



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

GEOG-100-001
Environment and Sustainability
Summer 2018

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/geog.html>

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

1. Instructor Information

(a) Instructor	Tim Elkin		
(b) Office hours	Monday 4.30-5.20pm; Wednesday 4.30-5.20pm		
(c) Location	E238		
(d) Phone	250-370-3115	Alternative:	
(e) E-mail	elkint@camosun.ca		
(f) Website			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon 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 a knowledge of courses of action which address environmental concerns.

3. Required Materials

(a) Texts

The required text for the course is Raven, Hassenzahl, Gift, and Berg, 2015, Environment (9th edition), Toronto: Harcourt [although the earlier edition text (8th, 2012) is acceptable; there will be some differences].

(b) Other

Several required readings are indicated in the topic outline below. These readings, along with the labs, are available in the **course manual**. Students should purchase the **course manual** from the bookstore.

4. Course Content and Schedule

INTRODUCTION

Week starting

May 7-

Week1

CLASS 1 Introduction to the course: course outline

The Environment: What is the problem?

Lab: Geography of pollution

Class discussion: Human impact on the environment.

What are the most important environmental problems facing us today?

UNDERSTANDING THE HUMAN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

CLASS 2 Introducing environmental science and sustainability
Text: Chap 1

Lab: Environmental science: research and the scientific method; geography of environment; human impact on the environment; measuring ecological footprints

Class discussion 1: Recognizing ecological limits

Do Canadians need to recognize ecological limits and reduce their ecological footprint?

Class discussion 2: Scientific assessment, risk analysis and the precautionary principle: Examining risks associated with major projects such as oil development.

Is oil sands development in Alberta an acceptable risk?

Video: H2Oil

**May 14-
Week 2**

CLASS 1

Addressing environmental problems: Policy, economics and worldviews
Text: Chap 2

Lab: Addressing environmental problems: Policy and economics; worldviews.

Class discussion: Addressing environmental problems

How 'green' is our campus? What environmental problems exist on the Camosun campus? What solutions can you identify to these problems?

Video: Subdue the Earth

UNDERSTANDING THE ENVIRONMENT

CLASS 2 Structure and function of ecosystems: Ecosystems and Energy; Ecosystems and the Physical Environment
Text: Chap 3, 4

Lab: Structure and function of ecosystems: Energy flow

Class discussion 1: Whaling.

Is whaling an unacceptable practice that should be stopped immediately?

Class discussion 2: Agriculture and the use of chemical fertilizers.

Should society use legislation to prohibit farmers using chemical fertilizers? Is there an alternative to chemical fertilizers?

Video: Whale Mission

**May 21-
Week 3**

CLASS 1:

HOLIDAY

CLASS 2

Quiz 1

**May 28-
Week 4**

CLASS 1

Structure and function of ecosystems: Ecosystems and Living Organisms.
Text: Chap 5

Lab: Structure and function of ecosystems: Physical and Living Worlds; Mapping Canada's climate using GIS

Class discussion: The nature of community.

Is community based mostly on competition or cooperation between members?

CLASS 2 Ecosystems of the World
Focus on forest ecosystems
Text: Chap 6

Class discussion: Protecting BC's temperate rainforest ecosystem
Should cutting of BC's old growth temperate rainforest be stopped immediately?

Lab: Examining ecosystems; Mapping Canada's ecosystems using GIS

Video: Battle for the Trees

**June 4-
Week 5**

CLASS 1 Human population
Text: Chap 8

Class discussion: Overpopulation
The current human population crisis causes or exacerbates all environmental problems, including energy issues and climate change: What is the solution?

Lab: Human population dynamics

CLASS 2 Research paper: Getting started

Quiz 2

UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

**June 11-
Week 6**

CLASS 1 Food
Text: Chap 18

Class discussion: Agriculture
Should all food be produced organically?

Lab: Calculating your Ecological Footprint

Video: Ecological Footprint

CLASS 2 Climate change
Text: Chap 20

Class discussion: Canada's response to climate change:
What are we doing? What should we be doing? Given historic emissions, does Canada have the same or more responsibility than nations such as China and India?

Lab: Podcast - Climate change

**June 18-
Week 7**

CLASS 1 Research paper: Getting completed

Quiz 3

CLASS 2 Review and reflection
Lab: Reflecting on the future

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Quizzes	- 15%
Lab work	- 50%
Discussion questions	- 10%
Research paper	- 25%

6. Grading System

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

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

N/A

8. College Supports, Services and Policies



Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6

73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. 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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> for 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.