

BRANDON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

38:192
ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ISSUES
COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Dr. C. Malcolm
Office: Brodie Building 4-05
Phone: 727-9770
Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM and after class (also drop-in or by appointment)
Lectures: BB Theatre B, Mon., Wed. & Fri. @ 10:40 AM to 11:30 PM (Slot 3)

Summary

Environmental and Resource Issues is a required, introductory core course for Geography (BA & BSc) and Environmental Science (BSES) degrees. Interested students can also use the course for the Environmental Studies Concentration in Geography. This course is an introduction to the relationship between humans and the biophysical world in which we live. Traditionally, this relationship has involved humans using different portions of the natural environment to benefit society. Often these uses are detrimental to the environment. During lectures and through your readings you will learn about the ways in which humans impact environmental processes and approaches towards minimizing them.

In order to understand the nature of environmental impacts we must first understand the workings of the environment itself. This is called *ecological literacy*. The first part of the course is therefore focused on aspects such as energy flow, ecosystem structure, matter cycling and biodiversity.

In the second half of the course we will discuss specific aspects of natural resource management such as ecological approach, adaptive management, climate change, endangered species, protected areas, forestry, and fisheries. Ecological literacy is essential for effective natural resource management.

Course material comes from lectures and text readings. You will be tested on this material through two mid-term tests and a final exam. I will place some practice questions for each chapter in the Mid-term Tests and Final Exam sections on this Moodle site.

One of the most important skills you need to navigate complicated environmental and resource management issues is the ability to think critically. We will spend some class time discussing media coverage of environmental topics to practice. There will be a critical thinking question on each test and the final exam. There is also an assignment that asks you to view a video and then tell me what you think about the issues and provide me with a short idea of what you think should be done. You can find instructions for the assignment below and on the course Moodle site.

Lectures

During lectures we will discuss issues surrounding the environment and human societies. As this is a first year course the lectures contain a lot of information.

Although we will closely follow the textbook chapters assigned, the lectures do not simply repeat the readings in the text - you are encouraged to attend all lectures. If you miss a lecture it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate. **I do not have class notes available for students.**

Lecture slides are available on this website. However, they are often missing key terms that you will need to fill in should you choose to use them.

There is a lecture and reading schedule below that lists the topics we will cover in lecture. The schedule is also included in the course outline pdf that you can download, just below.

Each week on Friday we will discuss a media article that covers an environmental issue. This will help us practice thinking critically. The article will be posted on the course Moodle site every Monday. Links to the articles can be found below the lecture pdfs. Please read the article during the week in order to be prepared for Friday.

Please **RESPECT** your fellow students and instructor: **SILENCE** cell phones, **DO NOT PLAY** on your cell phone or laptop (e.g. Facebook), and **REFRAIN FROM TALKING** during lecture.

Please try not to arrive late. If you do, please sit as close to the side and back as possible. Please choose a similar location if you will have to leave early.

Text

The text for this course is *Environmental Change and Challenge: A Canadian Perspective, 5th edition*, by Philip Dearden and Bruce Mitchell. This is an excellent text, written for Canadian students by two preeminent resource management scholars in Canada. The text is available at the bookstore. There are also two copies on 2-hour loan at the Reserve desk in the Library.

Students should have the 5th edition as it includes new material and updates information from previous editions.

On the schedule below is a list of text readings that tells you which chapters you should be reading with respect to the lectures. Please refer to it and keep up with your reading.

Although most of what we discuss in class is also covered in the text, the text provides additional material that you are responsible to know for the mid-term tests, and final exam. I will periodically ask you to look at material in the text that I do not cover in lecture.

Critical Thinking Assignment (15%)

Due Monday, November 27, by 11:55 pm.

This assignment is based on the documentary video "Climate Disruption - The Movie," which gives you a background on the understanding of climate change and the response by those concerned that humans are the main agent of it. The documentary is available at "watchdisruption.com" or on YouTube. You can use the links found on the course Moodle site to stream the video.

Assignment Instructions

1. Watch the video.
2. Come up with three questions that you think the documentary raises or does not answer.
3. Write a paragraph (300 words maximum) that states your thoughts on the subject of society and climate change and why you think this.
4. Submit your assignment as an MS Word document through Moodle, using the link below.

Mid-term Tests (16.7% x 3 = 50%)

There are three (3) mid-term tests during the course. The tests primarily test your understanding of fundamental concepts.

The mid-term tests will consist of multiple choice/true or false, fill-in-the-blank/definition, and short answer questions, including a critical thinking question. You may have to answer a series of questions about a specific figure covered in lecture, or provide examples referring to a specific concept covered in lecture.

The mid-term tests are on September 27, October 25, and November 20.

Final Exam (35%)

The final exam is cumulative, meaning it will cover material from the entire term.

The final exam will test on material following the third mid-term and important concepts learned during the entire term.

The final exam will also be the same format as the mid-terms.

The final exam will be held on Friday, December 15th, at 9:00 AM. Location TBA (most likely the GYM in the HLC).

NOTE:

There will be **NO** early or late mid-term or final exams written, except in **EXCEPTIONAL** cases, which **REQUIRE** a note from a medical doctor, counselor, or BU sports team coach (which provides the dates of road trips).

YOU NOW KNOW THE DATES FOR THE MID TERMS AND FINAL EXAM!!! PLAN YOUR TRAVEL SCHEDULE ACCORDINGLY!!!

It is your responsibility to make sure you are present at the appointed mid-term test, and exam times.

Remember, if I have to write a separate mid-term test, or exam for you I have to search harder for questions to ask you!

MID-TERM TEST ANSWERS WILL BE IN THE GLASS CASE BY THE BACK DOORS INTO THE LECTURE THEATRE.

Grading and Dates Summary

Grading Item	Individual Values	Date
Mid-term Tests	3 x 16.7%=50%	September 27, October 25; November 20
Assignment	15%	Monday, November 27
Final Exam	35%	Friday, December 15
Term Total	100%	

Academic Conduct

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable in this course and at Brandon University in general. Students caught cheating will be met with disciplinary action. Please refer to Section 3.13 (p.26) in the 2017-18 Brandon University Calendar for more information.

Grade Allocation

The following grade allocation is used at Brandon University. Please refer to Section 3.11.3 (p.25) in the 2016-17 Brandon University Calendar for more information.

Final Mark (%)	Grade	Grade Points	Final Mark (%)	Grade	Grade Points
90 – 100	A+	4.3	67 - 69	C+	2.3
85 - 89	A	4.0	63 - 66	C	2.0
80 - 84	A-	3.7	60 - 62	C-	1.7
77 - 79	B+	3.3	50 - 59	D	1.0
73 - 76	B	3.0	0 - 49	F	0
70 - 72	B-	2.7			

Accessibility Services

Brandon University values diversity and inclusion, recognizing disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive for all students. The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office works with students who have permanent, chronic, or temporary disabilities. SAS will provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, or temporary), you are invited to contact Student Accessibility Services to arrange a confidential discussion at (204) 727-9759 or email malyonm@brandonu.ca. If you are registered with SAS and have a letter requesting accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the term to discuss the accommodations outline in your letter. Additional information is available at the Student Accessibility Services website.

Lecture / Reading Schedule

Dates	Lecture Title¹	Text Readings	Quizzes & Tests
Wed. Sept. 6 Fri. Sept. 8	Introduction / "Ecological Literacy" Spaceship Earth	Chapter 1	
Mon. Sept. 11 Wed. Sept. 13 Fri. Sept. 15	Spaceship Earth Spaceship Earth Energy Flow and Ecological Systems	Chapter 2	
Mon. Sept. 18 Wed. Sept. 20 Fri. Sept. 22	Energy Flow and Ecological Systems Energy Flow and Ecological Systems Guest: B. Hollier, MELS student		
Mon. Sept. 25 Wed. Sept. 27 Fri. Sept. 29	Dynamic Ecosystems Test #1 Dynamic Ecosystems	Chapter 3	Test #1 Wed., Sept. 27
Mon. Oct. 2 Wed. Oct. 4 Fri. Oct. 6	Dynamic Ecosystems Ecosystems and Matter Cycling Guest: Dr. Pete Whittington, Geography	Chapter 4	
Mon. Oct. 9 Wed. Oct. 11 Fri. Oct. 13	Thanksgiving - No Classes Ecosystems & Matter Cycling Ecosystems & Matter Cycling		
Mon. Oct. 16 Wed. Oct. 18 Fri. Oct. 20	Philosophy of Natural Resource Management Philosophy of Natural Resource Management Methods of Natural Resource Management	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	
Mon. Oct. 23 Wed. Oct. 25 Fri. Oct. 27	Methods of Natural Resource Management Test #2 Climate Change	Chapter 7	Test #2 Wed., Oct. 25
Mon. Oct. 30 Wed. Nov. 1 Fri. Nov. 3	Climate Change Oceans & Fisheries Oceans & Fisheries	Chapter 8	
Mon. Nov. 6 - Fri. Nov 8	Fall Reading Break - No Classes		
Mon. Nov. 13 Wed. Nov. 15 Fri. Nov. 17	Agriculture Agriculture Water	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	
Mon. Nov. 20 Wed. Nov. 22 Fri. Nov. 24	Test #3 Water Minerals and Energy	Chapter 12	Test #3 Mon. Nov. 20
Mon. Nov. 27 Wed. Nov. 29 Fri. Dec. 1	Minerals and Energy Endangered Species and Protected Areas Endangered Species and Protected Areas	Chapter 14	
Mon. Dec. 6	Discuss final exam		
Fri. Dec. 15	Final Exam 9:00 AM		Final Exam Dec.15

¹We will try to cover all the material in this schedule. If there are any changes, you will know in advance of any quizzes, tests or the final exam.