# Course Outline Form: Fall 2016

## General Information

**Course Title:** Project in Environmental Sciences ENVS\*4001/4002

**Course Description:** This capstone course for the Environmental Sciences program will consist of two components: 1. *A group research project* - The main purpose of this project course is to have students conduct a group project, for an external client, that focuses on a current environmental issue and provides the opportunity to obtain realistic research experience within an interdisciplinary environmental science context involving natural, physical, and social science elements. *2.* *Periodic seminars/discussions* - Seminars, which may include guest lectures, are offered throughout both semesters on an irregular basis and will focus on developing students’ professional skills. These workshops will focus on topics such as and not exclusive to group dynamics, poster design, and research methods and tools, and are designed to assist your group’s project delivery.

**Credit Weight:** 1.00

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

**Campus:** Guelph

**Semester Offering:** F and W (must be completed consecutively)

**Class Schedule and Location:** Thursday 7:00pm-9:50pm, THRN 1307

 (Note: this may change for the winter semester)

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Shelley Hunt and Dr. Naresh Thevathasan

Instructor Email: shunt@uoguelph.ca and nthevath@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: Dr. Hunt - Rm. 220 Alexander Hall

 Dr. Thevathasan – Rm. 121 Alexander Hall

 Office Hours: Dr. Hunt – T, Th, 2:00pm-3:30pm

 Dr. Thevathasan – by appointment

## GTA Information

GTA Name: Tyson Jennett

GTA Email: tjennett@uoguelph.ca

## Course Content

Students in this two-semester series of courses will:

* Identify and analyse a real-world environmental problem for a client in the environmental sector (LO1)
* Apply effective communication skills (orally, in writing and graphically) to determine, in collaboration with the client, the terms of reference of their group’s project, and later to present the results (LO2)
* Create a plan for concrete action towards addressing their assigned problem (LO3)
* Execute their plan, which may consist of any or all of the following:
	+ Analysing existing environmental data (LO4)
	+ Collecting new data (LO5)
	+ Analysing and synthesizing information (scientific and government literature expert opinion) (LO6)
* Apply and hone specific discipline-related skills learned in previous courses (e.g. GIS, specialized statistics, economic analyses) the nature of which will depend on the individual project (LO7)
* Recommend further action to the client towards solving the environmental problem (LO8)
* Collaborate effectively with their group members (LO9)

### Lecture Content:

### Not applicable.

### Labs:

This course has one 3-hour ‘lab’ per week, which is primarily used for group project work time and project consultation with the instructors. Formal course material delivered during class time will include guest lectures on careers and research in the environmental sciences, as well as technical material such as poster design and report writing.

### Seminars:

Not applicable.

### Course Assignments and Tests:

| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Annotated bibliography | Friday, Sept 29th  | 5 | LO2, LO6, LO8 |
| Work plan | Friday, October 21st (to client); Friday, October 28th (to instructors) | 5 | LO1, LO2, LO3, LO9 |
| Proposal | Friday, November 18th  | 15 | LO1, LO2, LO3, LO9 |
| Public presentation (poster) | To be determined in W16 | 15 | LO2, LO8 |
| Final Report | To be determined in W16 | 50 | LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6, LO7, LO8, LO9 |
| Peer evaluation | To be determined in W16 | 10 | LO9 |

Additional Notes (if required):

None.

### Final examination date and time:

Not applicable.

### Final exam weighting:

Not applicable.

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

None.

### Recommended Texts:

### None.

### Lab Manual:

None.

### Other Resources:

Course material will be available through D2L.

### Field Trips:

None.

### Additional Costs:

None.

## Course Policies

### Grading Policies:

Assignments must be submitted via Courselink dropbox on D2L before midnight on the due date. Poster assignments will be due during the appropriate lab period or otherwise as assigned. All late assignments will receive a 10% deduction for each day, or part thereof, that they are late.

### Course Policy on Group Work:

Group work is mandatory in this course.

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

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. 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/).