

Course Outline - ENST1001A - Envisioning Earth's Environments

Fall/Winter 2013-2014 - Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Carleton University

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| Instructors: | Scott Mitchell, Loeb B359 613-520-2600 extension 2695 Scott.Mitchell@carleton.ca Office hours (fall) Mondays 1:30-3:30 | Mike Brklacich, Loeb B457 613-520-2600 extension 7553 Mike.Brklacich@carleton.ca Office hours (fall) Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 |
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TAs: Jesse Fieldwebster and Stephen Malesevich
Contact details for your TAs will be discussed in the first tutorial group meetings, which start on Wednesday, September 18. Please note that the TA assignments MAY change in January if necessary for scheduling reasons.

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 (adapted from DGES website <http://www.carleton.ca/geography/environmental-studies/>). In addition to being a popular interdisciplinary elective in other 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 resources with spatial 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, Tory 210 (room may change in winter)

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| Tutorial groups: | A1: Fridays 11:35-13:25 Southam 313 |
| (all locations to be confirmed, & they change next term) | A2: Thursdays 14:35-16:25 Canal Building 2400 |
| | A3: Wednesdays 12:35-14:25 Southam 515 |
| | A4: Wednesdays 15:35 – 17:25 St. Patrick 400 |

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: There will be an online test between weeks 7 and 8 of the fall term (specifically, October 23-November 5), an in-class test on February 10, 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, 4th 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.

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| Fall Test (due Nov. 5): | 10% |
| Winter Test (Feb. 10): | 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 one's 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.¹ **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.

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>.

¹ 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.

ENST 1001 Class and Tutorial Schedule (2013-2014)

Term 1 – Itinerary (Subject to Change¹)

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Lecture date (Instructor)²</i> | <i>Lecture (Mon 11:35)</i> | <i>Reading³</i> | <i>Tutorial (following the lecture, on Wed, Thu or Fri.)</i> | <i>Work due in tutorials⁴</i> |
|-------------|--|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Sep 9 (SM & MB) | Environment, Resources, & Society | Ch 1 | NONE | |
| 2 | Sep 16 (SM) | Energy, Flows & Ecosystems | Ch 2 | Assignment 1 - Ecological Footprint | |
| 3 | Sep 23 (SM) | Geomatics | cuL | Assignment 2 - Reading maps | Assignment 1 |
| 4 | Sep 30 (SM) | Ecosystem Change | Ch 3, cuL | Map library intro (meet at MADGIC desk) | |
| 5 | Oct 7 (SM) | Matter Cycling | Ch 4, pp 374-383 | Assignment 3 | Assignment 2 |
| 6 | Oct 14 | NO LECTURE (Thanksgiving) | | Group work | |
| 7 | Oct 21 (SM) | Planning and Management: Philosophy, Process, & Products | Ch 5 & 6 | Assignment 4 (test preparation) Test goes online Oct 23 (cuLearn) | Assignment 3 |
| RW | | READING WEEK – no classes Oct 28-Nov 1 - test still online | | | |
| 8 | Nov 4 (SM) | Endangered Species & Protected Areas Test is due Nov 5 (online) | Ch 14 | Introduce Assignment 5, proposal preparation | |
| 9 | Nov 11 (SM) | Resource extraction: minerals, trees | Ch 9, pp 419-434 | Report planning, next steps | Proposal (Assignment 5) |
| 10 | Nov 18 (SM) | Energy & Atmosphere | pp 434-454, cuL | TA and peer help for report | 1 st Drafts due to TA and peer (Assignment 5). |
| 11 | Nov 25 (MB) | Climate Change – Science Perspectives | Ch 7, cuL | Discuss 1 st draft with your editor, TA | Peer editing suggestions |
| 12 | Dec 2 (MB) | Climate Change – Human Implications & Responses | Ch 7, cuL | Project planning: confirm groups, timing | |
| 13 | Dec 9 (SM&MB) | Research ethics, term 2 projects, & term 1 wrap-up Course Evaluations | | None | Assignment 5 final version due Dec 9 th IN LECTURE |

¹ Due dates and timing of tests are fixed once the course begins; the list of topics covered and associated textbook readings is approximately correct.

² SM = Scott Mitchell. MB = Mike Brklacich.

³ Ch = Chapter number in textbook; pp=page range in textbook; cuL = readings will be listed on cuLearn

⁴ Unless otherwise indicated (by a specific date), assignments are due in **your** tutorial session

ENST 1001 Class and Tutorial Schedule (2013-2014)

Term 2 – Itinerary (Subject to Change¹)

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Lecture Date (Instructor)</i> | <i>Lecture (Mon 11:35)</i> | <i>Reading²:</i> | <i>Tutorial (following the lecture, on Wed. Thu or Fri)</i> | <i>Work Due³</i> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Jan 6 (MB) | Environmental Issues: Interdisciplinarity, Complexity & Wicked Problems | TBA | Proposal workshop | |
| 2 | Jan 13 (MB) | Environmental Practice & Tools 1 ³ | TBA | Present project proposals | Assignment 6 (presentations) |
| 3 | Jan 20 (MB) | Environmental Practice & Tools 2 | TBA | Detailed action plan | Proposal (paper) |
| 4 | Jan 27 (MB) | (Un)natural Hazards | TBA | Journal articles (Assignment 7) | |
| 5 | Feb 3 (MB) | Agriculture: Food & Environmental Security | Ch 10 | Project Work | |
| 6 | Feb 10 (MB, SM) | TEST | | Project Work | Assignment 7 |
| RW | READING WEEK – no classes Feb 17-21 | | | | |
| 7 | Feb 24 (MB) | Urban Environments | Ch 13 | Project Work | |
| 8 | Mar 3 (MB) | Movie for Assignment 8 | | Movie Discussion, Assignment 8 | |
| 9 | Mar 10 (MB) | Polar Perspectives & the Environment | TBA | Project Work | |
| 10 | Mar 17 (MB) | Making it Happen | Ch 15 | Project Work – Press Release Workshop | Assignment 8 |
| 11 | Mar 24 (SM & MB) | TBA | | By arrangement with TA | Major communication product |
| 12 | Mar 31 (SM & MB) | Project presentations | | Submit project | Rest of project |
| 13 | Apr 7 (SM & MB) | Review & exam prep Course Evaluations | | None (term over) | |

¹ Due dates and timing of tests will be fixed at the start of term; the list of topics covered and associated textbook readings is approximately correct.

² Second term readings were still being determined when this coursepack was distributed – check cuLearn for updates for each week

³ This & the following class will focus on a selection of practices & tools that are used to assess environmental issues. The practices & tools will be drawn from environmental impact assessment, ecological system services, environmental footprints, environmental discourse analysis, ecological footprints & sustainability indicators.

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 | Excellent 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 | Excellent – Very Good 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+ 77-79% | 9 | Very Good Shows good knowledge of the material and evidence of independent thought. Well organized. Writing flows fairly smoothly. |
| B 73-76% | 8 | |
| B- 70-72% | 7 | Good Vocabulary is appropriate, but lacks the effectiveness of “A” work. |
| C+ 67-69% | 6 | |
| C 63-66% | 5 | Acceptable / “OK” Shows adequate understanding of the material, but lacks organization and coherency. Writing does not effectively communicate ideas. Suffers from obvious errors. |
| C- 60-62% | 4 | |
| D+ 57-59% | 3 | |
| D 53-56% | 2 | Poor 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- 50-52% | 1 | |
| F 0-49% | 0 | Unacceptable. Failure to meet conditions of satisfactory performance. Misinterpretation of the material. Poorly organized. Betrays little to no effort. Poor writing with frequent errors. |