# Course Outline Form: Fall 2016

## General Information

**Course Code:**

ENVS\*2070DE

**Course Title:**

Environmental Perspectives and Human Choices

**Course Description:**

This is an interdisciplinary approach to environmental issues which offers opportunities to investigate social processes and philosophical considerations with respect to the position and influence of humankind, and the development of social conditions, values and economic activities that have led to our present situation. These investigations are carried out within the context of physical environmental considerations, such as the state of the earth, forests, air water and our use of energy, and will lead the student to a detailed consideration of the future. (Offered through Distance Education format only.)

**Credit Weight:** 0.5

**Academic Department (or campus):**

School of Environmental Sciences

**Campus:**

**Semester Offering:**

Fall16

**Class Schedule and Location:**

Instructor Name: Professor Alan Watson

Instructor Email: awatson@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: ALEX Room 333. By appointment: please phone or e-mail.

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name:

Instructor Email:

Instructor Phone and Extension:

Office location and office hours:

## GTA Information

GTA Name: TBA

GTA Email:

GTA office location and office hours:

## Course Content

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will recognize the range of environmental issues.
2. The student will demonstrate the ways in which environmental and economic issues are interconnected.
3. The student will assess how our perspective on the natural environment effects our actions within it.
4. The student will transform an academic perspective on environmental issues to a more personal relationship with the issues.
5. The student will organize their learning in the course into a set of environmental actions.

**Lecture Content:**

## Unit 1: Introduction (Week 1)

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Course Materials

2.3 Course Objectives

2.4 Critical Thinking When Gathering Information

2.5Undergraduate Policies and Resources

## Unit 2: Populations and Resource Use in an Increasingly Urban World (Week 2)

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Objectives

2.3 Readings

2.4 Summary

Unit 3: Human Needs and Wants (Week 3)

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Objectives

3.3 Textbook Readings

* page 159 (Guest Statement by Dan Shrubsole)

3.4 Human Needs Throughout the World

* Hierarchy of needs
* Poverty: Failure to meet Human needs
* Environmental Repercussions

3.5 Defining needs as Stress Avoidance

3.6 Scarcity of Resources

3.7 Visioning

3.8 Summary

### Unit 4: The Role of Religion in Shaping Environmental Perspectives (Week 4)

### Unit Menu

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Learning Objectives

4.3 Religions and the Environment

* 4.3.1 Judeo-Christianity
* 4.3.2 Hinduism
* 4.3.3 Buddhism
* 4.3.4 Islam
* 4.3.5 Canadian First Nation Religions

4.4 Deep Ecology

* 4.4.1 Readings: Loggers' Suit Alleges Ecological 'Religion' Guides Forest Policy and Optional Readings

4.5 Summary

4.6 References

Unit 5: Land: Food and Feeding the World (Weeks 5 and 6)

Unit Menu

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Objectives

5.3 Readings

* Chapter 10

5.4 Summary

Unit 6: Water and Fisheries (Weeks 7 and 8)

Unit Menu:

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Objectives

6.3 Readings

* Chapter 8
* Chapter 11

6.4 Local Initiatives

6.5 Summary

Unit 7: Minerals and Energy (Week 9)

Unit Menu

7.1 Introduction

7.2 Objectives

7.3 Readings

* Chapter 12

7.4 Summary

Unit 8: The Forests (Week 10)

Unit Menu:

8.1 Introduction

8.2 Objectives

8.3 Readings

* Chapter 9

8.4 Summary

8.5 References

Unit 9: Making it Happen (Weeks 11 and 12)

Unit Menu

9.1 Introduction

9.2 Objectives

9.3 Readings

* Chapter 15

9.4 Summary

### Labs:

### Seminars:

### Course Assignments and Tests:

| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Précis and Reflection 1: Link from Week 1 or 2 | Midnight Sunday  of Week 2 | 5 | 2, 3 & 4 |
| Précis and Reflection 2: Link from Week 3 or 4 | Midnight Sunday  of Week 4 | 5 | 2, 3 & 4 |
| Essay 1 | Midnight Sunday  of Week 5 | 15 | 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Précis and Reflection 3: Link from Week 5 or 6 | Midnight Sunday  of Week 6 | 5 | 2, 3 & 4 |
| Essay 2 | Midnight Sunday  of Week 8 | 25 | 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Précis and Reflection 4:  Link from Week 7 or 8 | Midnight Sunday  of Week 8 | 5 | 2, 3 & 4 |
| Précis and Reflection 5:  Link from Week 9 or 10 | Midnight Sunday  of Week 10 | 5 | 2, 3 & 4 |
| Essay 3  (Take Home Final) | Midnight Wednesday December 7 | 35 | 1, 2, 3 & 4 |

Additional Notes (if required):

### Final examination date and time:

December 7, midnight

### Final exam weighting:

35%

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

Environmental Change and Challenges: A Canadian Perspective  
Edition: 5th  
Philip Dearden, Bruce Mitchell  
Oxford University Press, 2016.

### Recommended Texts:

### Lab Manual:

### Other Resources:

### Field Trips:

### Additional Costs:

## Course Policies

### Grading Policies:

Turnitin:

In this course, we 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.

Extensions Policy:

Any request for an extension must be e-mailed to awatson@uoguelph.ca before the assignment due date. Your e-mail request for an extension must have your completed work to date for the assignment attached. No extension will be granted if you have not completed what I consider to be a reasonable amount of work on the assignment.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Any assignment submitted after the due date will be considered late and there will be grade reductions based upon the following schedule:

* 1st, 2nd and 3rd day late: 10% of assignment grade value reduction for each day.
* 4th and subsequent days late: an additional 5% of assignment grade value reduction for each day.

### Course Policy on Group Work:

Group work is not allowed for any of the graded activities.

### 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/c08/c08-drop.shtml).

## Additional Course Information