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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Environment, Society and Sustainability**

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*Coastal Meteorology students listening and learning from Gisele Martin Nuu-chah-nulth speaker about the intersection of weather, culture and first peoples in Clayoquot Sound. (Photo: S. Fargey – reproduced with permission)*

What is the potential for a sustainable society? During lecture and lab periods we will focus on developing an understanding of energy flows, biogeochemical cycles, ecosystem structure and dynamics, pollution, global change, water resources, biodiversity, endangered species, protected areas, agriculture and food, forestry, marine resources, poverty and development and different worldviews. From these topics, students will be introduced to how the biosphere functions, the ways in which humans alter natural processes, environmental consequences of these alterations and the implications for sustainability.

Class Meetings: Mondays and Thursdays 11:30 am to 12:50 pm

Classroom: DTB A102

Lab Information:	B01	Monday	2:30 pm – 4:20 pm	DTB B307
	B02	Tuesday	10:30 am – 12:20 pm	DTB B307
	B03	Wednesday	12:30 pm – 2:20 pm	DTB B307
	B04	Thursday	8:30 am – 10:20 am	DTB B307
	B05	Thursday	2:30 pm – 4:20 pm	DTB B307

Classes and laboratory periods will be in-person on campus. Exams will be in-person as well.

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Dr. Shannon Fargey** Department of Geography, DTB B308, [fargey@uvic.ca](mailto:fargey@uvic.ca) or 250-721-7342

When emailing me please include 'GEOG 101A - your name - brief subject' in the subject line, this helps me sort through emails and makes it easier to respond to your message. This helps me sort through emails and makes it easier to respond to your message. *It may take up to 48-hrs for a response. Please be patient. If you email after 12:00 pm on a Friday, do not expect a response until Monday.*

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2:30-3:30 pm and Friday 9:00-11:00 am

I welcome you to come and discuss your ideas and questions anytime during this course, however because of the pandemic my 'normal' open-door policy is now a virtual one. Please use the office hour times above to drop in online or send me an email to make an appointment. If you cannot come in person, we can meet via zoom, however you need to set up an appointment in advance. Zoom link on Brightspace.

**Profile:** I am an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Geography Department. My role in the Department is primarily on program delivery, supporting student learning and discovery in Physical Geography, and Geomatics. I am passionate about hydrometeorological topics and field-based learning. To learn more about me, and stay updated with exciting new studies in our field, please visit my website [shannonfargey.com](http://shannonfargey.com) and follow me on Twitter @fargetmenot

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

From this course I hope that you will be empowered to undertake changes in your own lifestyles that will lead to more sustainable futures. However, upon course completion, you will:

- Accurately recognize the fundamental planetary processes such as energy flows and biogeochemical cycling;
- Appreciate the ways in which humans change these processes, the implications of so doing, and potential solutions to these problems;
- Articulate the historical development of environmental problems and differences in spatial occurrence;
- Gain some understanding of Indigenous peoples and their relationship to topics of concern in Geography;
- Appropriately develop critical and analytical thinking techniques that are applied to environmental problems;
- Critically analyze environmental problems from differing perspectives;
- Explain the role of values in environmental decision-making;
- Realize the need for a comprehensive approach to environmental change involving the natural and social sciences;
- Have augmented confidence with fundamental academic research and research skills such as library searches, style of presentation, bibliographic citation formats, etc.;
- Individually recognize current environmental problems that support making informed decisions about;
- Be empowered to undertake changes in your own lifestyles that will lead to more sustainable futures.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Dearden et al. (2020). Environmental change and challenge: A Canadian perspective. 6th Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press. The book is available to rent or buy online or as hard copy from the UVic bookstore. Readings and content are based off of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition. If you choose an older version of the text you are responsible to understanding the differences between texts and case studies. The Bookstore has used versions and also offers an e-text as a 180-day purchase, providing a more affordable option.

## EVALUATION

Laboratory Assignment Work	40%
Midterm Exam (Feb 13 in class)	19%
Topic Quizzes (Dates on Brightspace)	6%
Final Exam (during Exam period)	35%

Additional information about the evaluation components can be found on Brightspace.

## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>  
Undergraduate Advising Team [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)  
Department Chair: Dr. David Atkinson [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)

## BRIGHTSPACE

Brightspace learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication (<https://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/learningteaching/brightspace/index.php>). Please monitor the page on a regular basis for course announcements. If you are having difficulty logging in or password problems, contact the Computer Help Desk Email: [helpdesk@uvic.ca](mailto:helpdesk@uvic.ca), Tel: 250-721-7687

You will find the course and lab schedule on Brightspace.

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+	9	90-100%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
A	8	85-89%	
A-	7	80-84%	
B+	6	77-79%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
B	5	73-76%	
B-	4	70-72%	
C+	3	65-69%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	60-64%	
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

Attendance is expected for lectures and lab assignment time. Recordings of lecture material or laboratory introductions will not be provided unless the University reinstates online learning.

A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected. Students are also expected to be punctual for course meetings.

Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit. Failure to complete any evaluation component without permission from the instructor, will result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

As an Instructor, I can refuse a student admission to a lecture, laboratory, learning activity or exam because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work may be assigned a final grade of 'N' (which equals a Grade Point Value of 0) or debarred from final examinations. Please refer to the UVic academic calendar in the section on student academic conduct for further information.

Late assignments and/or project work will be penalized 20% per day (weekends count as one day). Exceptions will only be granted for medical or compassionate reasons. Only the course instructor can grant exceptions. When contacting me please either cc your TA on the email or let me know in the text of the email who your TA is and what lab section you are in.

Conflicts with work, holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred assignment or project extension.

Unless otherwise stated students are expected to complete assignments independently.

Students are responsible for reviewing the current University of Victoria's academic calendar. There are a number of regulations on conduct and expectations that you are bound by. As such you should make yourself familiar with them.

## **PLAGIARISM**

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat. Policy on Academic Integrity: [web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)

Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) is a very serious matter in any academic institution and is dealt with severely at the University of Victoria. Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects. Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations, for referencing your sources, or unauthorized use of an editor, please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic integrity found in the Undergraduate Calendar at the following website - <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php#ipn-policies-consequences>.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Infractions will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. Commonly, the penalty for any form of cheating/plagiarism is a grade of F on the tests or laboratory assignments, or a final grade of F in the course. However, depending on the severity of the case other penalties may include a record on the student's transcript or expulsion.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## **POSITIVITY AND SAFETY**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavour to be respectful in our language, our examples, and the manner in which we conduct our discussions and group work. If you have any concerns about the climate of the class, please contact me.

## **COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)**

We value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of the course, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

## **SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC**

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca)

Web: [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp)

## **DISCLAIMER**

The presented schedules, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

**Tentative Schedule** \* *Subject to change*

Week	Lecture Dates	Lecture Topics and Reading	Lab/Work Periods	Deliverables or Preparation
1	Jan 9 Jan 12	Introductory Concepts (Ch 1 reading)	No Lab	
2	Jan 16 Jan 19	Change and Challenge (Ch 2 reading) Energy (Ch 3 reading)	Intro and start Natural areas	Read over project outlines and Lab 1
3	Jan 23 Jan 26	Biomes and Ecosystems (Ch 4 reading)	Tools for Fieldwork and research start	Attend and participate Dress for short outdoor activity
4	Jan 30 Feb 2	Biogeochemical Cycling (Ch 5 reading)	Fieldwork	<b>Draft of Presentation outline due.</b> Dress for outdoors in forest.
5	Feb 6 Feb 9	Global Climate Change (Ch 8 reading)	Natural Areas and Human impacts presentations	All parts of Natural Areas and human impact due. Presentations
6	Feb 13 Feb 16	Midterm (Feb 13) Global Climate Change cont.		Attend and participate
7	Feb 20 Feb 23	Reading Break – No classes	Reading Break – No lab meetings	<b>EcoAction Proposal due</b>
8	Feb 27 March 2	Water (Chapter 12 reading)	Great Bear Resource activity	Attend and participate
9	March 6 March 9	Forests (Chapter 10 reading) Agriculture (Chapter 11 reading)	Debate #1	<b>Debate #1 team Debate and written due.</b> Debate #2 team engaged audience
10	March 13 March 16	<i>Sophia Carodenuto</i> Guest Speaker (March 13) – Forest Governance  Biodiversity and Protected Areas. (Ch 15 reading)	Debate #2	<b>Debate #2 team debate and written due.</b> Debate#1 team engaged audience Eco Action Update due
11	March 20 March 23	<i>Cam Owens</i> Guest Speaker (March 20) – Urban Environmental Sustainability  Urban Environmental Management (Ch 14 reading)	Role play activity	Attend and Participate
12	March 27 March 30	<i>Chrisa Hoicka</i> Guest Presentation – (March 27) - Sustainable Energy Solutions  Catch-up (I will fall behind)	EcoAction presentations	<b>Eco Action Presentations and papers due.</b>
13	April 3 April 6	Review	Done and Done!	