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

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**Lecture:** Monday & Thursday, 11:30-12:50, CLE A224

**Office Hours:** Monday 1:30-2:30

**Office Location:** DTB B208

**Contact:** Course Instructor: Wyatt Maddox ([wraddox@uvic.ca](mailto:wraddox@uvic.ca))  
Senior Lab Instructor: Kinga Menu ([kmenu@uvic.ca](mailto:kmenu@uvic.ca))  
Lab Instructor: Justin Rhoden ([jrhoden@uvic.ca](mailto:jrhoden@uvic.ca))

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

**As we enjoy the beautiful geography of Vancouver Island, consider the stewardship that has shaped this land. Move with care and tread gently, acknowledging that as we breathe the air and drink the water that gives us life, we have an impact at all times. We are privileged, as uninvited settlers on unceded lands, to live in this space diligently cared for by the ləkʷəŋən peoples.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The goal of Geography 101A is to introduce you to ecosphere functions and the ways in which humans interact with the natural environment. The course emphasizes understanding key environmental problems and developing more sustainable approaches to societal interactions with the environment.

Two main themes of geographical enquiry are determining and explaining the biophysical processes that underlie areal differentiation of the earth's surface and understanding the relationship between these processes and human activities. The first focus is physical geography and includes biogeography, climatology, and geomorphology; the second focus is resource management and includes environmental, developmental, and regional geography. Although there is a long history of geographical enquiry in these foci, they have come to greater prominence over this last decade due to the increasing scale and severity of environmental change in the biosphere and the role of human activity in causing this change.

To understand the dimensions of various environmental problems, such as acid rain, climate change, eutrophication, species extinction, deforestation, and a host of others, students must first understand the basic functions of the biosphere. The first part of the course focuses on this aspect, including understanding the ways in which energy flows and materials cycle through the biosphere, and the structure and organization of ecological communities. From this base, students will more readily appreciate the ways in which these naturally occurring processes are changed by human activities such as forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and water management. These are covered in the second half of the course. Examples from throughout the world are used to illustrate these changes. Due to the high

profile of many of these issues in the media, students are expected to pay particular attention to these current issues as the course progresses.

The course is designed to meet the requirements of three groups of students:

1. Those who wish to do a BA/BSc Major/Minor in Geography, 101A being a prerequisite for some higher Geography courses;
2. Those who wish to take basic courses in Geography to supplement their major in another field; and
3. Environmental Studies students wishing an introduction to the functioning of environmental systems and human interaction with these systems.

GEOG101A, as well as 101B and 103, are designed for BSc/BA Major/Minor Geography programs. Students wishing to know more about the Geography Department and opportunities such as field schools or the co-op program should review the Geography Department website.

**KEY THEMES:** 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

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## **REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

All required readings will be included in the associated text (below) or available on Brightspace. Some supplementary readings will be available throughout the semester. Consider that these may improve your overall understanding of course materials and may be evaluated within quizzes or exams.

Dearden et al. (2020). Environmental change and challenge: A Canadian perspective. 6th Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Only use the 6th edition. The book is available to rent or buy online or purchase as hard copy from the UVic bookstore. The Uvic Bookstore has used versions and also offers an e-text as a 180-day purchase, providing a more affordable option. In this course we use most book chapters and GEOG 209 uses the chapters that we do not cover, so you might return to this book in future courses. This book has also been placed on reserve in the library.

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## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon course completion, you will:

1. Accurately recognize the fundamental planetary processes such as energy flows and biogeochemical cycling;
2. Appreciate the ways in which humans change these processes, the implications of so doing, and potential solutions to these problems;
3. Articulate the historical development of environmental problems and differences in spatial occurrence;
4. Gain some understanding of Indigenous peoples and their relationship to topics of concern in Geography;
5. Appropriately develop critical and analytical thinking techniques that are applied to environmental problems;
6. Critically analyse environmental problems from differing perspectives;
7. Explain the role of values in environmental decision-making;

8. Realize the need for a comprehensive approach to environmental change involving the natural and social sciences;
9. Appreciate the role of Geography as a synthesizing discipline based on analysis of space and place and the links to specific courses in the Department of Geography that will provide more detailed insights into these challenges;
10. Have augmented confidence with fundamental academic research and research skills such as library searches, style of presentation, bibliographic citation formats, etc.;
11. Individually recognize current environmental problems that support making informed decisions about;
12. Be empowered to undertake changes in your own lifestyles that will lead to more sustainable futures.

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

WEEK	DATE	Lecture	Readings	Lab
1	January 6 January 9	Introduction Introduction cont'd	Syllabus	No labs
2	January 13 January 16	Spaceship Earth Flatten the Curve	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Lab intro
3	January 20 January 23	Energy Biogeography	Chapter 3	EcoAction
4	January 27 January 30	Ecosystem Change	Chapter 4	Natural areas
5	February 3 February 6	Biogeochemical cycles Global climate change	Chapter 5	Natural areas
6	February 10 February 13	Global climate change cont'd	Chapter 8	Natural areas
7	February 17-21	<b>**Reading Break**</b>		No labs
8	February 24 February 27	No class <b>Midterm</b>		Debate 1
9	March 3 March 6	Forest Forest cont'd	Chapter 10	GBR
10	March 10 March 13	Agriculture Water	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Debate 2
11	March 17 March 20	Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Protected Areas	Chapter 9 Chapter 15	Role play
12	March 24 March 27	Environment and Development	Chapter 16	EcoAction presentations
13	March 31 April 3	Review 68		No Labs

### DISCLAIMER

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

## EVALUATION

Lab marks (45%) \*

Exams (55%) \*

1. Topic Quizzes: 6%: There are 3 quizzes online quizzes administered through Brightspace. These quizzes have a 48-hour window to complete them. Extensions can be provided if a student requests the extension **before** the start of the 48-hour window and has a legitimate reason for an extension.
2. Mid-term 15%: This exam will take place in person during class time towards the middle of term.
3. Final 34%: The date and location of this exam will be communicated by UVic's central authorities. It is not possible for the instructor or anyone to influence the date or time of this exam.

\* Note: You must pass both the exam portion and the lab portion to pass the course

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b> <b>A</b> <b>A-</b>	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent</b> 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.
<b>B+</b> <b>B</b> <b>B-</b>	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good and solid</b> 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>C+</b> <b>C</b>	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
<b>N</b>	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

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## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: [uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/](http://uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/)
- Geography Department Chair: [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)

## BRIGHTSPACE

Please ensure that you are connecting regularly with the Brightspace course site:

<https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/364934> and are receiving Announcements from this site. This is a core component of communication for this course, and this is where we post all course material.

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### Course Policies

#### Late assignments

- Late work receives a 10% reduction in points for each day late (weekends count as one day). Extensions beyond 24 hours must be approved by your course instructor prior to the deadline for submission. Requests will be granted for legitimate reasons after consultation with your TA or course instructor. All assignments must be submitted to get a passing grade in the laboratory component.

#### Missed quizzes and/or exam

- Documented extenuating circumstances for missing an assessment will be accepted consistent with UVic policy. Unauthorized absence will result in a zero for the assessment portion.

#### Respect and belonging

- My pedagogy is rooted in principles of respect and belonging for you individually as a student and a person with distinct experiences. My class is a space open for diverse thought, perspective, and approach. Anti-racism, decolonial practices, and Indigenous ways of knowing and being are imperative to this concept. As such, hate speech and intolerance will be met with education and guidance. As I hold myself to a standard of implementing principles of respect and belonging, I expect reciprocity from you to practice empathy, acceptance, and courtesy towards your peers and me.

### POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

Every Monday and Thursday, we will hold an in-person one-hour, twenty-minute lecture where you will be engaged and encouraged to ask questions, share experiences, and hear from guest speakers. Students are expected to attend all class sessions in person, with the exception of illness. **If you are feeling unwell, please do not come to class.** Rather, ask a classmate to take notes on your behalf. **You do not need to email the professor if you are unable to attend lecture.** It is up to you to stay up to date and obtain any missed course materials from a classmate.

In-person attendance at the laboratory sessions is mandatory. Lab activities include reporting on your own research, discussions, and projects. Labs form an integral part of the course since they enable a more detailed discussion of topics. They are intended to complement, not repeat, the course, and labs also counter the anonymity often experienced in the large lecture section. You must immediately contact your TA if you are sick or are expecting to miss lab for any reason. Please email your lab instructor: Kinga Menu ([kmenu@uvic.ca](mailto:kmenu@uvic.ca)) or Justin Rhoden ([jrhoden@uvic.ca](mailto:jrhoden@uvic.ca)) if you are expecting to miss a significant number of in-person labs.

## 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](http://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](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php).

*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/](http://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

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)

## EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EQHR)

UVic Equity and Human Rights 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](mailto:eqhr01@uvic.ca)  
Sedgewick C Wing [www.uvic.ca/equity](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)