

CAMOSUN COLLEGE GEOGRAPHY 100 ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN ACTIVITY

Course Outline, Winter 2005

Section 6

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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 six 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% except lab 5 that is worth 5%.

Assignments: There are two independent research assignments during the course. Information on each assignment is in your lab materials. The first assignment is an annotated bibliography and the second assignment is a research paper. The paper is to be 4-5 pages typed. The first assignment is due on February 23rd and the second assignment is due on April 13th. Assignment one is worth 5% and assignment two is worth 15% of your final mark.

Examinations: There are three exams over the term. The first two are midterms examinations spaced during the class periods. The final exam will be in the exam period, April 18 – 23, 2005. Each midterm is worth 15 % of your final mark. They will focus on the chapters covered preceding the exam. The final will be worth 30 % and is cumulative. Each exam will be focused on the chapters indicated in the course schedule but long answer questions are to be answered reflecting your accumulation of knowledge over the entire course.

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EVALUATION:

Lab Exercises		20%
Assignments		20%
Midterm		30%

Exams (2@ 15%)		
Final Exam		30%
Total		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%

Lab Materials

You are required to purchase the lab manual that is available in the bookstore. This manual contains your lab exercises and assignment requirements. Please read your lab exercise over **before** coming to class. There will be a short introduction to the lab but you will benefit more by having read the material prior to doing the lab. 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 labs and assignments **must** be typed if it is indicated on the lab. Both assignments must be typed. That said your handwriting must be legible for me to mark your other labs.

Session Notes

You are requested to attend each day as a lot of material is covered. Outline notes for each lecture will be made available on the class website: <http://griffiths.disted.camosun.bc.ca/>. 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.

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 look to the text for basic concepts. Lecture, assignments, videos and labs will provide more specific information and examples that will be on the exams.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Date:	Monday	Reading Wednesday	Readings	
Jan 10, 12	Intro to Course		Our Environment Intro	Chap 1

Jan 17, 19	Science and World Views	Chap 2	<u>Lab 1</u> – Ecological Footprint	
Jan 24, 26	Earth Systems	Chap 3	Ecosystems	Chap 3
Jan 31, Feb 2	<u>Lab 2</u> - Rithet's Bog		Human Population	Chap 4
Feb 7, 9	Midterm 1	Chap 1-4	Assignment 1 library day	
Feb 14, 16	Atmosphere	Chap 5	<u>Lab 3</u> – Air Pollution - GVRD	
Feb 21, 23	Soil and Land Resources	Chap 6	Fresh Water	Chap 7
Feb 28, Mar 2	<u>Lab 4</u> – CRD Water Resources		Oceans and Fisheries	Chap 8
Mar 7, 9	Forestry	Chap 9	Midterm 2	Chap 5-9
Mar 14, 16	Land Resources and Mining	Chap 10	<u>Lab 5</u> : Stakeholder Debate	
Mar 21, 23	Energy: non renewable	Chap 11	Energy: Renewable	Chap 11
Mar 28, 30	HOLIDAY		Species and Spaces	Chap 12
Apr 4, 6	Assignment 2: Research Day		Lifestyle Choices & Challenges	Chap 13-14
Apr 11, 13	<u>Lab 6</u> - Video Review		Review	Chapters 1- 14