



# BIOL\*1500 Humans in the Natural World

Fall 2020

Section(s): 01

Department of Integrative Biology

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - July 13, 2020

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## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Calendar Description

This course will examine past and present human interactions with Nature from an ecological perspective. It investigates current global issues that require multi-disciplinary environmental analysis.

**Restrictions:** Students in the BAS, BSC and BSC(ENV) program cannot take this course for credit.

### 1.2 Course Description

This course will examine past, present and future Human interactions with Nature from an ecological perspective. To do this, students are first introduced to science as a way of knowing, the scientific method, and basic evolutionary and ecological principles. Using these tools we will seriously challenge your thinking about what a 'Human' is, and our understanding of the evolutionary and ecological factors that have brought *Homo sapiens* to this critical point in its trajectory. The next step in the investigation is to explore the concept of 'Nature' in its past, present and future conditions. Finally, we consider the evolutionary/ecological role of 'Humans' in a 'Natural World' - or is it the other way around? This lecture-based course is designed for non-science students; B.Sc. students can not take this course for credit.

\*\*Instructor for this course is TBD; course topics, assessments and outline are subject to change. This is a draft course outline and is subject to change up to the first day of classes, in keeping with the policy described in the University of Guelph Academic Calendar.

### 1.3 Timetable

TBD

## 1.4 Final Exam

Final Exam time and location are subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

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## 2 Instructional Support

### 2.1 Instructional Support Team

**Instructor:** TBA (Sessional Instructor)  
**Office Hours:** \*Course outline/instructor subject to change

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## 3 Learning Resources

### 3.1 Required Resources

#### Courselink (Website)

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca>

In the contents section of courselink you will find essential documents, assigned readings and discussion threads that will be directly related to lecture discussions.

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## 4 Learning Outcomes

### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Evaluate the validity of knowledge based upon its type, origin, effect, and source
  2. Recognise scientific sources of knowledge and design ways of acquiring more of it
  3. Explain evolutionary and ecological principles, and apply them to the relationship between Humans and the Natural World
  4. Understand and appreciate basic aspects of the history of humanity, recognise key uncertainties in our understanding of that history, and how cultural knowledge systems can address those key uncertainties.
  5. Describe the changes in the relationship that humans have had with the natural world with respect to evolutionary and ecological principles.
  6. Critically evaluate your own assumptions and reflect upon them
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

## 5.1 Lecture

### Week 1

**Topics:** Human Culture - Knowledge Systems  
Science Knowledge System

### Week 2

**Topics:** Principles of Evolution  
Principles of Ecology

### Week 3

**Topics:** What is a 'Human'?  
Evolutionary History of Homo Sapiens

### Week 4

**Topics:** Current and Future Status of Homo sapiens  
Domestication as an Evolutionary/Ecological Mechanism

### Week 5

**Topics:** What is 'Nature'?  
What is a 'Natural World'?

### Week 6

**Topics:** Speciation and Biodiversity  
Midterm Exam (in-class)

### Week 7

**Topics:** Ontario Then and Now

Ecological Footprint

**Week 8**

**Topics:** Nothing can be done?

Lawyers, Guns and Money

**Week 9**

**Topics:** Case: Lions and Tigers

Case: White Bears

**Week 10**

**Topics:** Case: White Sharks

The Sixth Extinction

**Week 11**

**Topics:** Plague

Ender's Game

**Week 12**

**Topics:** Highly Uncertain Future of Homo sapiens

Synthesis

## 5.2 Important Dates

Thursday, September 10th 2020 - First day of classes.

TBD - Midterm Exam during class time.

TBD - Last day to drop this course.

Friday, December 4th 2020 - Last day of classes.

TBD – Final Exam.

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## 6 Assessments

### 6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Name	Scheme A (%)
Jumping to Conclusions Ass#1	20
Midterm Exam	20
Problem Animal Ass#2	30
Final Exam	30
Total	100

### 6.2 Assessment Details

#### **Jumping to Conclusions (Courselink) (20%)**

**Date:** TBD

Courselink submission of student narration/analysis of jumping to conclusion in specific real-life circumstance, along with respectful/critical analysis and dialogue regarding other group student submissions.

#### **Midterm (20%)**

**Date:** TBD

**Learning Outcome:** 1, 2, 3

General/specific concepts from first half of course

#### **Problem Animal (30%)**

**Date:** TBD

Courselink submission of student narration/analysis of well-researched case study in which Humans have caused significant ecological harm to a wild plant or animal species/population, along with respectful/critical analysis and dialogue regarding other group student submissions.

#### **Exam (30%)**

**Date:** TBD

**Learning Outcome:** 2, 3, 4

General concepts from first half of course, general/specific concepts from second half of course

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## 7 Course Statements

## 7.1 Requests for Deadline Extensions or Other Consideration

If you require an extension for a medical or otherwise legitimate and approved reason, you are to contact the Instructor prior to the deadline. All requests made after the deadline will not be considered.

You are expected to save backed up versions of your work (drop box or Google Drive work very well and if you need help in learning how to use these, come to my office hours). All requests for consideration made due to a crashing computer (or similar) will not be considered.

You are expected to submit the correct version of your assignments. All requests to resubmit an updated version will not be considered.

You are expected to ensure that your assignments have been correctly uploaded and verified by the courselink drop box system. All requests to resubmit due to a failure to verify will not be considered.

**If you are varsity athlete**, it is expected that you will make requests for accommodating your away game schedule at least one month prior to the assignment deadline. All requests made after this time will not be considered. If there is a conflict with the game schedule and your midterm, then the weight of the midterm will be transferred to your final exam.

## 7.2 Expectations and grade policy

BIOL\*1500 has a 0.5 credit weight. At the University of Guelph, this translates to an expectation of 10-12 hours of deliberate and productive work per week ( <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-aload.shtml>). If you notice that you are not fulfilling this expectation, please meet with your instructors to discuss strategies.

You are expected to become familiar with the University of Guelph grading policy ( <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2016-2017/c08/c08-grds-proc.shtml>). Here it is clearly stated what the expectations are in accordance with each letter grade. For example, an assignment evaluated at 80% or higher has the following attributes:

*80 - 100 (A) Excellent. An outstanding performance in which the student demonstrates a superior grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to go beyond the given material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a high degree of creative and/or logical thinking, a superior ability to organize, to analyze, and to integrate ideas, and a thorough familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.*

If you find yourself at risk of not achieving your goals, please make sure that you seek help from you Instructor.

## 8 Department of Integrative Biology Statements

## 8.1 Academic Advisors

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program:

- Make an appointment with a program counsellor in your degree program. [B.Sc. Academic Advising](#) or [Program Counsellors](#)

## 8.2 Academic Support

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

- Learning Commons: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills. You can also set up individualized appointments with a learning specialist.  
<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>
- Science Commons: Located in the library, the Science Commons provides support for physics, mathematic/statistics, and chemistry. Details on their hours of operations can be found at: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/chemistry-physics-help> and <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/math-stats-help>

## 8.3 Wellness

If you are struggling with personal or health issues:

- Counselling services offers individualized appointments to help students work through personal struggles that may be impacting their academic performance.  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>
- Student Health Services is located on campus and is available to provide medical attention. <https://www.uoguelph.ca/studenthealthservices/clinic>
- For support related to stress and anxiety, besides Health Services and Counselling Services, Kathy Somers runs training workshops and one-on-one sessions related to stress management and high performance situations.  
<http://www.selfregulationskills.ca/>

## 8.4 Personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) <http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/index.html>. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes.

For more information regarding the Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

policies please see the Undergraduate Calendar.  
 (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/intro/index.shtml>)

## 9 University Statements

### 9.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

### 9.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### 9.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### 9.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be



asked to resubmit work at any time.

## 9.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website  
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 9.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 9.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## 9.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

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