

**ENVS\*2230 Communications in Environmental Science**

### Winter 2018

Section(s): C01

School of Environmental Sciences Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 15, 2018

# Course Details

## Calendar Description

This course provides students with direct training in the academic skills used in researching and communicating environmental science. Within the context of current problems in environmental science, students will develop skills in library research, statistical interpretation, oral and poster presentation and written communication to diverse audiences. Students will research and report on scientific issues within environmental issues being reported in the media.

#### Pre-Requisite(s): Restriction(s):

* 1. **Timetable**

1 of ENVM\*1000, ENVM\*1200, ENVS\*1030

Registration in BBRM, BSC(Env) or BSC(Agr) programs.

Lecture: Thursdays 8:30 AM - 9:20 AM in MCKN Room 225 Seminar: Thursdays 2:30 PM - 5:20 PM in MCKN Room 228

## Final Exam

There is no final exam

# 2 Instructional Support

## 2.1 Instructor(s)

#### Simone Haerri Email: Telephone: Office:

**Office Hours:**

shaerri@uoguelph.ca

+1-519-824-4120 x56681

Bovey building (ECBA) Room 2216

Thursdays 10:00 – 12:00 and by appointment.

# Learning Resources

## Required Resource(s)

#### Tophat (Website)

<https://app.tophat.com/e/569830>

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We will be using the Top Hat ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com/)) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. As cell coverage can be spotty on campus, I recommend connecting through the University of Guelph's wifi.

Top Hat allows us to provide a more engaging and interactive environment, that ultimately helps your learning and boosts your understanding of core concepts. It also allows us to get immediate feedback from you and allows us to adjust the course content accordingly.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat- [Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide](https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide)) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don’t receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: https://app.tophat.com/e/569830

Note: our Course Join Code is 569830

Unfortunately, Top Hat requires a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: [www.tophat.com/pricing](http://www.tophat.com/pricing).

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888- 663-5491.

## Additional Resource(s)

#### CourseLink (Website)

<http://courselink.uoguelph.ca/>

The instructor uses CourseLink for posting class announcements, hand-outs, slides from lectures, class readings, grades and other required and recommended materials that is

relevant to this course. You are responsible to check this site often.

# Learning Outcomes

## Course Learning Outcomes

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

* + 1. Develop and write a scientific research paper including researching literature, designing an experiment and statistically analyzing data.
		2. Design and create a scientific poster by simplifying and condensing information from a written research paper and by applying design principles focusing on clear and creative communication methods.
		3. Communicate effectively an important environmental issue to a lay audience using various media tools
		4. Practice extemporaneous (without many notes) oral presentations in front of your peers.
		5. Identify and discuss challenges for scientific writing by editing and simplifying texts.
		6. Demonstrate your understanding of the important aspects of effective communication by evaluating presentations and written work by your peers

## BSc (Env) Program Learning Outcomes

Successfully completing this course will contribute to the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Outcome Set Name | Course Learning Outcome |
| 1 | Discover relationships within and between biotic and abiotic components of environments and their significance, by building from inventory and classification to experimentation and analysis. | 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| 2 | Evaluate multiple solutions to various environmental and scientific questions and assess potential outcomes to justify optimal and ethical solutions. | 3, 4 |
| 3 | Select and execute appropriate technical and analytical methods to answer questions in the environmental sciences through field and laboratory experiences. | 1, 2 |
| 4 | Choose and utilize appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze and interpret environmental data. | 1, 2, 4, 5 |
| 5 | Demonstrate the ability to find and critically evaluate information within diverse contexts, including scientific, technical, and popular formats. | 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 6 | Effectively communicate ideas and information in graphic, oral and written formats, while demonstrating fluency in the terminology of environmental sciences. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Outcome Set Name | Course Learning Outcome |
| 7 | Apply the scientific process and demonstrate an understanding of its value and limitations across a spectrum of academic activities, from the practical to the philosophical. | 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| 8 | Develop an appreciation for the historical evolution of environmental issues and associated changes in analytical and field techniques. | 3 |
| 9 | Apply existing knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar scenarios and environments. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 |
| 10 | Demonstrate personal and professional integrity by respecting diverse points of view. This can be achieved through discussions, teamwork, and debates. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
|  |  |  |

# Teaching and Learning Activities

The schedule below includes the lectures and the seminars and is subject to change.

## Lecture

#### Week 1

**Topic(s):**

**Week 2**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 3**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 4**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 5**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 6**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 7**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 8**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 9**

**Topic(s):**

**Week 10 Topic(s):**

**Week 11 Topic(s):**

Introduction and importance of science communication Tips and tricks for oral presentations

Student presentations and data interpretation Scientific papers

Statistics, literature search and referencing Writing tips and paper review session

How to create a poster

Introduction to science communication Poster presentations and research briefs Student presentations to lay audience Science communication part II

#### Week 12 Topic(s):

Wrap-up and science communication exhibit

# Assessments

## Marking Schemes & Distributions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Scheme A (%) |
| Oral presentation to scientific audience | 10.00 |
| Research - First submission | 20.00 |
| Poster presentation | 10.00 |
| Oral presentation to a lay audience | 10.00 |
| Research paper - Second submission | 10.00 |
| Science communication piece | 20.00 |
| Seminar participation | 20.00 |
| Total | 100.00 |

* 1. **Assessment Details**

#### Oral presentation to scientific audience (10.00%) Date: Thu, Jan 25

You will get a chance to resubmit your powerpoint file after my feedback by February 3, 2018

#### Research paper - First submission (20.00%) Date: Thu, Feb 15

If you want your paper peer-reviewed, you need to submit it by February 15th. You can then resubmit it again by February 18th, 2017

**Poster presentation (10.00%) Date:** Thu, Mar 15

This is a group project. Each group consists of 2 students.

#### Oral presentation to a lay audience (10.00%) Date: Thu, Mar 22

**Research paper - Second submission (10.00%) Date:** Sun, Mar 25

**Science communication piece (20.00%) Date:** Thu, Apr 5

This assignment can be done individually or in groups of two.

#### Seminar participation (20.00%) Date: Ongoing

Seminar and lecture participation via Tophat.

6.3 Additional Notes

For the seminar participation, you will receive full marks when obtaining a Top Hat grade of 85%

or higher (i.e I “gift” you 25%). For a grade below 85%, the bonus marks will be adjusted accordingly (i.e a 70% will be a 95%)

# Course Statements

## Grading Policies

Assignments are to be submitted online via D2L before midnight on the due date. Assignments handed-in late, for which an extension has not been granted ahead of time, will lose 10% of the total marks for every day (or part thereof) that it is late. If you require an extension on an assignment, you must have a valid reason and contact Dr. Härri in advance of the due date.

## Group Work

This course encourages group work and collaborative problem solving for solving the Top Hat discussions and questions during the lectures and seminars. The poster presentations are completed in groups of two. The science communication assignment can either be completed as a group or individually. The research paper and paper presentations should reflect the opinion of the student alone and should be the original work of the student. For group assignments, the completed assignment should contain only work which has been produced by members of the group in question.

## Plagiarism software - Turnitin

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

# University Statements

## 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.

## 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 regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml) are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two- semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## 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.

## 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.

More information: [www.uoguelph.ca/sas](http://www.uoguelph.ca/sas)

## Academic Misconduct

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 discourages misconduct. 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.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Recording of Materials

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

## Resources

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

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