

# DRAFT Course Outline - ENST1001A – Introduction to Environmental Studies

Fall/Winter 2015-2016 - Department of Geography and Environmental Studies  
Carleton University

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TAs: TBA  
Contact details for your TAs will be discussed in the first tutorial group meetings (TBA). Please note that the TA assignments MAY change in January if necessary for scheduling reasons.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: This course precludes credit in FYSM 1100. That means that if you take both of them, you will only get a credit for one of them. Please don't waste your money! If this applies to you, please talk to Scott to get advice on which course to take.**

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## Course objectives:

This course serves as an introduction to Environmental Studies, a program aiming to educate and prepare informed, skilled individuals to participate in the resolution of environmental conflicts and the larger environmental debates critical to our future (see <http://www.carleton.ca/geography/environmental-studies/>). In addition to being a popular interdisciplinary elective in many degree programs, ENST1001 is the primary option to start the BA (Honours or General) program in Environmental Studies.

Our presentation of environmental studies is influenced by our **backgrounds in geography and geomatics**. The advent of space exploration and rapid developments in geomatics have changed and in some ways created modern environmental studies; developments in geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing (RS) have allowed us to discover new perspectives and new ways of seeing Earth. Spatial analysis is a valuable tool for making sense of environmental issues, and we will often **supplement traditional environmental studies educational resources with spatial and workplace perspectives, to present a visual interpretation of earth system science and socio-cultural knowledge**. We will learn to integrate knowledge from many sources, including models of ecosystem processes, GIS/RS, online resources, mass media, traditional academic publications, and fellow students.

## Course calendar:

**Full group in lecture hall:** Mondays 11:35-13:25, University Centre 282  
(currently scheduled to move to Tory 340 in Winter)

**Tutorial groups:** A1: Wednesdays 14:35-16:25, University Centre 280  
(all locations to be A2: Tuesdays 9:35-11:25, Mackenzie 3190  
confirmed, & they A3: Fridays 11:35-13:25, River Building 3220  
change in winter) A4: CLOSED

Your group assignment **was set as part of your course enrolment** using Carleton Central; **you must attend your own assigned group**, unless otherwise instructed by your TA. Assignment due dates are also usually tied to your assigned tutorial.

Tutorial groups may sometimes meet somewhere besides the assigned room (e.g. in computer labs in the Loeb building, or outside). Monitor cuLearn and your email for announcements.

**Detailed schedules for the term work and topics will be handed out as part of your coursepack.** Individual discussion topics may shift according to the variable pace of class interaction, but you should note upcoming deadlines, plan ahead to manage your workload, and submit all work on time. While this is important in any course, in this class you will be completing a fair amount of cooperative work, and other students will often be counting on your portions of larger projects.

**Tests and exams:** TENTATIVE: There will be an online test between weeks 7 and 8 of the fall term (specifically, xxx), an in-class test in February, and a final exam in the exam period in April.

## Course web site / electronic resources:

This course will use email and cuLearn for communications – be sure to monitor the cuLearn site, and either check your Carleton email regularly, or forward it to another account that you will check regularly.

## Course texts:

The following textbook has been ordered and will be available at the Campus bookstore:  
Dearden and Mitchell, 2012. Environmental Change and Challenge – A Canadian Perspective. Oxford Press, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 606 pp.

**Supplemental required readings will be assigned as needed.**

## Grading:

Your grade will be evaluated based on a combination of tests, individual assignments, group projects, and participation. Some assignments will have portions of their marking schemes that come from peer evaluation, or specific participation scores. There is also a general participation score based on your attendance and interaction in tutorials throughout the year.

Fall Test (due xxx):	10%
Winter Test (xxx):	10%
Final exam:	25%
Tutorial assignments:	25% (details on assignments)

Final project (including Assignment 6): 30%

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Late policy**

If a legitimate reason prevents you from submitting your work on time through regular means, it is your responsibility to get in touch with us **as soon as possible** (the earlier the better), to work out an alternative arrangement. Work that is late because you simply fell behind or forgot a deadline will be assigned a penalty. Some course requirements will have their own specific penalties, and / or limits on how late assignments will be accepted. Some of your responsibilities will be part of group submissions, and there will not necessarily be any possibility for a late submission – in these cases you should be especially careful to plan accordingly. In absence of any assignment-specific late penalty, there will be a deduction of 5% per day that the work is late without acceptable reason.

**Instructional & Conduct Offences:** Instructional offences include, among other activities, cheating, contravening examination regulations, plagiarism, submitting similar work in 2 or more courses without prior permission, and disrupting classes. Conduct offences apply in areas of discrimination and sexual harassment. Further information about University regulations that define and regulate these offences is presented in the undergraduate Calendar: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's writing/ideas/work as your own. All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly referenced. While forms of plagiarism may vary, each involves verbatim or near verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others as ones own without adequately acknowledging the original source. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) copying from a book, article or another student, downloading material or ideas from the Internet, or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own.<sup>1</sup> **Plagiarism offences result in mandatory reporting to the Dean's office.**

You will often be working collaboratively in this class, but unless you receive specific written instructions to do otherwise, **you must write your assignments and tests individually**. In all cases, if there is any confusion, or you have different interpretations than your peers over individual or group responsibilities, please be sure to get clarification from the instructor **before** the assignment is due. If in doubt, assume you should be submitting a completely independently prepared piece of work.

### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement on plagiarism courtesy of K. Torrance, 2003, GEOG3108 Course Outline, originally from [http://www.carleton.ca/geography/geography/course\\_outlines/GEOG3108\\_0304.html](http://www.carleton.ca/geography/geography/course_outlines/GEOG3108_0304.html).

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov. 8, 2013 for the Fall term and March 7, 2014 for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

## General Information About Tutorial Work

Tutorials are an essential part of this course. The eight term assignments and the major project for the course are all conducted through the tutorials. The grades for these components account for 55% of your final grade, therefore it is impossible to pass this course through the lectures, tests and final exam alone. Please take the tutorials seriously. If a conflict or health problem comes up that interferes with your regular attendance and participation in the tutorials, make sure that you contact your TA as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements.

Grading schemes for each of the assignments are provided in this coursepack, and vary according to the tasks at hand. However, in general, grades are governed by university-wide standards and practices. You will receive either a numeric or a letter grade, depending on the work, but in either case the meaning behind the grade is similar. The following table elaborates on how these grades conform to the Carleton grade point system, with some generalized descriptions of the levels:

Grade (letter/%)	Grade Point	Description
A+ 90-100%	12	<b>Excellent</b> Demonstrates a superb understanding of the material, and makes links between the issues and topics in the lab material and course readings or lectures. Unexpected insights. Incorporates additional information. Very few if any grammatical or spelling errors. Mature writing.
A 85-89%	11	<b>Excellent – Very Good</b> Work shows comprehensive knowledge of the material at hand, critical thinking and originality. Clear, organized writing and precise, effective expression. Few errors.
A- 80-84%	10	<b>Very Good</b> Shows good knowledge of the material and evidence of independent thought. Well organized. Writing flows fairly smoothly. Vocabulary is appropriate, but lacks the effectiveness of “A” work.
B+ 77-79%	9	
B 73-76%	8	
B- 70-72%	7	<b>Good</b>
C+ 67-69%	6	<b>Acceptable / “OK”</b> Shows adequate understanding of the material, but lacks organization and coherency. Writing does not effectively communicate ideas. Suffers from obvious errors.
C 63-66%	5	
C- 60-62%	4	
D+ 57-59%	3	<b>Poor</b> Shows limited knowledge and understanding of the material. Evidence of carelessness or lack of effort. Little to no originality or evidence of independent thought. Weak writing with frequent errors.
D 53-56%	2	
D- 50-52%	1	
F 0-49%	0	<b>Unacceptable.</b> Failure to meet conditions of satisfactory performance. Misinterpretation of the material. Poorly organized. Betrays little to no effort. Poor writing with frequent errors.

