content notes written by the instructor, which are on this website.

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.

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 are two short assignments; 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**

**Assignment # 1: 8% of the total grade**

**Assignment # 2: 10% of the course grade**

The exams will be based on the readings and course notes. 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 Stuff and Sustainability to Forest Resources inclusive; and the Final Exam will cover Agriculture to Achieving Balance 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 October 25 to November 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 EACH EXERCISE IS TO BE HANDED IN BY THE STATED DATE IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE SHOWN BELOW. 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.

Assignment # 1 involves a review of one of two videos. Details of this assignment can be found at the end of the Exercise Package. THE DUE DATE FOR ASSIGNMENT # 1 IS TUESDAY OCTOBER 18th.

Assignment # 2 entails a posting by each student on the course site. Details of this assignment can also be found in the Exercise Package. THE DUE DATE FOR YOUR POSTING IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30th.

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 Tuesday November 9th)

### **SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS**

If you have not taken a course in this format, the following information can be quite useful in helping you successfully complete the course. Many of the suggestions came from students who have taken the course in this format.

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 contents on the course website.

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 4 hours a week - the equivalent to a classroom version - in which to do read the course content and complete the appropriate exercise. Additional time will likely be required to do the reading from the text and studying the material each week, just like in a classroom based course.

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, each 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** (at least 3 to 4 times a week) the Bulletin Board and your Private Mail on the course site. When there is important information about the course the instructor will post it on the Bulletin Board; or when the instructor contacts you specifically, it will often be done through Private Mail on the site.

## **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:** Please check this area for your weekly readings, exercises, etc. You may want to print it.

**Course Content:** This is the start point for the course material. This is where the course notes written by the instructor are found. The Themes and Sections correspond to the part that you are to read each week, according to detailed course schedule below. Simply click on the appropriate listing and the contents of it will appear. Please ignore the audio button, when you access the contents. The audio programs will not be a part of the course this term.

**Private Mail:** This function allows you to send an email to anyone who is registered in this section of the course and to your instructor. It also allows for the reverse. In order to send a message, click on the "Email" icon and when you get to the page that says "Compose message", click on that term. A window will appear in which to write your message and send it. Before you do that, click on "Browse" and you will be taken to a list of students in the class. Select the person that you want to send the message to; click on their name; and then click on "Done". The person's name will now appear on the message page. Write your message in the box and be sure to include something in the Subject box, otherwise you can't send your message. Once you have finished doing this, click on "Send". If you decide that you don't want to send your message, click on "Cancel". If you want to include an attachment to your message, click on "Browse" by the Attachment box and then find your

attachment. Once you have found it, click on "Attach File", and then on "Send". In order to read a message sent to you, click on the "Email" icon and then on "Inbox". You will then have to click on the subject/topic of the message in order to read it.

**Bulletin Board:** This communication tool allows for a message to be sent to everyone in the class. It is used regularly by the instructor to remind the class of things, to inform the class about a variety of items, etc. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHECK THIS AREA AT LEAST THREE TO FOUR TIMES A WEEK.** In order to read a posting, click on the "Bulletin Board" icon and then on "Inbox". Once you get to the list of posting topics, click on the one that you want to read and then wait a few seconds and click on the title now appearing in blue. The message will then appear. You can reply to a posting as well from this location. If you want to post an item, click on the "Bulletin Board" icon and then on "Compose Discussion". Write your subject name in the box and your posting in the text box and then click "Post". Students in the past have used this area for a variety of things such as informing everyone about useful websites and television programs and to ask about questions in the exercises. It is a very good area to generate dialogue and get feedback. In addition, the Bulletin Board is where you will posting in order to complete Assignment # 2.

There are a number of other icons on the homepage, however, only the four explained above will be used this semester.

I hope that you have found the above information helpful. But if you still have questions, no matter how simple you think they are, please don't hesitate to ask me.

I hope that you enjoy the course and find it interesting. What follows below is the detailed course schedule. Barry

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

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

## **DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE**

***WEEK 1 (Sept. 7 - 10)***

**ORIENTATION**

***WEEK 2 (Sept. 13 - 19)***

***THEME I: ENVIRONMENTAL STUFF***

**Topics: Stuff, Worldviews and Sustainability**

**Course Contents: Read all of Theme I: "Environmental Stuff"**

**Textbook: Read Chapters 1 & 2**

**EXERCISE: Begin work on Exercise # 1: "Stuff and the Ecological Footprint"  
(Due: Tuesday September 28th)**

***WEEK 3 (Sept. 20 - 26)***

***THEME II: STUFF THAT MAKES UP THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE***

**Topics: Ecosystems**

**Course Contents: Read the following parts in Theme II-Section A:  
"Ecosystems" -including Introduction, Ecosphere, Ecosystems, and Biodiversity**

**Textbook: Read Chapter 3**

**EXERCISE: Complete Exercise # 1 (Due: Tuesday Sept. 28th)**

***WEEK 4 (Sept. 27 - Oct. 3)***

***THEME II: STUFF THAT MAKES UP THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE***

**Topic: Ecosystems**

**Course Contents: Read the following parts in Theme II-Section A:  
"Ecosystems" - including matter cycling, ecosystem types, and primary threats  
to ecosystems**



**Textbook: Read Chapter 3**

**EXERCISE: Exercise # 2: "Ecosystems" (Due: Tuesday Oct. 12th). PLEASE NOTE: this exercise is a field based exercise; thus it takes some additional time to complete.**

***WEEK 5 (Oct. 4 - 10)***

***THEME II: STUFF THAT MAKES UP THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE***

**Topics: Human Population**

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

**Textbook: Read Chapter 4**

**EXERCISE: Exercise # 2 (Due Tuesday October 12th)**

***WEEK 6 (Oct. 11 - 17)***

***THEME III: STUFFING OURSELVES AND REALIZING THE IMPACTS***

**Topic: Water Resources**

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

**Textbook: Chapter 7**

**EXERCISE: Exercise # 3: "Water Resources" (Due: Tuesday Oct. 26th)**

***WEEK 7: (Oct. 18 - 24)***

***THEME III: STUFFING OURSELVES AND REALIZING THE IMPACTS***

**Topic: Forest Resources**

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

Textbook: Chapter 9

EXERCISE: Exercise # 3 (Due Tuesday Oct. 26th)

ASSIGNMENT # 1 IS DUE THIS WEEK ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 19th

*WEEK 8 (Oct. 25 - 31)*

***THEME III: STUFFING OURSELVES AND REALIZING THE IMPACTS***

Topic: Agricultural and Soil Resources

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

Textbook: Read Chapter 6

EXERCISE: Exercise # 4: "Agriculture" (Due: Tuesday Nov. 9th)

"TRICK or TREAT" - MID TERM EXAM (a write-at-home exam) will be posted on the course site on Monday October 26. The Exam is DUE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2nd by 9:00pm at the Instructor's Office or via email.

*WEEK 9 (Nov. 1 - 7)*

***THEME III: STUFFING OURSELVES AND REALIZING THE IMPACTS***

Topic: Wild Species

Course Contents Read Theme III-Section D Wild: "Wild Species"

Textbook: Read Pages 413 - 426

EXERCISE: Exercise # 4: "Agriculture" (Due Tuesday Nov. 9th)

*WEEK 10 (Nov. 8 - 14))*

***THEME III: STUFFING OURSELVES AND REALIZING THE IMPACTS***

**Topic: A Few Urban Environmental Issues**

**Course Contents: Read Theme III-Section F: "Selected Urban Environmental Issues"**

**Textbook: Read pp. 465 - 470**

**EXERCISE: Exercise # 5: "Urban Environmental Issues" (Due Tuesday Nov. 23rd)**

***WEEK 11 (Nov. 15 - 21)***

***THEME III: STUFFING OURSELVES AND REALIZING THE IMPACTS***

**Topic: Energy Resources**

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

**Textbook: Read Chapter 11**

**EXERCISE: Exercise # 5: "Urban Environmental Issues" (Due Tuesday Nov. 23rd)**

***WEEK 12 (Nov. 22 - 28)***

***THEME III: STUFFING OURSELVES AND REALIZING THE IMPACTS***

**Topic: Atmospheric Resources**

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

**Textbook: Read Chapter 5**

**EXERCISE: Exercise # 6: "Atmospheric Resources" (Due Tuesday Dec. 7th)**

***WEEK 13 (Nov. 29 - Dec. 5)***

***THEME IV: ENOUGH STUFF***

**Topic: Achieving Balance**

**Course Contents: Read Theme IV: "Achieving Balance"**

**Textbook: Read pages 16 - 23**

**EXERCISE: Exercise # 6: "Atmospheric Resources" (Due Tuesday Dec. 7th)**

**ASSIGNMENT # 2: POSTING COMPLETED BY TUESDAY NOV. 30th**

***WEEK 14 (Dec. 6 - 10)***

**EXAM REVIEW SEMINAR - Date, Time and Room TBA**

***DEC. 13 - 18 & 20 - 21: FINAL EXAM IN FINAL EXAM PERIOD***

***DATE & FORMAT: TBA***