



School of Arts & Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
GEOG 100-002
Ecosystems and Human Activity
2006F

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Stephanie Olsen
(b)	Office Hours:	Wednesdays 2:30-3:20 or by appointment
(c)	Location:	Paul 233
(d)	Phone:	370-3370
(e)	Email:	solsen@office.geog.uvic.ca

2. 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. The emphasis of lecture coverage will range from a global scale to local issues and concerns.

Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate 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 that address environmental concerns.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Lectures: There will be two hours of lecture a week on Mondays.

Labs: There are six labs in the course. Each lab contains exercises to familiarize students with environmental issues, government and non-profit web sites, and the tools of geographic analysis. Some lab exercises will be taken home for completion. There will be a debate, with an associated paper. Due dates will be assigned in class. Attendance during labs is MANDATORY. A mark of zero will be given if missed without notice prior to the lab time.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be held on **OCTOBER 18th** and will be a selection of short-answer, multiple-choice, and short essay-type questions.

EcoNews Presentations: An important component of this course is to understand how humans interact with the environment. You will pick a current environmental topic to follow in the news throughout the semester as part of a group (e.g. climate change--We

will review possible topics at the beginning of term). At the end of the semester your group will present this information. You will be allowed to use power-point, overheads or posters to add to your presentation.

Final Exam: There will be a three-hour final exam during Exam Week. This exam will be comprehensive but the emphasis will be placed on material from the second half of the course.

3. Required Materials

(a)	Texts	Dearden and Mitchell, 2005. 2 nd Edition. Environmental Change and Challenge: a Canadian Perspective
(b)	Other	Readings on reserve in the library

4. Course Content and Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic (Mondays)	Lab exercise (Wednesdays)
Sept. 4/6	No class (Labour Day)	Introduction to class
Sept. 11/13	Environment and Society Reading: Chapter 1	Introduction to EcoNews, Lab Exercise 1: Topographic maps
Sept. 18/20	The Ecosphere Part I Reading: Chapter 2, 3, 4	The Ecosphere Part II Reading: Chapter 2, 3, 4
Sept. 25/27	The Ecosphere Part III Reading: Chapter 2, 3, 4	Lab Exercise 2: Ecological Footprints
Oct. 2/4	Climate Change Reading: Chapter 7	Guest Lecture: local climate change impacts
Oct. 9/11	Thanksgiving (no class)	Study for mid-term
Oct. 16/18	Mid-term review	Mid-term
Oct. 23/25	Oceans and Fisheries Reading: Chapter 8	Guest Lecture: Marine research
Oct. 30/Nov. 1	Forests and Forestry Reading: Chapter 9	Lab Exercise 3: Debates
Nov. 6/8	Agriculture Reading: Chapter 10	Lab Exercise 4 due: Debate paper Biodiversity Reading: Chapter 11
Nov. 13/15	Remembrance day observed (no class)	Reading: Desert Solitaire (On reserve)
Nov. 20/22	Endangered Species and Protected Areas Reading: Chapter 11 Introduction to Exercise 5	Lab Exercise 5: Karimlan Simulation game
Nov. 27/29	TBA	Lab Exercise 6: EcoNews Presentations
Dec. 4/6	Putting it all together	Exam review

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a)	Assignments	40%
(b)	Mid-term	20%
(c)	Final Exam	30%
(d)	Participation/Attendance	10%

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
95-100	A+		9
90-94	A		8
85-89	A-		7
80-84	B+		6
75-79	B		5
70-74	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at camosun.ca or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

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7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

8. Guidelines for Group Work

- Group work is required for some of the lab exercises in this course. At times it may be challenging, but it is an important part of the learning process.
- Each group member is expected to make a contribution to the exercise, though within the group is it possible to designate specific responsibilities to certain group members. Make sure you coordinate and come together before presenting your work.
- Group work depends on a collaborative and cooperative approach. Please work towards helping to create a supportive and energetic atmosphere that is conducive to producing good results.