

BRANDON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

38:192  
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY  
COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Dr. C. D. Malcolm  
Office: Brodie Building 4-05  
Phone: 727-9770 email: malcolmc@brandonu.ca  
Office Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in person or by Zoom (link on Moodle site), or by appointment  
Lectures: BB Theatre B, Mon., Wed. & Fri. @ 10:40 AM to 11:30 PM (Slot 3)

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### Summary

*Environment and Society* 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 three 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 the Moodle 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.

Each week we will discuss a media article that covers an environmental issue. This will help us practice thinking critically. The article links will be posted on the course Moodle site. Please read the article in order to be prepared for discussion.

Please **RESPECT** your fellow students and instructor: **SILENCE** cell phones, **DO NOT PLAY** on your cell phone or laptop, 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, 6th edition*, by Philip Dearden, Bruce Mitchell, and Erin O'Connell. 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 6th edition as it includes a new chapter, new material and updated 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.

**Here's the cardinal rule regarding text reading: Everything I cover in lecture PLUS any sections in the textbook I ask you to read during lecture is fair game for the tests and final exam. If I do not cover the material in lecture or specifically ask you to read a particular passage or box in the text, you can ignore it.**

### **Critical Thinking Assignment (15%)**

Due Friday, December 2 @ 11:59 PM

In this assignment, you will choose THREE (3) of the short news articles available on the course Moodle site and write a paragraph about each. Each paragraph should be between 200 to 250 words. In each paragraph you must include:

1. Your OPINION of the issue discussed.
2. Reason(s) WHY you think so.
3. WHAT you think should be done.
4. Include EXAMPLES from the article that back up your reasoning for #2 and #3.

Submit your assignment as an MS Word document through Moodle, using the Assignment Submission link. Please title your document "LastNameFirstInitial192" e.g. MalcolmC192.

### **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 30, October 28, and November 25.

### **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 Tuesday, December 13 @ 9:00 AM, Location TBA

### **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 LIFE ACCORDINGLY!!!**

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

### **Grading and Dates Summary**

Grading Item	Individual Values	Date
Mid-term Tests	3 x 16.7%=50%	Sept. 30, Oct. 28, Nov. 25
Assignment	15%	Dec. 2
Final Exam	35%	Dec. 13
Term Total	100%	

### **Academic Conduct**

The Brandon University Academic Integrity Policy underlines the importance of all members of the BU community respecting and upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage (ICAI, 2014) in every academic activity. Students are responsible for ensuring they understand and adhere to these values. Activities that depart from these values include, but are not limited to, the following: plagiarism, cheating, academic interference, falsification, and aiding others to depart from academic integrity. Students found responsible for having departed from academic integrity will be subject to remedies and/or sanctions. Depending on the scope and impact of the departure as well as the student's level of study and past academic integrity history, remedies and sanctions range from mandated educational activities through failure on an assignment/failure in the course to expulsion from the University and revocation of credentials/degrees granted. All departures from academic integrity will be recorded in the BU Academic Integrity Repository, and certain sanctions will result in a notation on the student's transcript. The full Academic Integrity Policy, including definitions of academic integrity's fundamental values, examples of activities that depart from academic integrity, and processes undertaken in cases of suspected departures from academic integrity, is available at [www.brandonu.ca/senate-office/senate-policies](http://www.brandonu.ca/senate-office/senate-policies). Please also refer to Section 3.14 in the 2022-23 Brandon University Calendar for more information.

### **Grade Allocation**

The following grade allocation is used at Brandon University. Please refer to Section 3.12.3 in the 2022-23 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. Student Accessibility (SAS) supports students by developing an individualized plan of accommodation, helping students understand their learning needs, and assisting faculty with provision

of accommodations for students. Should you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers, including permanent, chronic, or temporary disabilities/or medical conditions, you are invited to contact the Student Accessibility Coordinator ([magnussonm@brandonu.ca](mailto:magnussonm@brandonu.ca)) or complete a Student Information form to request a confidential discussion with the SAS Coordinator. If you already have established accommodations with SAS, please contact SAS early in the term to discuss the accommodations outlined in your letter of accommodation. Additional information is available on the Student Accessibility Services website: <https://www.brandonu.ca/student-services/student-accessibility-services/>

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Personal Counsellors at Brandon University are dedicated to providing support to students' wellness, primarily their mental well-being, through prevention activities, early identification and timely interventions using a holistic lens. Please contact the Personal Counsellors in the Student Services Department by calling 204-727-9737 or emailing [vodonc@brandonu.ca](mailto:vodonc@brandonu.ca) to make an appointment. There are crisis counselling appointments available daily.

### Lecture / Reading Schedule<sup>1</sup>

Dates	Lecture Title	Text Readings	Tests & Assignment Dates
Week 1 Sept 7 - 9	Introduction to course, Moodle page and opportunity to ask questions (Sept. 7) Visit by Student Services and Co-op Coordinator (Sept 9)		
Week 2 Sept. 12 - 16	Environment, Resources, and Society Responding to Global Environmental Change	Chapters 1 & 2	
Week 3 Sept. 19 - 23	Responding to Global Environmental Change (con't) Energy Flow and Ecological Systems	Chapters 2 & 3	
<b>Week 4 - Test #1 Sept 26 - 30</b>	Energy Flow and Ecological Systems (con't) Ecosystems are Dynamic	Chapters 3 & 4	<b>Test #1 Fri., Sept. 30 on Chapters 1,2,3</b>
Week 5 Oct. 3 - 7	Ecosystems are Dynamic (con't) Ecosystems & Matter Cycling	Chapters 4 & 5	
Week 6 <b>Oct 10 - Thanksgiving</b>  Oct 12 -14	  Planning and Management Perspectives	  Chapter 6	
<b>Week 7 Oct 17 - 21</b>	Planning and Management: Processes and Methods	Chapter 7	<b>Lectures are recorded and available on the Moodle site this week!</b>
<b>Week 8 - Test #2 Oct 24 - 28</b>	Climate Change	Chapter 8	<b>Test #2 Fri., Oct. 28 on Chapters 4,5,6,7</b>
Week 9 Oct 31 - Nov 4	Oceans & Fisheries	Chapter 9	
Week 10 Nov 7  Nov 9 -11	Finish up Oceans and Fisheries (ONLINE)  <i>Fall Reading Break - NO LECTURES</i>		<b>Nov 7 lecture will be online. Please find the ZOOM link on the Moodle site in the LECTURES section</b>
Week 11 Nov 14 - 18	Agriculture	Chapter 11	
<b>Week 12 - Test #3 Nov 21 - 25</b>	Minerals and Energy	Chapter 13	<b>Test #3 Fri. Nov. 25 on Chapters 8, 9, 11</b>
Week 13 Nov 28 - Dec 2	Endangered Species and Protected Areas	Chapter 15	<b>Critical Thinking Assignment due Friday, Dec. 2</b>
Week 14 Dec 5 & 6	Dec 5 - Final lecture likely finishing Chap 15. Dec 6 - Tips for final exam studying		
<b>Dec. 13, 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Final Exam, HLC Henry Champ Gym</b>		<b>Final Exam on entire term</b>

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