



COURSE OUTLINE

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Office Hours: | Thursdays 11:00 am-12:00 pm and by appointment |
| Office: | DTB B130 |
| Contact: | nboulangerlapointe@uvic.ca |
| Grading Assistant: | Elicia Bell |
| Contact: | embell@uvic.ca |
| Class Meetings: | Thursdays 2:30-5:20 pm |
| Classroom: | 150 McKinnon Building |

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to the discipline of landscape ecology which focuses on the reciprocal effects of landscape patterns on ecological processes. We will explore how landscape patterns are created and measured, and how patterns influence ecosystem functions and diversity. There are many processes that affect spatial patterns including anthropogenic, biological, geomorphic, climatic, and hydrological forces. The dynamic pattern-process relationship plays a critical role in the distribution and abundance of organisms, their habitat, and behavior. The concepts and techniques of landscape ecology are important for conservation sciences and resource management. In this course, we will critically evaluate the discipline of landscape ecology using an Indigenous land stewardship lens while also developing the technical skills to select and apply a variety of landscape metrics.

KEY THEMES

Landscape ecology, natural resource management, spatial thinking, critical problem solving.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND SOFTWARE

The required readings for this class will consist of scientific articles and chapters from *With, 2019, Essentials of landscape ecology, Oxford University Press* that will be provided on Brightspace. The open-source R statistical software will be used for some exercises throughout the semester.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Describe landscape patterns and identify how they influence ecosystem processes.
- Apply R code to explore the information provided by landscape metrics.
- Critically examine conservation practices and their influence on ecosystem processes.

EVALUATION AND DEADLINES

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----|
| Assignment 1 | Sept. 17 at 11:00 pm | 10% |
| Assignment 2 | Sept. 24 at 11:00 pm | 10% |
| Assignment 3 | Oct. 15 at 11:00 pm | 15% |
| Assignment 4 | Nov. 5 at 11:00 pm | 25% |
| Assignment 5 | Nov. 28 at 11:00 pm | 25% |
| Final Exam | TBD during exam period | 15% |

**NOTE: Students will not be given an opportunity to submit any additional work for extra grades.*

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. |

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Geography Department Chair: geogchair@uvic.ca
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@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, Tel: 250-721-7687.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

There is a five-day grace period to submit all assignments completed outside of class time (no marks will be lost during the grace period). This grace period does not apply to in-class exercises. Except in cases where the instructor has previously approved a deferral, assignments submitted after the grace period will receive a grade of 0. Neither the grading assistant nor the course instructor will answer questions about course assignments after the assignment due date.

Extensions beyond the 5-day grace period or alternative exam arrangements may only be granted for unexpected or unavoidable circumstances – please review the [Undergraduate Requests for Academic Concession webpage](#) for further information. Conflicts with work, holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for extensions or alternative arrangements. If unexpected or unavoidable circumstances affect a student's ability to complete course requirements, the student must contact the course instructor to discuss their situation as soon as the circumstances arise. Students will be expected to meet in-person with the course instructor once they are able to be on campus to discuss evaluation arrangements.

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

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

High level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected. Students are also expected to be punctual for course meetings. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during lectures.

As an Instructor, I can refuse a student admission to a lecture, 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 examination. Please refer to the UVic academic calendar in the section on student academic conduct for further information.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php.

USE OF AI

Please be advised that in this course you are not authorized to use any form of generative AI. In order to successfully complete course activities, generative AI is not required nor welcomed. Students should not make any use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, among others that use AI for content generation and editing. As the University of Victoria states on its Academic Integrity Policy "Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility." Therefore, I expect you to comply with the course syllabus and I encourage you to enhance your academic experience in this course by refraining from use generative AI.

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 feel free to approach me and/or 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. 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.

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC

If you have been directly or indirectly impacted by sexualized violence, reach out to the SVRO for information, advice, resolution options (restorative and disciplinary) as well as support options and referrals. The SVRO is both survivor-centred and trauma-informed in their approach.

eqhr01@uvic.ca

Sedgewick C Wing

www.uvic.ca/svp

EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EQHR)

EQHR is a resource for students, staff and faculty who have experienced discrimination and harassment and are looking for informal and formal resolution options as well as advice, coaching and/or education. We are available for confidential consultations so that you can ask questions and learn your options.

eqhr01@uvic.ca

Sedgewick C Wing

www.uvic.ca/equity

RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Geography Department are also encouraged to meet with the Geography Undergraduate Advisor (geogadvising@uvic.ca) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#). International students are also encouraged to contact the International Student Liaison in Geography (Prof. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, cindyann@uvic.ca), who can assist in making connections with other international and domestic students in the Geography Department and share opportunities for getting involved in departmental activities more broadly.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, 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 online 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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

| Week | Dates | Topic |
|------|---------|---|
| 1 | Sept 4 | History and core concepts |
| 2 | Sept 11 | Heterogeneity |
| 3 | Sept 18 | Heterogeneity and landscape metrics <i>Sept. 16 - Last day to drop class with 100% reduction of tuition fees</i> <i>Sept. 19 - Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term</i> |
| 4 | Sept 25 | Landscape Pattern Analysis |
| 5 | Oct 2 | Landscape connectivity <i>Sept. 30 - Last day for paying first term fees without penalty</i> |
| 6 | Oct 9 | Landscape effect on individuals <i>Oct. 7 - Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees</i> |
| 7 | Oct 16 | Landscape effect on individuals |
| 8 | Oct 23 | Landscape effect on populations |
| 9 | Oct 30 | Landscape effect on populations <i>Oct 31 - Last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure</i> |
| 10 | Nov 6 | Landscape effect on communities |
| 11 | Nov 13 | Landscape effect on communities |
| 12 | Nov 20 | Landscape effect on ecosystems |

DISCLAIMER

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

NOTE:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling 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/

Health Services - *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 - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* 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.*

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