

GEOG-2204(3)-761

Human Impact on the Environment

Fall, 2023

September 5th to December 20th 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jacqueline Binyamin
Office: 5L10
Phone: 204 786-9982
E-mail: j.binyamin@uwinnipeg.ca
Office Hours (Zoom or in-person): Monday and Tuesday
(13:00 – 14:00) or by appointment

LECTURES: Online-Asynchronous (Lectures uploaded Fridays by 6:00 pm)

TEXTBOOK (recommended):

Environmental Change & Challenge (6th edition)
by P. Dearden, B. Mitchell and E. O'Connell (2020)
ISBN 9780199033829
ISBN 9780199033836 (ebook)

Environmental Change & Challenge (5th edition)
by P. Dearden and B. Mitchell (2016)
ISBN 9780199015146

All course materials will be posted on Nexus, so you do not need to be online at any particular time. Voiceover PowerPoint presentations with explanation of the concepts will be posted on Nexus. Students will be able to access these recordings as needed and communication with the instructor should be done via email or virtual appointments during the office hours as scheduled with the instructor.

COURSE NEXUS: Use your WebAdvisor User ID and Password.
Login in at <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca>

If you are having difficulties with Nexus contact the help desk at 204-786-9149 or servicedesk@uwinnipeg.ca

Please use your University of Winnipeg email address for course related correspondence: name@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca. Students have a responsibility to regularly check their **Nexus e-mail address** to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from their course instructor. Emails from other accounts such as Hotmail or Gmail are frequently treated as spam and thus may not reach the recipient.

Office hours are scheduled on **Monday and Tuesday 13:00 – 14:00**. If these hours are inconvenient, an alternate appointment can be arranged. If you have no other alternative but to leave an e-mail, the instructor cannot guarantee an immediate response to your e-mail or phone message.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course studies the causes, effects, and controls of detrimental change to the natural environment resulting from human activity. Emphasis will be given to issues pertaining to the alteration of ecosystems and the various types of air, water, and soil pollution.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is for students: (1) to understand the implications of climate change for natural and human systems and learn the importance of reducing energy use in society, (2) to analyze human impacts on various aspects of the natural world (e.g., population growth and consumption, climate change, deforestation, water pollution, overfishing, biodiversity and species at risk, urbanization, energy use, agriculture), (3) to understand what the boreal forest is, its significance to Canada, and the main threats it is facing, and (4) to describe and explain management approaches and solutions to address environmental issues on a local, national and global level. Students should gain a better understanding of the impact of urban areas on the environment and make better decisions to minimize their impact on the environment.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

Midterm Test 40% (2 Tests at 20% each)

Research Paper Outline 10%, Due on Monday, September 25 at 11:59 pm

Research Paper 30%, Due on Monday, November 27 at 11:59 pm

Final Exam 20%

Total 100%

Final grades will be assigned based on accumulated scores from the above components.

Midterms and Final Examinations: there will be two Midterms and a Final Examination, which may consist of a combination of multiple-choice, true, and false and short-long answer questions. The contents of the final exam will only cover the course material covered after the midterms.

Test/Exam Policy

Exams will be given **online**, via **Zoom and Nexus**. All exams are “**closed-book**” exams proctored through **Zoom with your webcam on**. The students are **not allowed** to search on their notes, internet or other reference material while taking the exam. Use of a simple calculator or dictionary is allowed but no other electronic devices are permitted.

Respondus Privacy and Security. The University of Winnipeg Information and Privacy Office has reviewed Respondus' privacy and security information. The Respondus Privacy Notice is posted on the University's website and can be viewed here. [URL: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/respondus-privacy-notice.html>].

If you miss a test or exam, you must contact your instructor immediately. Proof of illness or exceptional circumstances is required before alternate arrangements can be made. Vacation travel is not an acceptable reason.

The makeup test/exam will occur **within 5 school days** of the missed date. In the event of illness this deadline will be **within 5 school days** from the “**return to work**” date noted on the medical certificate. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule the makeup exam. Failure to schedule within the defined timeline will result in a grade of zero (0) for that test/exam.

Research Paper Outline: An outline consisting of 2 single-spaced pages, which includes a title, an overview of the paper’s structure, and a comprehensive list of references. The goal of this submission is to obtain feedback from the instructor to assist in further development and finalization of the research paper.

Research Paper: A comprehensive paper of 6-8 pages that addresses the following: (1) identify one major environmental issue developed due to human activities and describe their potential short-term and long-term impacts on ecosystem and human health. (2) Explain how human activities contributed to this environmental problem and suggest prevention and /or mitigation strategies. If there are any prevention measures that could have been adapted to the situation you may come up with those strategies. If you do not see any prevention mechanisms on the issues identified by you, then suggest measures of mitigation. You must use the textbook as a reference and at least five peer-reviewed scholarly articles. Limit your paper to not more than eight pages of word-processed, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced text, (not including references, tables, and figures). Do not use more than three Tables or Figures. Your paper includes Title, Author (student name), Introduction, Main Body, and Conclusions, References, Appendices.

All facts, data, and opinions that are not your own must be acknowledged in your paper by properly citing the source. You should not use informal blogs, newsletters, or any source without reasonable support in research or established fact. Other acceptable sources include regular internet sources, such as government agency, professional organizations, or company websites. You should submit word documents (doc or docx) on-line through **dropbox** in the Nexus webpage. Please **do not** submit pdf files. **Papers sent as email attachments are not accepted.**

Letter grades are typically determined using the following numeric groupings as guidelines:

%	90-100	84-89	80-83	75-79	70-74	65-69	55-64	50-54	<50
Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	C+	C	D	F

NOTE: *The numeric boundaries separating letter grades may be adjusted at the request of the Departmental Review Committee.* Grades are not final until approved by the University Senate.

If you miss a test or exam, you must contact your instructor immediately. Proof of illness or exceptional circumstances is required before alternate arrangements can be made. Vacation travel is not an acceptable reason.

The **Final Exam** must be written as scheduled in the 2023-2024 Fall/Winter Exam Schedule; alternate dates will not be considered. If you have a final Theory Exam conflict (i.e., two final exams on the same date and time), or if exceptional circumstances prevent you from writing the exam as scheduled, you must contact Academic Advising immediately, otherwise, you must write the final exam as scheduled. Please refer to section 9d, of Regulation and Policies in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Academic Calendar link: (<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/calendar-calendar>).

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, September 5	Lectures begin for the 2023 Fall Term.
Monday September 25	Research Paper Outline due at 11:59 pm
Saturday September 30	Truth and Reconciliation Day – University Closed
October 7-15	Reading Week- No lectures.
Monday, October 9	Thanksgiving Day - University closed.
Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 pm	Midterm Theory Test #1.
Tuesday, November 7 at 6:30 pm	Midterm Theory Test #2.
Monday, November 13	Final date to withdraw without academic penalty. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not result in a fee refund.
Monday, November 27	Research Paper due
Monday, December 4	Last lecture in this course.
December 7-20, 2023	Final Exam Period
Final Exam (Date TBA)	Please check http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/ for final exam schedule

PENALTIES (For Late Submission of the Assignments):

The assignment will be accepted until five days after the submission date with 5% of the total mark of the assignment being deducted each day from the mark achieved (weekends and holidays are considered as normal days). Work submitted 6 days late or more shall not be accepted.

Voluntary Withdrawal

Please note the deadline date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is **Monday, November 13, 2023**. You must formally withdrawal from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an “F” on your transcript and loss of tuition credit. Students are encouraged to see the instructor before withdrawal to discuss matters pertaining to the grades.

Course Subjects and Readings:

The following table outlines the topics to be covered during the lectures. The order of presentation is subject to change as circumstances dictate and all the topics listed may not be covered. Any changes will be announced in class.

Topics	Readings from the Textbook
Environment, Resources and Society	Ch. 1
The Ecosphere	
Energy Flows and Ecosystems	Ch. 2
Ecosystems are Dynamic	Ch. 3
Ecosystems and Matter Cycling	Ch. 4
Planning and Management: Perspectives, Processes and Methods	
Planning and Management Perspectives	Ch. 5
Planning and Management: Processes and Methods	Ch. 6
Resource and Environmental Management in Canada	
Climate change, Oceans and Fisheries, Forests, Agriculture, Water, Minerals and Energy, Urban Environment, Endangered Species and Protected areas	Ch. 7 - 11 Ch. 12 - 14
Environment change and challenge revisited	Ch. 15

Ongoing Guidelines & Regulations

1. A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.
2. Students can find answers to updates and frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/index.html>.
3. When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, every effort will be made to inform students via University of Winnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline).

4. Students have the responsibility to regularly check their University of Winnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors (j.binyamin@uwinnipeg.ca).
5. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.
6. Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holydays 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 or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2023-24 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.
7. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204.786.9771 or <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services/> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
8. Reference to the appropriate items in the Regulations & Policies section of the Course Calendar, including Senate appeals and academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating) <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Instructors should become familiar with the procedures for dealing with alleged academic misconduct at <https://pace.uwinnipegcourses.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/Academic%20Misconduct%20Procedures.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academicmisconduct-policy.pdf>
9. 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 at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/>.
10. **Regulations, Policies, and Academic Integrity.** Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please emphasize the importance of maintaining academic integrity and the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even unintentional plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct. Similarly, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is a form of misconduct, as it involves aiding and abetting plagiarism. An updated and expanded U of Winnipeg library site outlining principles of Academic Integrity can be found at <https://library.uwinnipeg.ca/use-the-library/help-with-research/academic-integrity.html>.

- 11.** Important information is outlined in the Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://pace.uwinnipegcourses.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/Academic%20Misconduct%20Procedures.pdf>.

12. Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools

Students must follow principles of academic integrity (e.g., honesty, respect, fairness, and responsibility) in their use of material obtained through AI text-generating tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing, Notion AI). If an instructor prohibits the use of AI tools in a course, students may face an allegation of academic misconduct if using them to do assignments. If AI tools are permitted, students must cite them. According to the MLA (<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>), “you should

1. cite a generative AI tool whenever you paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into your own work any content (whether text, image, data, or other) that was created by it
2. acknowledge all functional uses of the tool (like editing your prose or translating words) in a note, your text, or another suitable location
3. take care to vet the secondary sources it cites”

If students aren’t sure whether or not they can use AI tools, they should ask their professors.

- 13. Respectful Learning Environment.** Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies could be considered non-academic misconduct. See the Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>) and Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>). More detailed information is outlined in the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>).

- 14. Copyright and Intellectual Property.** Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor’s intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or NonAcademic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly

involve legal sanction under the Copyright policy
<https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/basics/copyright-policy.html>

- 15. Research Ethics.** Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html>
- 16. Privacy.** Students should be reminded of their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>).
- 17. Indigenous Student Services.** Indigenous students seeking additional supports, academic or other, are encouraged to contact the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC). The ASSC offers a variety of support services, and was created to maintain a safe, educational and culturally sensitive environment for all Aboriginal students (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) as they pursue their academic studies at The University of Winnipeg. More information can be found at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/assc/>.