

CAMOSUN COLLEGE
GEOGRAPHY 100
ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN ACTIVITY
Course Outline, Spring 2005

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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. Due to the compressed nature of the Spring session, there may be more lecture material than can be covered, be sure to read your textbook ahead of class.

Labs: There are five 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. Labs 1, 3 and 4 are due at the end of the lab period. Labs 2 and 5 are due one week from the day of the lab and are to be typed. Labs 1, 3, and 4 are worth 3% and labs 2 and 5 are worth 5%.

Discussions: There are five group discussions during the course. Attendance is mandatory. Each session will have an assigned issue for discussion. Each discussion will be in the form of a small group brainstorming session and a class reflection/discussion. The small group discussions will be recorded by one member of the group and handed in that day (this job is to be shared equally). Each discussion session is worth 2% of your final mark.

Presentations: The material in this course is highly topical in a resource-dependent place like British Columbia. To emphasize this, 18% 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**. See the lab materials for more on the presentation. You have 2 main topics to choose from: 1) an environmental issue that you are passionate about, **or** 2) an endangered species and its ecosystem

You may use any **media** you like to engage your audience: PowerPoint, a poster, video, or slides can all enhance your presentation. Please inform me of your audio visual needs the class prior to your presentation.

A **one-page typed synopsis** of your presentation is due one class before your presentation or you will provide copies for the class on the day of presentation.

Examinations: There are four tests over the term. The first three tests will be worth 12 % of your final mark. The final test will be worth 14% of your final grade. Each test will be focused on the chapters indicated in the course schedule but long answer questions will reflect the accumulation of knowledge over the entire course. There is no final exam in this course.

EVALUATION:

Lab Exercises	22%
Discussions	10%
Presentation	18%
Exams	50%
Total	<hr/> 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 presentation 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 2, lab 5 and the presentation **must** be typed. All other materials may be handwritten. That said your handwriting must be legible for me to mark your other labs.

Spring Session Notes

You are requested to attend each day as a lot of material is covered each day. 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date:</u>	Session A: 1:00 – 2:45	Supplemental	Session B: 3:00 – 4:45	Supplemental	Readings
May 9	Intro to Course	<u>Discussion</u>	Our Environment Intro		Chap 1
May 11	Science and World Views		<u>Lab 1</u> – Ecological Footprint	In class, calculator	Chap 2
May 16	Earth Systems		Ecosystems	<u>Discussion</u>	Chap 3
May 18	Human Population		<u>Lab 2</u> - Rithet's Bog	In field at bog	Chap 4.
May 23	HOLIDAY				
May 25	Quiz 1	Chap 1-4.	Atmosphere	<u>Discussion</u> <i>Lab 2 due</i>	Chap 5
May 30	<u>Lab 3</u> – Climate Change		Soil and Land Resources		Chap 6
June 1	Fresh Water	<i>Presentation topic due</i>	<u>Lab 4</u> – CRD Water Resources	Graph paper, calculator	Chap 7
June 6	Quiz 2	Chap 5-7	Oceans and Fisheries		Chap 8
June 8	Forestry		Land Resources and Mining	<u>Discussion</u>	Chap 9, 10
June 13	<u>Lab 5</u> : Stakeholder Debate		Quiz 3		Chap 8-10
June 15	Species and Spaces / Non-renewable Energy	<i>Lab 5 due</i>	Renewable energy	<u>Discussion</u>	Chap 11, 12
June 20	Lifestyle Choices & Challenges		Presentations		Chap 13, 14
June 22	Quiz 4	Chap 11-14	Presentations		