



### COURSE OUTLINE

## GEOGRAPHY 101A – ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Office Hours:** Tues and Fri, 1-4

**Office Location:** Zoom TBA on Brightspace

**Contact:** 250-588-2382 (call if you need info right away)

Email [LisaKGeography@gmail.com](mailto:LisaKGeography@gmail.com)

**Lectures:** Mon and Thurs, 11:30 am-12:50 pm

(\*originally assigned DTB A102 but on Zoom until further notice. Starting the week of Jan 10<sup>th</sup>.)

***This course outline provides an introduction to GEOG101A. More detailed information on the course including the labs can be found in the lab manual available on the course Brightspace website (<https://bright.uvic.ca>).***

**Labs:** Normally lab groups would be meeting in DTB B307, but due to the pandemic situation, we'll be starting out online, in the week of January 17<sup>th</sup> (the week after the lectures begin). The labs are being designed so we can do them online, but with luck we'll get the okay from the health authorities to meet face-to-face later in the semester.

Your lab instructor will post office hours at the beginning of the term. Kinga Menu, Senior Lab Instructor, is also available to discuss issues relating to the course and lab material. Kinga's email is [kmenu@uvic.ca](mailto:kmenu@uvic.ca).

**Course Structure:** The course includes two 80-minute lectures per week and weekly 2-hour laboratory sessions. The laboratory sessions will include fieldwork, discussions, and debates. These laboratory sessions form an integral part of the course since they enable a more detailed discussion of topics relevant to the course. Our Geog 101A teaching assistants are the main people you'll be working with on a day-to-day basis for the coursework.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of Geography 101A is to introduce students to the way in which the ecosphere functions and the ways in which humans interact with the natural environment. There is a strong emphasis on gaining understanding of 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 environment, and development, and regional geography. Both of these foci are important for understanding the increasing scale and severity of environmental change in the biosphere and the role of human activity in causing this change – with the goal of making changes to mitigate and (we hope) prevent these kinds of problems.

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 have some idea of the ways in which energy flows and materials cycle through the biosphere, and the structure and organization of ecological communities. This will help us perceive how processes are changed by human activities such as forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and water management. Examples from throughout the world are used to illustrate these changes. Due to the high profile of many of these issues in the media, we'll be working in some current events as the course progresses.

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

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

Geography 101A as well as 101B and 103 are designed for BSc/BA Major/Minor geography programmes. Students wishing to know more about the Geography Department should review the Geography homepage. Any students interested in joining the Geography Co-op Program should contact the Social Sciences Co-op .

## **REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

The required course text, Dearden et al. 2020, is an excellent resource – the lectures will parallel and supplement what you read in the assigned chapters. The text is available at the campus bookstore in actual physical form, or for 180-day rental online as an e-book.

**Dearden, P., Mitchell, B., & O'Connell, E. (2020). *Environmental change and challenge: A Canadian perspective*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.**

*If you've opted to use the fifth edition (2016) please keep in mind that there are some differences in the chapter content and numbering.*

This textbook is also used in Geog 209, the follow-up resource management course, so it's a two-for-one kind of deal. We cover most of the chapters in Geog 101A, and the topics that aren't addressed in this course will be examined in Geog 209.

It's strongly recommended that you read the appropriate chapter indicated in the reading list before class. Additional assigned readings (or viewing, in the case of videos) will be posted on the course website.

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon course completion students will:

1. Have a basic understanding of 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. Understand the historical development of environmental problems and differences in spatial occurrence;
4. Develop critical and analytical thinking techniques and apply these to environmental problems;
5. Be able to critically analyze environmental problems from differing perspectives;
6. Understand the role of values in environmental decision-making;
7. Understand 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. Be aware of fundamental academic research and research skills such as library searches, style of presentation, bibliographic citation formats, etc.;
10. Be aware of, and make informed judgments about, current environmental problems;
11. Be empowered to undertake changes in their own lifestyles that will lead to more sustainable futures.

## EVALUATION

**Exams – 55%** (Midterm Exam Feb 14th, 15%; Final Exam date TBA, 40%)

**Labs – 45%** (Assignments 35%; Participation (attendance and contribution): 10%)

**Please note that you will not be permitted to write the final exam if you do not submit all your lab assignments and receive a passing grade (i.e. score  $\geq$  50%) in the laboratory component. It's really important to keep up with the lab work, so please stay in contact with your TA about this.**

## GRADING SYSTEM

As stated in UVic's Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+	9	90-100%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding</b> and <b>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.
A	8	85-89%	
A-	7	80-84%	
B+	6	77-79%	<b>Very good, good</b> and <b>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	5	73-76%	
B-	4	70-72%	
C+	3	65-69%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	60-64%	
D	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> 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/](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

The course is supported by the Brightspace course management system at <https://bright.uvic.ca>. Outlines for main points covered and some figures will be posted a day or so after the lecture, along with additional required and supplemental readings/videos. However, this won't substitute for attending the Zoom lectures or at least viewing the recording, since some details (**hint: like the exam prep questions**) may NOT be included in the posted outlines. *It would be a good idea to check Brightspace regularly, in case of important class announcements and updates.*

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## POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due by the beginning of the lab. **Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day.** Exceptions to the late policy will only be granted by your lab instructor, at their discretion.

All assignments must be submitted to get a passing grade in the laboratory component.

## **POLICY ON ATTENDANCE**

Because UVic is starting January 2022 online due to the covid surge, the course will be a hybrid of synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (flexible) activities. We highly encourage synchronous participation, and we will hold live lectures and labs at the designated times to encourage student interaction with each other and the instructor. **Labs are synchronous only and you must attend.**

Course lectures will be recorded and made available on Brightspace for those who cannot attend the live Zoom lecture, due to circumstances such as technical issues. A form of this will continue even after we can resume in-person lectures, to help accommodate people who may need to self-isolate.

\*If there's an emergency and the instructor is unable to do the Zoom lecture at the scheduled time, a recording will be uploaded to Brightspace as soon as possible.

As is standard for courses which include laboratory work, students will be required to make satisfactory standing in that component. Students who have not obtained a grade of at least D in their lab component will NOT be permitted to write the examination, nor receive any credit for the course. So come to lab! And hand stuff in!

## **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, please talk to your instructors. From what we've seen, problems often arise because people are unclear on the correct procedures for things like citing sources – or because they simply run out of time to complete an assignment. These are skills that you can improve over time with practice. For more information, see [uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://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 contact the instructors 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: [svpcordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcordinator@uvic.ca)

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

## COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

We 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 regarding the course and quality of 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.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Preliminary – changes during the term will be announced)

Week of	Lecture:	Textbook Readings:	Lab
Jan 10	Spaceship Earth Human-Environment Relations	*obtain text Intro, Chapter 1	<i>No labs</i>
Jan 17	Biomes Energy Flows	Chapter 3 Chapter 3	1. Lab Orientation
Jan 24	Biogeochemical Cycles Sulphur and Nitrogen (Acid Rain and Eutrophication)	Chapter 5 Chapter 5	2. Flatten that curve! (Eco- footprint)
Jan 31	Climate Change Ecosystem Change	Chapter 8 Chapter 4	3. Where am I? (Biogeography)
Feb 7	Oceans Fisheries	Chapter 9 Chapter 9	4. Biogeochemical cycles

Feb 14	<b>Mid term exam (tentative)</b> Forests (Feb 17 lecture)	Chapter 10	5.GBR
Feb 21	<b>(Family Day holiday)</b> Reading Break		No labs
Feb 28	Water (1)** Water (2)	Chapter 12 Chapter 12	6. My food
Mar 7	Agriculture (1) Agriculture (2)	Chapter 11 Chapter 11	7. My biodiversity
Mar 14	Biodiversity (1) Biodiversity (2)	Chapter 15 Chapter 15	8. My 101A scape Presentation
Mar 21	Protected Areas (1) Protected Areas (2)	Chapter 15 Chapter 15	9. My 101A scape Presentation
Mar 28	Energy Urban Land Use	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	10. EcoAction Presentations
Apr 4	Environment and Development Envisioning the Future	Chapter 2 Epilogue	<i>No labs</i>

\*Readings refer to chapters in the course text, unless otherwise specified.

\*\**The claim that Canada has the world's largest supply of fresh water has been called into question, since in practical terms we are only third (at best) in terms of renewable water resources – see Chapter 12 for details.*

Note: Last day for adding courses is Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 2022. Last day for dropping without penalty is Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### **DISCLAIMER**

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

### **NOTE:**

Taking care of yourself through all of this is important. Getting outside for a mere 20-30 minutes per day can help ward off Vitamin D deficiency and seasonal blues, even during our rainy winters. Eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep, and making some time to relax can maintain your energy level. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. Remember -- 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)*