



Geography 314
(crn 11711)
Global Environment
Change and Human Response

Fall Term 2024
Instructor: L. Kadonaga

Territory Acknowledgment:

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Calendar Summary and Key Themes:

Based on four components: global environmental change; sustainable development; biodiversity; and population impoverishment and environmental degradation. Lectures and discussion emphasize the causes of global change, the present and expected impacts on natural and social systems, and response strategies that have been proposed or enacted.

Lectures: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30 am – 12:20 pm; Clearihue A207

Labs: No labs or tutorials

Website:

Course materials and notices are found on the Geography 314 site on Brightspace, UVic's learning management system. Please check regularly for updates.

Required texts:

There is no required textbook for this course, but there will be assigned readings from online sources like government reports, academic journals and other periodicals, and media coverage. Videos and podcasts will also be incorporated. See the Brightspace page for materials.

Course Instructor:

Dr. Lisa Kadonaga, 250-588-2382 (kadonaga@uvic.ca but please note that calling or texting me is faster); Office TBA

Bio: Lisa grew up in Ontario, and after degrees at McMaster and Guelph, completed her PhD here at the University of Victoria. Her research interests include global environmental change, natural hazards, agricultural biodiversity, foodways in human culture, and environmental perception in art and literature. She has published research papers in physical and cultural geography, and contributed chapters to the Popular Culture and Philosophy book series. Earlier she worked in wildlife rehabilitation at the University of Guelph's Wild Bird Clinic, helped establish an Afghanistan community seed bank, and was one of the founders of UVic's original Campus Community Garden. She is also an executive producer with Doggie Dream Productions, a Los Angeles-based film/TV production company.

Office Hours:

On Zoom Tuesdays and Fridays 1-4 pm

Lisa's Zoom Meeting Room (for office hours):

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/2034867065?pwd=RGs4bW9JSW5jb1RObIVQRGl1NzhYQT09>

Meeting ID: 203 486 7065

Password: 403564

One tap mobile

+17789072071,,2034867065# Canada

+16475580588,,2034867065# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 203 486 7065

Password: 403564

Find your local number: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/2034867065>

Covid Safety:

Following common sense and UVic policy: if you are feeling unwell, please stay home. The current CDC recommendation is that people avoid contact with others until their fever subsides (without medication) for at least 24 hours, and wear a mask for 5 days after that. Current research suggests that most people are still infectious 5 days after the onset of symptoms – a quarter are still infectious at the 7-day point. When testing for covid, remember to swab the back of your throat before your nostrils (the variants aren't as obvious in the nasal passages).

If I test positive, I will be lecturing in our course timeslot on Zoom, for 7 days or until the day after I test negative, whichever is longer.

****It's still possible that the new variants could cause an infection wave this winter. (Hope not, but we've seen what happened with Delta and Omicron.) If the university decides that we have to return to online instruction, I'll make an announcement on Brightspace and we'll transition to Zoom****

Wherever possible, I've incorporated alternative options into the course, so students can still follow the material even if they are self-isolating. I will not be taking attendance, but it's up to you to keep up with the topics.

Although UVic has been working on upgrading ventilation, masks are a reasonable precaution to take, if people are recovering from being sick, are immune-compromised, or are still waiting for a vaccine booster – or if we see the start of the fall/winter peak, with more people gathering inside as temperatures cool and the fall rains begin.

Lectures will be held face-to-face, but we will also be having a few guest speakers, and depending on location in the world, they might opt to have a Zoom talk rather than on campus. This will be announced well in advance so people don't waste a long bus ride in.

UVic's Audio Visual services have promised that it will be possible to record lectures in the classroom and make them available for viewing on Brightspace. Sometimes this works, but if the software crashes and deletes the file, I may end up having to do a Zoom recording of a shorter recap of the material. In previous semesters I posted when I'd be making the online recordings, in case people wanted to tune in and ask questions, but this term I'm juggling multiple course commitments and it will just become too complicated – so if I do a recap I'll upload it a day or two after the scheduled lecture.

I likely will not be spending a lot of time in the department. This is why I have given out my cell number – this is the fastest and most reliable way to get in touch with me. (Apologies in advance for being late with e-mail.)

Course Structure:

The lectures for this course are roughly divided into three main sections – background on the problems, then either hazards/disasters or food security for the middle section, and then various responses.

For most of September we'll look at some key concepts regarding major environmental changes that are unfolding on a global scale. Since this course doesn't have specific prerequisites, some students will have covered these topics before, while others may find them totally new. Later in the month we'll look at some changes that are occurring or have been forecast for life in British Columbia. We'll start October with a look at plastics in the environment and some steps being taken to mitigate this, and how this relates to sustainability concepts like the circular economy, then look at biodiversity and global change just before Thanksgiving we'll look at sustainability concepts like the circular economy. The last half of October, we'll focus on either extreme climate events or food security, depending on what the class decides in Assignment 2.

In the last few weeks of the course, we'll start looking at some of the ways in which people are coping with these changes, or trying to avert them. We'll get into examples of the types of policies that are being implemented, and how successful they are.

Evaluation:

I'm going to plan for an in-person (not online) final exam – but be prepared for an alternative option in case we have a covid surge (or an unexpected winter storm, as happened during the 2022 exams).

Assignment #1 (The Climate Change Cookbook): 10% of grade – Sept 21

Assignment #2 (Course Topic Pitch): 9% of grade – Oct 5

Assignment #3 (Climate Change in Fiction; AI Check): 10% of grade – Oct 19

Assignment #4a (Circular Economy Product Assessment): 8% of grade – Nov 2

Assignment #4b (Circular Economy Product Comparisons): 8% of grade – Nov 9

Assignment #5 (Climate Adaptation Mutual Aid Proposal): 15% of grade – Dec 6

Final Exam: 40% of grade – set by university

TOTAL: 100%

Note that assignments can be submitted to the electronic drop box up until **one minute before midnight** on the due date. (So if something is due on Sept 21, I will set the drop box for 11:59 PM. If I set it for 12:00 AM on Sept 22, there have been several situations where people have assumed it's due at noon (12:00 PM) on the 22nd.)

Policy on Late Work:

If you know early in the term that you'll have family commitments or you're taking another course that's going to make massive demands on your time, you're going to have to plan accordingly. Please call me or check in during office hours if you have questions. **Everyone in the class will be allowed to extend the due dates on TWO assignments with no penalty, for a maximum of FIVE days each, no questions asked. It's up to you to decide when you're going to use your two extensions. Beyond that, if students hand in any more late assignments, or run past the extensions, they won't be graded.** In an ongoing counseling situation or medical emergency, I'm willing to discuss strategies with care teams, but that's an obvious exception, and the University administration has official procedures for it.

I have spoken with the Counseling staff and they agree that two extensions should cover the vast majority of circumstances. With time limited for both me and my marking assistant, it creates extra problems to have to chase people for missing work, grade assignments at the end of the semester that should have been handed in already, or negotiate exceptions for everyone else in order to be fair to the entire class -- multiply that by 70 students, and you see how complicated that could get.

Attendance Policy: See Covid Safety section above.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE¹

Date:	Lecture:	Assignment:
Sept 4 Sept 6	Week 1: Spaceship Earth, source/sink analogies; biodiversity and extinction; shape of the world	
Sept 10 Sept 11 Sept 13	Week 2: "Cli fi"; closed systems, carrying capacity; ecological footprints; embedded energy/water/carbon; biogeochemical cycles	
Sept 17 Sept 18 Sept 20	Last day for adding courses: Sep 20 Week 3: Virtual water; carbon budgets; geoengineering	Due Sept 21: Assignment #1 [10%] (Future Cookbook Recipe)
Sept 24 Sept 25 Sept 27	Week 4: Adaptation and mitigation preview; nuclear winter and the Cold War; international treaties	
Sept 30 Oct 1 Oct 2 Oct 4	Truth & Reconciliation Day Week 5: Recycling; plastics; circular economy; long-term societal shifts	Due Oct 5: Assignment #2 [9%] (Course Topic Choice Pitch)
Oct 8 Oct 9 Oct 11	Week 6: Biodiversity; invasive species and ecosystem change; historical analogs; BC climate change	

¹ Subject to change, depending on guest speaker arrangements

Oct 14 Oct 15 Oct 16 Oct 18	Thanksgiving Week 7: Depending on the results of Assignment 2, we'll either be focusing on extreme events/disasters or food security	Due Oct 19: Assignment #3 [10%] (Climate Change in Fiction; AI Reality Check)
Oct 22 Oct 23 Oct 25	Week 8: continued Last day for course withdrawal without penalty of failure: Oct 31	
Oct 29 Oct 30 Nov 1	Week 9: continued Adaptation, protection and insurance	Due Nov 2: Assignment #4a [8%] (Circular Economy Product Footprint)
Nov 5 Nov 6 Nov 8	Week 10: Adaptation continued Abandonment	Due Nov 9: Assignment #4b [8%] (Circular Economy Product Comparisons)
Nov 11 Nov 12 Nov 13 Nov 15	Remembrance Day Reading Break – no class Reading Break – no class Week 11: Mitigation?	
Nov 19 Nov 20 Nov 22	Week 12: Mitigation continued National and sub-national policies; ban/tax/trade; carbon offsets	
Nov 26 Nov 27 Nov 29	Week 13: Local and international initiatives; UNFCCC	
Dec 3 Dec 4	Week 14: Wrap-up/review National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (no classes in 11:30-12:20 timeslot)	Due Dec 6: Assignment #5 [15%] (Climate Adaptation Mutual Aid Proposal)

DISCLAIMER

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

DEPARTMENT POLICY ON GRADE EXPECTATIONS

The performance expectations for a given letter grade should be consistent with the level of the course (100, 200, 300, 400). The higher the course level, the more should be expected when assigning a letter grade.

First class letter grades (**A-**, **A**, **A+**) are assigned for performance above expectations, *i.e.*, demonstrating a thorough understanding of most, or all, aspects of course material.

Letter grades of **B-**, **B**, and **B+** are assigned for performance that is about as expected, *i.e.*, demonstrating a good understanding of the key, but not all, aspects of the course material.

A passing grade of **D**, **C**, or **C+** is assigned for performance that is marginally acceptable.

A **failing grade** is assigned for unacceptable performance. Performance is unacceptable if the student does not display an understanding of at least the essentials of the course

material. It is expected that the rate of course failure will be higher in lower level courses than in higher level courses.

The expected average grade for courses in the Geography Department will typically be in the range of B- to B+, depending upon course level. It is expected that not more than 25% of students will receive a grade in the range of A- to A+.

The grading scale (which percentages equal which letter grade)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	49% or Less

* An 'N' grade is given when a student has missed one or more components of a course and does not reach a passing grade. **Failure to submit a lab assignment or complete an exam (midterms, final) without permission from the instructor will result in an 'N' grade.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY

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**. Learning how to do academic research and writing can be a long process, trying to understand a complicated system of rules about when to credit various sources, so having multiple assignments is an opportunity to practice the things that I'll be telling you about in class and supplementary materials.

This is what other courses in Geography agree on, in terms of policy.

"Academic honesty has been compromised when a student (or students) enrolled in a course has committed one of the following offences:

- a) If the lecture assignment or lab project was completely done by somebody else, it is complete or full plagiarism, which will result in expulsion from the course for any student(s) submitting the work (course grade of F). The Assistant Dean of Arts and Science will be notified of this action.
- b) If the lecture assignment or lab project includes extensive copies of phrases or complete sentences without citation, it is substantial plagiarism, which will result in a zero on the assignment for any student(s) submitting the work. Submitting the same assignment for two courses without both instructors' prior approval will also result in a zero on both assignments or projects.

c) If the lecture assignment or lab project has only one or two instances where the writing in a sentence is presented as one's own but it not, it is minor plagiarism, which will result in at least a half-grade reduction on the assignment or project for any student(s) submitting the work."

See the current University of Victoria Calendar for the *Policy on Academic Integrity*:
web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php

If you have any questions, contact me.

Grading – UVic Policy

The table below shows the official grading system used by UVic instructors in arriving at final assessments of student performance.

Undergraduate Grading		
Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	9	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	
A-	7	
B+	6	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	
B-	4	
C+	3	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	
D	1	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
COM	Excluded Grade	Complete (pass). Used only for 0-unit courses and those credit courses designated by the Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings.
Failing Grades	Grade Point Value	Description
E	0	Conditional supplemental.
F	0	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.

N	0	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.
N/X	Excluded Grade	Did not complete course requirements by the end of the term; no supplemental. Used only for co-op work terms and for courses designated by Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings. The grade is EXCLUDED from the calculation of all grade point averages.
F/X	Excluded Grade	Unsatisfactory performance. Completed course requirements; no supplemental. Used only for co-op work terms and for courses designated by Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings. The grade is EXCLUDED from the calculation of all grade point averages.
Temporary Grades	Grade Point Value	Description
INC	N/A	Incomplete. Used only for those credit courses designated by the Senate, to be replaced with a final grade by June 1. Such courses are identified in the course listings.
DEF	N/A	Deferred status granted. Used only when deferred status has been granted because of illness, an accident or family affliction. See Deferred Status .
UNK	N/A	Unknown. Used when grade is unknown.
INP	N/A	In Progress. Used only for courses designated by the Senate, to be replaced with a final grade by the end of the next Winter Session. If the student does not reregister, then the final grade will be N. Such courses are identified in the course listings.
CIC	N/A	Co-op Interrupted Course. See Co-op Regulations (14).
CTN	N/A	The CTN designation will appear on student transcripts at mid-point through the course or at the end of the first academic term (Sept-Dec). On completion of the course, the CTN designation will remain on the transcript for the first term and a final grade will be noted for the second academic term (Jan-April).
Grade		Note
AEG	N/A	Aegrotat. Transcript notation accompanying a letter grade, assigned where documented illness or similar affliction affected the student's performance or prevented completion of all course work.

a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible (uvic.ca/services/cal/). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations.

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. 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

Web: uvic.ca/svp

CAMPUS SERVICES

Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

uvic.ca/services/counselling/

University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations uvic.ca/services/cal/.

Elders' Voices - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

The university will be requesting that students complete a survey assessing the course, to help the instructor and department evaluate how things are going and improve the class for future students. In the past this was done using paper forms filled out during the last week of class, but recently this has gone online (students will receive an email later in the term inviting them to take part in the survey). You will need to use your UVic Netlink ID via computer or mobile device.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Geography Department Chair: geogchair@uvic.ca
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca