

COURSE OUTLINE
HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS
ENV 1600-761 (ONLINE)

May 4 – June 16, 2020

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructor

Dr. Alana Westwood

Email: a.westwood@uwinnipeg.ca (Please email me from inside Nexus whenever possible to avoid messages being caught by junk mail)

Office hours: Office hours will be held weekly by videoconference from 1:00-2:00 PM CT at <https://zoom.us/j/4422889359?pwd=WmlwUERoVEJJdkhOdkNDNDdNRXJuUT09>. Students may email to set up meetings at other times.

Phone: 

Profile: Posted on the course website (Nexus) and www.alanawestwood.com

TA

Dr. Joana Augusto

Email: Contact through Nexus

Office hours: See calendar on Nexus

Phone: 

Profile: Posted on the course website Nexus and <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/joanaaugusto>

Delivery Format - ONLINE

Mandatory readings are mentioned in the course outline. Students are expected to review slides shared on Nexus (<http://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca>). They are also expected to participate in the discussion forum on Nexus. Additional study materials, when assigned, along with all announcements will be posted on Nexus. Students can interact with the instructor and TA via email, phone (appointment needed), and the discussion forum.

Final Withdrawal Date

Deadline for final withdrawal from course is **June 3, 2020**. Withdrawing before this date does not necessarily result in a fee refund. You must formally withdraw from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an "F" on your transcript and loss of tuition credit. Please check with the Registrar's office for additional details.

Reading Week/Holidays

There is no scheduled break during this course.

COURSE MATERIALS

Because of the broad nature of the subject matter, multiple sources will be used for covering the topics of this course. These may include chapters from textbooks as well as papers, reports and various forms of online publications. Access to the following textbook is **recommended**:

Miller, G.T. Jr., and D. Hackett. 2016. ***Living in the Environment*** (4th Canadian Edition). Nelson Education, ISBN: 978-0176587185.

Printed or e-book/PDF versions can be purchased online or from the university bookstore. Information on how to access used versions of the books given physical distancing guidelines will be made available in the announcements section on Nexus.

Additional reading materials will be assigned to adequately cover the course content and instructions on how to access them will be posted on Nexus.

Library Services

Circulation and Borrowing (help with barcodes) (204) 786-9808

Contact the Reference Department (204) 786-9815

Library's research page: <http://library.uwinnipeg.ca/help-with-research/index.html>

Internet access/Email and Electronic U of W Library Access Required

All students must obtain Nexus email accounts and active library barcode numbers ASAP. You must be enrolled in the course to access the Nexus course website. Learn more about Nexus and its tools (Email, Discussions, Dropbox and Quizzes) at [Student Learning Technologies Support](#).

For help with accessing, using, or troubleshooting Nexus please contact the Centre for Teaching, Learning & Technology. Phone 204-786-9149 / 204-786-9826; Email: help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Environmental issues impact every part of the world. The theme of this course is developing an understanding of the complexity and diversity of environmental systems and how they are impacted by human activities. This course also aims to equip students to critically examine claims about environmental issues and to take action on issues of importance to them. Students will develop a deeper understanding of human impacts on the environment through assigned readings, review of articles, online discussions, assignments, and a research paper.

Human–Environmental Interactions is a course aimed at students from all majors within the Department of Environmental Studies and Science. In-person contact with the instructor is not a feature of this course. Students will need reliable access to internet and a computer in order to complete this course. Clear instructions, advice, and examples will be provided online. There is no VOD (video on demand) for this course but recorded lectures will be provided, as will videos posted on external sites that complement the course materials. The instructor will address common issues via the discussion forums on the Nexus delivery platform.

Objectives

- Introduce fundamental ideas, concepts, and applications in environmental science;
- Provide understanding of how scientific disciplines contribute to environmental science;
- Provide an understanding of the social, political and economic contexts within which environmental science operates;
- Apply the fundamentals of environmental science to important local, regional, national and global environmental problems and potential solutions;
- Analyze relevance of environmental science to students' personal and professional lives.

Learning outcomes

Active participants in this class will experience the following from this course:

Information literacy

- Obtain a working knowledge of the availability of primary source materials and gain skills in conducting online university level research projects;

- Learn to evaluate the bias and credibility of source materials.

Enhanced subject matter knowledge

- Acquire intermediate level knowledge of a wide range of environmental topics, including both regional and global issues;
- Acquire deep knowledge of one topic of choice for the research paper.

Research skills

- Improve the ability to conduct university level research from a project based on published materials (print and/or electronic) including journal articles;
- Improve the ability to evaluate and summarise scientific research findings;
- Improve critical and systems thinking by providing in-depth and objective analysis of the issue and making practical recommendations.

COURSE TOPICS & SCHEDULE

The schedule below provides a list of topics that will be covered in this course. Students are expected to review the lectures and supplementary material posted on Nexus and may study the relevant chapters from the textbook. Students are expected to complete the associated tasks on time (additional instructions will be posted on Nexus). The schedule below should be treated as **tentative** and the instructor may revise this list/schedule based on the progress of the class and other factors. If such changes are made, students will be notified via Nexus email and an announcement posted on Nexus.

| Week | Topic | Tasks (check Nexus for details) |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Week 1 May 4-10 | Chapter 1: Introduction to Human-Environment Interactions Chapter 2: Environmental History | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Course Outline carefully including important dates • Review assigned readings/links • Find your group for Assignment 2 |
| Week 2 May 11-17 | Chapter 4: Ecosystems Chapter 9: Population Ecology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 1 due May 17 • Review assigned readings/links • Review the guidance on the Research Paper |
| Week 3 May 18-24 | Chapter 11: Sustaining Terrestrial Biodiversity Chapter 13: Sustaining Aquatic Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 due May 24 • Review assigned readings/links • Work on research paper |
| Week 4 May 25-31 | Chapter 14: Food and Soil Chapter 15: Water Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review assigned readings/links • Work on research paper |
| Week 5 June 1-7 | Chapter 20: Air Pollution Chapter 22: Water Pollution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 2 due June 7 • Review assigned readings/links • Final withdrawal date June 3 • Work on research paper |
| Week 6 June 8-14 | Chapter 21: Climate Change and Ozone Loss Chapter 18: Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review assigned readings/links • Work on research paper • Quiz 2 due June 14 |
| Week 7 | End of 6-week term | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final paper due June 16 |

June 15-16

- Fill out course review

*Penalty for the late submission of any assignment is **10% per day** unless prior permission is obtained from the instructor.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course is structured with weekly activities. Students are expected to review lectures and other assigned materials and may supplement with specific chapters or sections from the textbook. Progress of learning will be assessed via individual assignments, one group assignment, and a research paper. Additional details on the readings, assignments and the research paper will be posted on Nexus. All students must check the course site on Nexus every week and make use of the online resources as instructed. Progressive working and learning is essential for successful completion of this course. Note that there is **no final exam** in this course.

Assignments 1, 2 and the research paper must be submitted electronically in *.doc, *.docx or *.rtf format. Please do not send files in PDF or any other format. As a general rule, use Times Roman 12-point font or Calibri 11-point font, 1.15 line spacing and 1-inch margin on all sides. Any issues, concerns, messages sent to the instructor will be addressed to the greatest extent possible within a reasonable time.

Overall Mark Breakdown

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Assignment 1 – Calendar of work + Annotated bibliography | 20% |
| Assignment 2 – Reflection on environment-related event | 20% |
| Quiz 1 – Multiple-choice test on assigned chapters | 15% |
| Quiz 2 – Multiple-choice test on assigned chapters | 15% |
| Final paper – 1200 word essay on an environmental issue | 30% |
| Total | 100% |

Description of course evaluation components:

Assignments. Detailed instructions for the four assignments as well as marking rubrics will be given on Nexus.

Quizzes. Quizzes will be timed and administered on Nexus and may be completed at any time before the due date. They will be open book, and students are not required to show identification. Time limits and instructions will be communicated to students on Nexus.

The **Research Paper**. Detailed instructions for the research paper as well as a marking rubric will be given on Nexus.

Grading

Quiz grades will be returned immediately. The research paper and assignments and discussion will be graded and returned to the student within 14 days after the due date of each item.

Letter grades will be assigned per the following distribution.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| A+ = 90 - 100% | C+ = 65 - 69% |
| A = 85 - 89% | C = 58 - 64% |
| A - = 80 - 84% | D = 50 - 57% |
| B+ = 75 - 79% | F = less than 50% |
| B = 70 - 74% | |

The cut-offs provided above are **tentative guidelines** that the course instructor may follow, as the University does not have a standardized numerical grade conversion scale for each letter

grade. However, the instructor, the Departmental Review Committee or the Senate retains the right to modify grading cut-offs in cases involving exceptionally skewed grade distribution or other unusual circumstances. Grades posted by the instructor are not final until approved by the University Administration.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

A summary of important information regarding Academic Misconduct follows. Details can be found in Section 8.a of the “Regulations and Policies” of the university that can be viewed here: <https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>

Forms of Academic Misconduct

- **Plagiarism:** includes presenting other people's work (published or unpublished) in part or as a whole as your own. This includes material from lab manuals, essays, journal articles, books, etc. Plagiarism also refers to submitting the same work in more than one course without both instructors' permission and to the situation where two or more students submit identical (or nearly identical) work for evaluation when the work was to be completed individually. See University of Winnipeg library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g> for additional guidance.
- **Cheating:** copying a person's answer on a test, communicating with another during a test/exam, consulting unauthorized sources (including written and electronic sources), obtaining a copy of all or part of a test/exam/assignment before it is officially available, or purchasing tests, essays or other assignments and submitting the work as your own.
- **Improper academic/research practices:** fabricating or falsifying results, using other peoples' research findings without permission, misrepresenting research results or methods, referring to non-existent sources or investigators, contravening the University's policy and procedures on research integrity.
- **Obstructing academic activities of another person:** for example, interfering with another person's access to pertinent resources or information to gain academic advantage.
- **Impersonation:** impersonating an individual or allowing someone to impersonate you.
- **Falsification or modification of an academic record:** including tests, transcripts, letters of permission, etc.
- **Aiding and abetting academic misconduct.** This includes, among others, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or essay trader sites (file sharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work). Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.

Penalties for academic misconduct can include, but are not limited to:

- Written warning
- Lower or failing grade on an assignment or test
- Lower or failing grade in a course
- Denial of admission or readmission to the University
- Forfeiture of University awards or financial assistance
- Suspension from the University for a specified period of time
- Withholding or rescinding a UW degree, certificate or diploma
- Expulsion from the University

Procedures

All allegations of academic misconduct must be reported initiating a process which involves several steps. These include procedures involving the instructor of the course in which the

misconduct is alleged to have occurred, the Departmental Review Committee, and the Senate Academic Misconduct Committee. See “Regulations and Policies” section 8.a for a detailed description of the associated processes including the appeals process regarding academic misconduct.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the UWSA Student Advocacy Centre where Student advocates will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case and ensuring students have access to representation. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact UWSA at via vpsa@theuwsa.ca or call 204-786-9780.

Copyright Violation

Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to files sharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the same class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also obtain instructor/presenter permission before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the UHREB before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.