



COURSE OUTLINE
Environment, society, and sustainability

Lecture Times: Mondays and Thursdays 1:00 to 2:20 PM in HSD A240

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 1-3 pm in DTB B324

Contact: Dr. Sophia Carodenuto (carodenuto@uvic.ca) and Senior Lab Instructor Kinga Menu (kmenu@uvic.ca)

Brightspace page: <https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/170374>

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen 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.

For more information on local reconciliation efforts, please visit the UVic [First Peoples House](#)

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.

GEOG 101A, 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](#).

A bit about your course instructor: I am Assistant Professor in the research stream at UVic's Department of Geography. I have a PhD in Environment and Natural Resources Sciences and MSc in Environmental Governance from the University of Freiburg (Germany). My research focuses on **forest governance** and sustainable land use in the **Global South**, with a special focus on the sustainable production and trade of tropical forest-risk commodities such as palm oil, coffee, and cocoa. My [transdisciplinary research](#) is participatory, community-engaged, and action-oriented. This means that I **partner with** the communities, companies, and governments that are "doing" the natural resources governance. This allows for my research to have a greater impact, as people are more likely to adopt research findings that they have helped to discover. Having worked for over a decade as a sustainability practitioner for international organizations such as the World Bank and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), I have significant experience in 'real-world settings' outside of academia. I consider myself an "engaged scholar,"¹ evidenced by my constant strive for integrating teaching, research, and service. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you and am happy to discuss career options both inside and outside academia. Please find more information about me and my research at my website: sophiacarodenuto.com.

REQUIRED TEXT

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 as hard copy from the UVic bookstore. The Uvic Bookstore 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.

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. Appropriately develop critical and analytical thinking techniques that are applied to environmental problems;
5. Critically analyze environmental problems from differing perspectives;

¹ I self-identify as an engaged scholar as conceptualized by Beaulieu M, Breton M, Brousselle A (2018) Conceptualizing 20 years of engaged scholarship: A scoping review. PLoS ONE 13(2): e0193201.

6. Explain the role of values in environmental decision-making;
7. Realize the need for a comprehensive approach to environmental change involving the natural and social sciences;
8. 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;
9. Have augmented confidence with fundamental academic research and research skills such as library searches, style of presentation, bibliographic citation formats, etc.;
10. Individually recognize current environmental problems that support making informed decisions about;
11. Be empowered to undertake changes in your own lifestyles that will lead to more sustainable futures.

EVALUATION

Lab marks (45%)*

Exams (55%)*

1. Mid-term 15%
2. Final 40%

* The lab participation grade is assigned by your lab instructor and reflects the amount and quality of your contribution to lab sessions. Although attendance is part of this grade, students who attend but who do not contribute in a meaningful fashion can expect no more than *half* marks. Experience has shown that to obtain a respectable grade in this course it is necessary to engage fully in the lab and lecture components. A good mark cannot be attained by excelling in the exams while doing poorly in the labs and vice versa. Attend all your lab sessions, be enthusiastic, work hard, be thoughtful, contribute intelligently and you can obtain all your lab marks (and enjoy yourself!). It is more difficult to obtain all examination marks (but not impossible!). **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
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	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.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	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.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
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.
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GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Geography Undergraduate Advising and Registration: geogadvising@uvic.ca

BRIGHTSPACE

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

<https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/53260> 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.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

For all inquiries about lectures and exams, please either ask them during lecture or first use the “Questions to the Professor” discussion on the Content page of Brightspace. The reason that we prefer Brightspace is because many of you will have the same questions, so we are hoping that all can benefit from the instructor’s response. For personal matters that you would not like to share with your classmates, please come to office hours or email the professor or your lab instructor directly. For queries about the labs, please email your lab instructor directly. We will do our best to respond to all questions within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays.

I know many of you might be new to University, so I want to share a friendly piece of advice for emailing professors. Please aim to **ensure the professionalism of your email** communication, and have a look at this humorous post, which is actually pretty helpful: <https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087#.k6bvk7tyt>

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Attention students: Please note important UVic calendar dates: www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates
September 24th is the last day for adding courses for this semester and October 31st is the last day for withdrawing without penalty of failure.

Week	Lecture date	Lecture topic	Readings	Lab
1	Sept. 9	Introduction	This syllabus, in its entirety 😊	<i>No labs</i>
2	Sept. 13 Sept. 16	Spaceship Earth Flatten that Curve!	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Lab Introduction
3	Sept. 20 Sept. 23	Energy Biomes	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Preparation for projects
4	Sept. 27 Sept. 30	Ecosystem Change Truth and Reconciliation Day- no lecture		Field work
5	Oct. 4 Oct. 7	Co-op presentations Biogeochemical cycles	Chapter 5	Research Presentations for

				natural areas
6	Oct. 11 Oct. 14	Thanksgiving- no lecture Global climate change	Chapter 8	<i>No labs</i>
7	Oct. 18 Oct. 21	Forests Mid-term exam (no lecture)		Great Bear Rainforest film
8	Oct. 25 Oct. 28	Forests <i>Special lecture: Ethical chocolate for Halloween</i>	Chapter 10	Debates
9	Nov. 1 Nov. 4	Agriculture	Chapter 11	Debates
10	Nov. 8 Nov. 11	Biodiversity Reading Break- no lecture	Chapter 12	<i>No labs</i>
11	Nov. 15 Nov. 18	Protected Areas Indigenous Environmental Stewardship	Chapters 15	Prepare for role play
12	Nov. 22 Nov. 25	Common Pool Resources	Hardin, G. (1968). The Tragedy of the commons. <i>Science</i> . 168, 1243-1248.	Role play
13	Nov. 29 Dec. 2	Environment and Development	Chapter 16	EcoAction Presentations

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, such as changing schedules of our high-level guest speakers.

GUEST SPEAKERS

One of the functions of the course is to engage students with information and ideas presented by people with experience (often called experts) in a particular area. These are highly sought-after individuals who have taken precious time out of their busy schedules to inspire you and share their knowledge. Each of the invited speakers will present a specific point of view on a given issue.

One of the key learning outcomes of this course is that you become better able to analyze the information you hear/read/view and clearly articulate a thoughtful response to that information. Therefore, please pay special attention to the readings in advance of guest speakers and be sure to 'google' them so you are informed about who they are. Since you will likely only see this person once, taking full advantage of the class means you need to come to class prepared to discuss your reading for that week and ask questions of the guest speaker.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due by the beginning of the lab. Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day. All assignments must be submitted to get a passing grade in the laboratory component.

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, either in person or by logging in to ECHO 360 live stream. If you are feeling unwell, please do not come to class. Rather, join us through the live stream. We may occasionally have a guest speaker that will log in via zoom.

In following [UVic's Restart Plan](#), this course is being offered in-person. However, all lectures will be recorded so if you are unable to attend, please to keep up with the material by watching the lectures on Brightspace. Please note that lecture recordings are meant to be a supplement (not alternative) to in-person attendance or live stream participation. Further, the audio and visual quality of these recordings cannot be guaranteed.

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. Please email Kinga Menu (kmenu@uvic.ca) if you are expecting to miss a significant amount of in-person labs.

COPYRIGHT

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).

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**. I reserve the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work. Plagiarism is the submission of work that is not your own. To present the work of others as your own is dishonest. All sources must be attributed, or there will be strict penalties.

Please familiarize yourself with **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.

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. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavor 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.

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

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.

Online Conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment. Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources, and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy.

To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca

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University of Victoria Student Society

The [UVSS](http://uvss.ca) is a social justice based non-profit run by students, for students and is entirely separate from UVic. As an undergrad student, you are already a member! We work on issues affecting students such as affordability, public transit, sexualized violence, sustainability, student employment, and much more. We fund clubs and course unions and have several advocacy groups. We also have a Food Bank and Free Store, a Peer Support Centre, and run your health and dental plan. We are here to support you, so please reach out to us at uvss.ca!

STUDENT WELLNESS

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.* <https://www.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.* <https://www.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. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.* <https://www.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.* <https://www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php>