

**GEOG-4203(001) Topics in Climatology  
Winter Term (Jan – Apr) 2022**

**Course Instructor:** Danny Blair  
**Office:** 5L33 Phone: (204) 786-9236  
**Class Schedule:** Thursdays, 2:30 – 5:20 pm  
**Office Hours:** Please make an appointment; usually Tue/Thu 8:30 – 9:30 am  
**Email:** [d.blair@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:d.blair@uwinnipeg.ca)

### Course Format

- The class will be taught online, by Zoom, live, at the scheduled class time
- Invitations to Zoom meetings will be sent to your University of Winnipeg email address

### Possible Return to In-Person Instruction

- If the University deems it safe to do so, this course will convert to in-person, on-campus instruction after the mid-term Reading Week.
- Therefore, students registered in this course must be able to attend in person classes after the mid-term Reading Week.

### Course Description

This seminar course requires students to complete climate-related research projects, either individually or as a group. Research topics will vary to suit the interests of both the Instructor and the students.

### Course Organization

This seminar course will require the students to work on a climate data project.

All the students may work on one project, but it is also possible that the students will be divided into two or more groups that will work on separate projects; if the students so desire, all students may also work on separate projects. The instructor will suggest some topics of interest, but the final topic, or topics, will be chosen in consultation with the students. The project, or projects, to some degree, will require students to conduct some data analysis using the R programming language.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have experience:

- conceiving, designing, conducting, and completing a climate-related research project
- producing realistic project goals
- adjusting project goals and methods as needed
- working effectively and cooperatively in a group/team project environment
- producing effective written and oral project updates
- coping with project deadlines
- developing an up-to-date literature review
- designing and producing high-quality data/report visualizations
- contributing to the design and production of a high-quality project report
- writing code in R to access, input, manipulate, analyze and output large and/or complex climate data sets

### Student Evaluation

Small Writing Assignments (4)	20%	Ongoing
Initial Project Proposal	10%	Thu Jan 20
Final Project Proposal	15%	Thu Feb 3
Project Presentation	10%	Tue Apr 5
Final Project Report	45%	Tue Apr 5

### Small Writing Assignments

These four (4) writing assignments will require each student to produce a short (3 to 5 page) report on an assigned topic that will contribute to the development of a final project proposal and report. They will be assigned every two or three weeks, and will be discussed in class. Specific topics and expectations will be explained in separate written documents that will be posted on Nexus. The instructor's assessment will be based on the degree to which the written component is comprehensive, well-structured, clear, and well-written; students are marked separately.

### Initial Project Proposal

Each student will be required to contribute to the development and writing of a first draft of a project proposal. The specific format of this proposal, and the assignment of responsibilities, will be developed in consultation with the students. The instructor's assessment will be based on the degree to which the written component is comprehensive, well-structured, clear, and well-written; all students working on the project get the same mark.

### Final Project Proposal

Each student will be required to contribute to the development and writing of a final project proposal. The specific format of this proposal, and the assignment of responsibilities, will be developed in consultation with the students. The instructor's assessment will be based on the degree to which the written component is comprehensive, well-structured, clear, and well-written; all students working on the project get the same mark.

### Project Presentation

Each student will be required to contribute to the development and delivery of an in-class presentation (perhaps with invited guests) in which the goals, methods, and results of the project will be discussed. The specific format of this presentation (e.g. powerpoint, poster, video), and the assignment of responsibilities, will be developed in consultation with the students. The instructor's assessment will be based on the degree to which the presentation is comprehensive, well-structured, clear, and well-presented; students are marked separately.

### Final Project Report

Each student will be required to contribute to the development and delivery of final project report. The specific format of the report, and the assignment of responsibilities, will be developed in consultation with the students. The instructor's assessment will be based on the degree to which the report is complete, well-structured, clear, and well-written; all students working on the project get the same mark.

### Grading

A+ = 90% and up	B+ = 75-79.9	C+ = 65-69.9	D = 50-54.9
A = 83-89.9	B = 70-74.9	C = 55-64.9	F= 49.9 and below
A- = 80-82.9			

The numeric boundaries separating letter grades may be altered at the demand of the Departmental Review Committee. Grades are not final until approved by the University Senate. **WEDNESDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> is the FINAL DATE to withdraw without academic penalty. Withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.**

## Important Dates

Date	Importance
Thu Jan 6	First lecture in this course
Thu Jan 20	Initial Project Proposal
Thu Feb 3	Final Project Proposal
Feb 20-26	No Classes; Mid-term Reading Week
Mon Feb 21	Louis Riel Day: University Closed
Wed Mar 16	Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty*
Tue Apr 5	Last lecture in this course
Tue Apr 5	Project Presentations
Tue Apr 5	Final Project Report due

\* **Voluntary Withdrawal:** 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 refer to the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Academic Calendar for Voluntary Withdrawal procedures. Please note that withdrawing before the Voluntary Withdrawal date does not result in fee refund.

Should it be necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, the instructor will make every effort to inform students via UWinnipeg email.

Alternate due dates for assignments will be considered in very exceptional cases and for legitimate reasons only; vacation travel is not an acceptable reason. Documentation (i.e., proof of illness or circumstances beyond your control) is required before alternate arrangements can be made.

### Nexus Site for the Course:

The Nexus site (<https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/>) will be used to communicate with the students (e.g., Announcements) and to post reading materials, presentations, reports, or useful links (<https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/>).

If you are having difficulties with Nexus contact the help desk at (204) 786-9149 or [help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca).

## OTHER INFORMATION

Students are expected to conduct themselves according to the standards and regulations set out by the University of Winnipeg. The University Senate would like you to be particularly aware of the following regulations appearing in the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Academic Calendar under **REGULATIONS & POLICIES: Grading** (Section 4); **Grade Appeals** (Section 10), and; **Student Discipline** (Section 8), especially the definitions of **plagiarism** (Section 8.a.i) and **cheating** (Section 8.a.ii.).

### ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information on Academic Regulations and Policies listed in the 2021-22 University of Winnipeg Undergraduate Academic Calendar [www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/calendar-calendar](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/calendar-calendar). This section covers classroom regulations, grading, transcripts, challenge for credit, academic standing, student discipline (academic and non-academic misconduct), appeals including grade appeals, general university policies and codes, and graduation. You can find information on plagiarism by watching the University of Winnipeg library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>

A summary of important information regarding Academic Misconduct follows. Where discrepancies exist between the text below and the Undergraduate Academic Calendar, the Undergraduate Academic Calendar will prevail.

### Forms of Academic Misconduct:

- **Plagiarism:** includes presenting other people’s published or unpublished work 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.

- Cheating: includes copying another person's answer on a test, communicating with another person during a test or 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, purchasing tests, essays or other assignments and submitting the work as your own.
- Improper Academic/Research practices include: 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: both impersonation of another 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.

#### **Penalties for Academic Misconduct:**

Penalties for academic misconduct 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 U or W degree, certificate or diploma
- Expulsion from the University

#### **Procedures for Academic Misconduct:**

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. 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, visit <https://theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy/> or call 204-786-9780.

#### **Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures:**

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

#### **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>

#### **Misuse of Filesharing Sites:**

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) involves "aiding and abetting" plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.

#### **Avoiding 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, videos, and presentation slides. 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 photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.

#### **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>

#### **ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES:**

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers), are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771, or [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

#### **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/>.

#### **SCENT-FREE ENVIRONMENT:**

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

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS:**

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 an opportunity for students to make up work or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

#### **STUDENT WELLNESS:**

The University of Winnipeg provides comprehensive general and specialized counselling and health services to all students for free at the Wellness Centre, located on the first floor of the Duckworth Centre (1D25). For more information see <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness/>

#### **UW SAFE:**

In the event of an emergency, please dial police at 911 or campus security at 204-786-6666 for help. Everyone is urged to download [UW Safe](#), our new campus safety app for mobile devices (through the [Apple](#) or [Google Play](#) app store). It has emergency contact numbers ready to go with one click. It also contains a "friend walk" option that allows you to be visible in real time as you walk to a destination. SafeRide and SafeWalk programs are also available to everyone on campus including evening hours. The University of Winnipeg has, in addition to the Respectful Working Environment Policy described below, policies and practices related to sexual violence. These are accessible here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/sexual-violence/index.html>. If you have experienced sexual violence, here are some important support telephone numbers:

- University Sexual Violence Response Line: 204-230-6660
- Klinik Sexual Assault Crisis Program 204-786-8631 or 204-784-4049 (also available after business hours)
- At Health Science Centre: 204-HSC 787-2071, ask for the sexual assault Nurse examiner (also available after business hours)

**RESPECTFUL WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**

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](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect)

**CLASS CANCELLATIONS:**

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, I will make every effort to inform students via UWinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline), as well as the Departmental Assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.

**CHANGE TO FORMAT OF COURSE?**

Although unlikely, it is possible that health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 may necessitate the course going online (Zoom). Should this happen, every effort will be made to minimize the disruption to the content and quality of the course and to accommodate the needs of the students.

**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>).