# Course Outline Form: Winter 2016

## General Information

**Course Title:** ENVS\*2340 - Current Issues in Agriculture and Landscape Management

**Course Description:**

Agricultural production has made significant advances over the past few centuries that have been critical to meeting the needs of the world’s growing population. At the same time, agriculture causes significant impacts on the environment, and environmental issues threaten the future of agriculture. In this course, we will examine environmental issues at the local, regional and global levels and their relationships to agricultural production in order to develop an understanding of the interactions between agriculture and the environment; the critical environmental issues facing the agricultural sector and humanity as a whole; and measures that may help to mitigate the impacts of these environmental challenges.

This course provides an introduction to a range of specific environmental and resource issues in agriculture and landscape management. Issues to be covered may include: agricultural impacts on the environment; environmental issues affecting agriculture; challenges to increased agricultural production; soils - movement of groundwater contaminants and source water protection; land use issues; pesticide issues; genetically modified crops; invasive species; climate change and agriculture.

**Credit Weight:** 0.50

**Academic Department (or campus):** School of Environmental Sciences

**Campus:** Guelph

**Semester Offering:** W16

**Class Schedule and Location:**

Lectures: Tues & Thur, 11:30am-12:50pm; Richards Building, Rm 2529

Seminars: Section 101 (2041) - Tues 2:30-3:20pm; Crop Science Building, Rm 403

Section 102 (2042) - Wed 10:30-11:20am; MacNaughton Building, Rm 202

Section 103 (2043) - Mon 2:30-3:20pm; MacNaughton Building, Rm 202

Section 104 (2044) - Mon 8:30-9:20am; MacNaughton Building, Rm 202

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Rebecca H. Hallett

Instructor Email: [rhallett@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rhallett@uoguelph.ca)

Office location and office hours: EC Bovey Building, Rm 2240. Office hours by appointment. Please contact your Instructor by email to arrange an appointment.

## GTA Information

GTA Name: Pamela Loughran

GTA Email: [ploughra@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ploughra@uoguelph.ca)

GTA office location and office hours: EC Bovey Building, Rm 2112. Office hours by appointment. Please contact your TA by email to arrange an appointment.

## Course Content

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of both the science behind, and the policy context for, current environmental issues in agriculture and landscape management,
2. Develop an understanding of the interactions between agriculture and the environment,
3. Critically analyse environmental issues facing the agricultural sector and humanity as a whole; and measures that may help to mitigate the impacts of these environmental challenges,
4. ­Explore the challenges of developing science-based policy, and the participatory nature of policy development today,
5. Develop literacy, communication and professional skills through work on a major group project and oral presentation, requiring library and web-based research.

This course addresses the following University Learning Outcomes:

1. **Global Understanding:** Global Understanding, Sense of Historical Development. Assessed through quizzes, discussion paper assignments and opinion editorial assignment.
2. **Critical and Creative Thinking:** Inquiry and Analysis, Problem Solving, Depth and Breadth of Understanding. Assessed through quizzes, discussion paper assignments, opinion editorial assignment and peer evaluations of oral presentations.
3. **Literacy:** Information Literacy, Quantitative Literacy. Assessed through quizzes, opinion editorial assignment, and peer evaluations of oral presentations.
4. **Communicating:** Oral Communication, Written Communication, Reading Comprehension. Assessed through quizzes, discussion paper assignments, opinion editorial assignment, and oral presentation.
5. **Professional and Ethical Behaviour:** Teamwork, Leadership, Personal Organization and Time Management). Assessed through quizzes, discussion paper assignments, opinion editorial assignment, and oral presentation.

### Lecture Content:

In order to expose students to a variety of topics of current concern, as well as to experts conducting research in these areas, lectures will be delivered by the Instructor and by Guest lecturers.

**Winter 2016 Schedule of Lectures** (Please note that this schedule is subject to change).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Lecturer** | **Topic** |
| 1 | 12-Jan | RHH | Course Outline, Assignment Overview and Instructions |
|  | 14-Jan | RHH | Introduction to Agriculture & Environmental Issues |
| 2 | 19-Jan | RHH | Environmental Issues affecting agriculture |
|  | 21-Jan | P.K. Sibley | Risk Assessment |
| 3 | 26-Jan | J. Lauzon | Surface Water Manure Management Concerns  **(Group Presentation time sign-up begins**) |
|  | 28-Jan | E. Arnaud | Movement of Pathogens following Manure Application |
| 4 | 2-Feb | K. Congreves | Nitrogen Management in Intensive Horticultural Crops |
|  | 4-Feb | RHH | Pesticides & Agroecosystems  **Group Project Contracts due.** |
| 5 | 9-Feb | **Quiz 1** |  |
|  | 11-Feb | RHH | Pesticide Issues – Measuring Environmental Impacts |
|  | 15-19 Feb |  | READING WEEK – No classes |
| 6 | 23-Feb | N. Raine | Pollinators, Pesticides & Policy |
|  | 25-Feb | RHH | Genetically Modified Crops – Introduction and BT crops  **Opinion Editorial assignment due** |
| 7 | 1-Mar | F. Tardif | Genetically Modified Crops – HT crops and weed issues |
|  | 3-Mar | RHH | Climate Change – Adaptation & Mitigation |
| 8 | 8-Mar | K. Congreves | Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Agriculture |
|  | 10-Mar | **Quiz 2** |  |
| 9 | 15-Mar | Students | Group Project Presentations (3) |
|  | 17-Mar | Students | Group Project Presentations (3) |
| 10 | 22-Mar | Students | Group Project Presentations (3) |
|  | 24-Mar | Students | Group Project Presentations (3) |
| 11 | 29-Mar | Students | Group Project Presentations (3) |
|  | 31-Mar | Students | Group Project Presentations (2) & Course Evaluation |
| 12 | 5-Apr | Students | Group Project Presentations (3) |
|  | 7-Apr | Students | Group Project Presentations (3) |

### Seminars:

Seminars are designed to provide students with a forum for discussion of papers relevant to lecture material, information related to the group project and individual work, and coordination of group project activities.

**Winter 2016 Schedule of Seminars** (Please note that this schedule is subject to change).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Dates** | **Activities** |
| 1 | 11-13 Jan | No seminars this week |
| 2 | 18-20 Jan | Kim Garwood, Library Services – Creating Opinion Editorials.  Formation of groups for oral presentations (within seminar section). |
| 3 | 25-27 Jan | Discussion Paper 1 – Session A |
| 4 | 1-3 Feb | Discussion Paper 1 and Tips on OpEd assignment – Session B. |
| 5 | 8-10 Feb | Discussion Paper 2 and Tips on OpEd assignment – Session A |
|  | 15-19 Feb | READING WEEK – No classes |
| 6 | 22-24 Feb | Discussion Paper 2 and Tips on Oral Presentations – Session B |
| 7 | 29 Feb-2 Mar | Discussion Paper 3 and Tips on Oral Presentations – Session A |
| 8 | 7-9 Mar | Discussion Paper 3 – Session B |
| 9 | 14-16 Mar | Group Work Session |
| 10 | 21-23 Mar | Group Work Session |
| 11 | 28-30 Mar | Group Work Session |
| 12 | 4-6 Apr | Group Work Session |

### Course Assignments and Tests:

| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Individual Work** |  | **65%** |  |
| Quiz 1 | Feb 9 | 15 | 1,2,3,4,5 |
| Quiz 2 | Mar 10 | 15 | 1,2,3,4,5 |
| Discussion Paper 1 | Weeks 3 & 4 | 5\* | 1,2,4,5 |
| Discussion Paper 2 | Weeks 5 & 6 | 5\* | 1,2,4,5 |
| Discussion Paper 3 | Weeks 7 & 8 | 5\* | 1,2,4,5 |
| Opinion Editorial | Feb 25 | 20 | 1,2,3,4,5 |
| **Group Research Project** |  | **35%** |  |
| Oral Presentation | Mar 15-Apr 7 | 25\*\* | 4,5 |
| Evaluation – Oral Presentation 1 | Mar 15-Apr 7 | 5\*\*\* | 2,3 |
| Evaluation – Oral Presentation 2 | Mar 15-Apr 7 | 5\*\*\* | 2,3 |

Additional Notes:

Quizzes:

* Quiz questions will be drawn from lecture materials and discussion papers.
* Quiz 1 will cover all lectures from Jan 12 to Feb 2 inclusive, and Discussion Paper 1.
* Quiz 2 will cover all lectures from Feb 4 to Mar 8 inclusive, and Discussion Papers 2 & 3.

\*Discussion Papers:

* The 5% value for each Discussion Paper will be comprised of the following components:2% for submitted question, 1% for facilitating question , and 2% for participation in discussions during seminar session.
* Students will submit a discussion question for each of the 3 assigned Discussion Papers.
* Discussion questions must be **submitted by 4pm on Friday of the week prior** to the seminar discussion period for each of the papers.
* Students are expected to attend seminars in designated weeks and participate actively in discussions.

\*\*Group Research Project (Oral Presentation):

* Students will complete a major group research project on a specific environmental issue or policy. This project will be presented in class.
* Each group is required to prepare and submit a Group Contract signed by all members of the group. The Group Contract is intended to help with project planning and group performance during the research project and will include a description of the expectations and responsibilities of each member of the group, and a realistic timeline (or milestones) for completion of specific project components and activities. The group contract must be signed by all members of the group, and be submitted to Dropbox by **4pm on Thursday Feb 4**. For any group that fails to submit a signed contract, a 10% deduction will be applied to the group project grade.
* Students will complete peer evaluations for every member of their group. Peer evaluations will be used at the Instructor’s discretion to modify the grade of any individual based on their level of contributions and participation in all aspects of the group project. If you do not submit peer evaluations, a 10% deduction will be applied to your individual group project grade.

\*\*\*Evaluations of Oral Presentations:

* Students will evaluate 2 randomly determined presentations by other groups. You will not know which group presentations you are evaluating until you arrive at class. If you miss a presentation evaluation, then you will receive no marks for that evaluation. Your evaluation cannot be rescheduled.
* Students are expected to attend and actively engage in all presentations.

### Final examination date and time: There will be no final exam for this course.

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

There is no required textbook for this course.

### Recommended Texts:

There is no recommended textbook for this course.

### Other Resources:

All Course readings, lecture slides and handouts, etc will be made available through the CourseLink site for this course.

All assigned readings are considered required readings, unless the Instructor explicitly indicates otherwise.

## Course Policies

### Grading Policies:

All written assignments (i.e. OpEd assignment, discussion questions, peer evaluations of group project) are to be submitted to the corresponding DropBox in CourseLink, except for the evaluations of oral presentations, which are to be handed in to the Instructor at the end of the presentation session to which they apply.

**Policies related to late submission of specific assignments are provided below**. In all cases, if you cannot meet a course requirement, let Dr. Rebecca Hallett (rhallett@uoguelph.ca) know as soon as possible, and preferably before the due date. The opportunity to write **missed Quizzes** and **extensions to submitted work** will **only** be granted for medical reasons, documented by a Doctor’s note; or for documented compassionated reasons, at the discretion of the Instructor.

Opinion Editorial:

* Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day and will no longer be accepted a week after the due date.

Discussion Papers:

* Students must submit discussion questions according to the schedule for their assigned session (A or B).
* Discussion questions must be **submitted by 4pm on Friday of the week prior** to the seminar discussion period for each of the papers.
* There will be a 50% penalty for discussion questions submitted up to 24 hrs late (i.e. 1% of final mark), and discussion questions will not be accepted if they are more than 24 hrs late.

Group Research Project (Oral Presentation) – Group Contract:

* Each group is required to prepare and submit a Group Contract signed by all members of the group. The Group Contract must be submitted to Dropbox by **4pm on Thursday Feb 4**.
* For any group that fails to submit a signed contract, a 10% deduction will be applied to the group project grade.

Group Research Project (Oral Presentation) - Peer Evaluations:

* Students will complete peer evaluations for every member of their group. Peer evaluations will be used at the Instructor’s discretion to modify the grade of any individual based on their level of contributions and participation in all aspects of the group project.
* Peer Evaluations must be **submitted by 5pm on the day following** your oral presentation.
* If you do not submit peer evaluations, a 10% deduction will be applied to your individual group project grade.

Evaluations of Oral Presentations:

* Evaluations of the presentations to which you are randomly assigned are to be **handed in to the Instructor at the end of the presentation session** to which they apply.
* If you miss a presentation evaluation, then you will receive 0 marks for that evaluation. Your evaluation cannot be rescheduled.

### Course Policy on Group Work:

Group work is required on the Group Research Project, which includes group meetings, preparation of group contract and an oral presentation. All group members are expected to participate and contribute equally to the research and oral presentation. Group participation will be evaluated through group peer evaluation. All group members are expected to behave professionally and ethically in all group activities.

### Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor and the presenter (i.e. the instructor, guest lecturer, or student). When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

## University Policies

### Academic Consideration:

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting students in their learning experiences and responding to their individual needs and is aware that a variety of situations or events beyond the student's control may affect academic performance. Support is provided to accommodate academic needs in the face of personal difficulties or unforeseen events in the form of Academic Consideration.

Information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions, including categories, grounds, timelines and appeals can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml).

### 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.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Misconduct policy is available in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml).

### Accessibility:

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or visit the [Student Accessibility Services website (http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/)](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).

### Course Evaluation Information:

End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions used as an important component in the Faculty Tenure and Promotion process, and as valuable feedback to help instructors enhance the quality of their teaching effectiveness and course delivery.

While many course evaluations are conducted in class others are now conducted online. Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/) **for more information.**

### Drop period:

The drop period for single semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period and extends to the Fortieth (40th) class day of the current semester (the last date to drop a single semester courses without academic penalty) which is listed in [Section III (Schedule of Dates) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/).

The drop period for two semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period in the first semester and extends to the last day of the add period in the second semester.

Information about Dropping Courses can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/).

## Additional Course Information

**Copies of out-of-class assignments:**

Keep paper and/or other reliable electronic back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.