

ENV221H1F: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Environment Fall 2020

Last Updated: September 8, 2020

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Location: online synchronous with recordings uploaded after lecture
Tutorials: Four tutorials are scheduled through the term: week of Sep 28, Oct 19, Nov 2, Nov 23.
Instructor: Karen Ing, ES2098, 416-978-4863; karen.ing@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: by appointment, and usually available after lectures

Teaching Assistants:

Course administration, such as request for extensions on assignments or missed tests should be addressed to the Head TA (Susan Frye, s.frye@mail.utoronto.ca).

Susan Frye (head TA)	s.frye@mail.utoronto.ca
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Jasmine Williams	jasmine.williams@mail.utoronto.ca

Course website: Quercus (<https://q.utoronto.ca>)

Required Text:

There is no textbook or hard copy reader for this course. Instead course readings have been drawn from a variety of sources that are electronically accessible and will be posted and updated on the course webpage.

Course Evaluation

Multidisciplinary paper	Oct 5	15 %
Climate Change paper	Oct 26	25%
Environmental Health Paper	Nov 30	25%
Final Test	Dec 8	25%
Tutorial Attendance & Participation		10%

Course Subject

This course addresses the causes and nature of current environmental problems from several interrelated perspectives, including: the scientific analysis of particular ecological challenges; factors such as jurisdiction and lobbying which influence the ways in which governments and non-state actors are confronting those concerns; relevant ethical issues respecting the rights of humans and other species, and the major ideas (assumptions, values and norms) which influence our approaches to those problems.

An appreciation and recognition of the complex of disciplines needed to address current environmental problems and the linkages and communication required from practitioners within

these disciplines are the primary focus of this course. We will explore these linkages through the use of two case studies: **climate change and environmental health**.

Course Format

The course begins with an examination of the contribution various disciplinary perspectives bring to the study of the environment. Two current issues are then examined as case studies. Each case study will be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives: the physical nature of the issue; the action addressing the issue by governments and others; and the cultural, ethical and philosophical dimensions of the issue. Throughout the presentation of the various disciplinary approaches there will also be explicit identification and discussion of the interdisciplinary linkages amongst these approaches.

The case studies are intended to help students gain a deeper understanding of the specific issues addressed in the course and to appreciate the broader ideas and frameworks that underlie these issues. It is also hoped that students, through this approach, will gain a fuller sense of the interdisciplinary nature of environmental studies.

Educational objectives

ENV221H is meant to provide an introductory foundation for all students interested in studying the environment. The purpose of this course is twofold:

1. to give students introductory knowledge concerning specific issues in environmental science, thought and policy;
2. to promote greater appreciation and understanding of the relationships and linkages within the interdisciplinary field of environmental studies.

The course objective is to introduce students to approaches and information from the fields of environmental sciences, policy and ethics and to introduce the ways in which these and other areas of expertise are being woven together to create the emerging interdisciplinary field of environmental studies.

It is expected that students who complete this course will be able to do the following in an introductory manner:

1. describe the complex interdisciplinary nature of the field of environmental studies, and discuss the challenges and opportunities inherent in interdisciplinary work;
2. understand some basic aspects of environmental science, environmental philosophy and environmental policy as presented in class;
3. discuss the nature of two specific environmental problems facing contemporary society (climate change and environmental health) using scientific, philosophical and political science frameworks;
4. provide analysis of environmental problems (for example, those listed above) that integrates scientific, philosophical and environmental policy perspectives into an interdisciplinary view of both the problems and possible solutions.

Tutorials

Mastering and integrating complex knowledge from many disciplines, as students are being asked to do in this course, is very challenging. The tutorials are intended as a forum in which students will work to further their understanding of the links among the varied disciplinary material presented in this course. In addition, the tutorial is the place where students will begin to develop their own integrated analysis of the issues at hand, in preparation for the written assignments.

There are four tutorials scheduled throughout the term, approximately timed to occur near the end of a case study module: week of Sept 28, Oct 19, Nov 2 and Nov 23. For each tutorial students are expected to attend **prepared with a short written submission that need to be submitted electronically before the beginning of the tutorial.**

Note: Readings have been chosen to be electronically accessible. The final reading list will be updated on the course homepage on Quercus as the course progresses.

Date	Lecture Topic and Readings	Tut
R Sept 10	Course Introduction	
T Sept 15	Environmental Science	
R Sept 17	Environmental Ethics	
T Sept 22	Environmental Policy	
R Sept 24	Environmental Economics	
T Sep 29	Overview of Disciplinary Contributions	1
R Oct 1	Climate Change – The Background	
T Oct 6	Climate Change – The Background (cont'd)	
R Oct 8	Climate Change – The Background (cont'd)	
T Oct 13	Climate Change Policy	
R Oct 15	Climate Change Policy (cont'd)	
T Oct 20	Climate Change Ethics	2
R Oct 22	Climate Change Ethics (cont'd)	
T Oct 27	Environmental Health – The Basics	
R Oct 29	Environmental Health – The Basics (Toxics I)	

T Nov 3	Environmental Health – The Basics (Toxics II)	3
R Nov 5	Environmental Health – The Basics (Infectious Diseases I)	
T Nov 10	Fall Break – No Classes	
R Nov 12	Fall Break – No Classes	
T Nov 17	Environmental Health – The Basics (Infectious Diseases II)	
R Nov 19	Environmental Health – The Basics (Infectious Diseases III)	
T Nov 24	Environmental Health – Policy I	4
R Nov 26	Environmental Health – Policy II	
T Dec 1	Environmental Health – Ethics I	
R Dec 3	Environmental Health – Ethics II	
T Dec 8	Final Test	

Note: Important Dates

Sept 23rd – last day to enrol in F and Y section code courses

Nov 9th – Last day to cancel F section code courses from academic record and GPA; last day to add or remove a CR/NCR option for F section code courses

Nov 9-13th – November Break, no classes

Dec 9th – classes end

Dec 11-22 – exam period

COURSE POLICIES

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. UofT does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Technology Requirements

Specific guidance from the U of T Vice-Provost, Students regarding student technology requirements is available here:

<https://www.vicereprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/covid-19/tech-requirements-online-learning/>

Advice for students more broadly regarding online learning is available here:

<https://onlinelearning.utoronto.ca/getting-ready-for-online/>

We will be using BB collaborate and Zoom for online teaching & learning in this course. Lectures delivered via BB collaborate will be livestreamed and a video will usually be posted and accessible via the course Quercus website within 48hrs. Tutorials will be offered using BB collaborate or Zoom and will not be recorded or posted except under extenuating circumstances.

This course requires the use of computers, and of course sometimes things can go wrong when using them. You are responsible for ensuring that you maintain regular backup copies of your files, use antivirus software (if using your own computer), and schedule enough time when completing an assignment to allow for delays due to technical difficulties. Computer viruses, crashed hard drives, broken printers, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for a deadline extension.

Lectures/Copyright

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Tutorials

The short written hard copy assignment associated with each tutorial should be submitted online prior to the start of tutorial and cannot be submitted without accompanying tutorial attendance, without explicit permission from your TA or instructor.

The only exception will be for cases of illness which can either be documented using the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN or a completed UofT Illness Verification form.

Final Test

For students who miss the regularly scheduled final test on Dec 8th, 2020, the head TA must be notified within 48 hours and a completed University of Toronto Illness Verification Form or a completed Absence Declaration on ACORN must be presented within a week before any special consideration (such as a deferred test) will be considered.

Graded Material

Any disputes or questions on graded material must be brought to the attention of the TA or instructor within 2 weeks of return or posting, otherwise will be considered final.

Submission of assignments:

We will be using Turnitin.com within the online assignment function in Quercus for submission of the written assignments in this course. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to **Turnitin.com** for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

If a student does not wish to participate in Turnitin, the student **MUST** advise the head TA immediately as alternate arrangements for screening the assignment must be arranged.

To avoid late penalties assignments must be submitted to the Quercus Assignment function before **midnight on the posted due date**.

When submitting your assignment on Quercus, the file should be saved in a single Word file, with an extension of .doc, .docx, or rtf. **Do not submit pdf files**. The title of your file should follow the format: "LastnameFirstname.doc"

In formatting your assignment it should:

- Include the following information on the front page: the assignment title (feel free to be creative, but representative), the course title and number, the instructor's name, the TA's name, your name and student number
- Be double spaced, using 12 point font, in black ink with 1" (2.5cm) margins;
- include page numbers

Late penalties

The late penalty on all assignments will be 2.5% of the assignment grade per day late, including weekends and will only be waived with either the Absence Declaration Tool on ACORN or the accompaniment of a completed official University of Toronto **Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form** which can be found at:

<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>.

Please note that supporting documentation must cover the period of time you missed, e.g. the week before the assignment/essay is due, etc. and must supply sufficient detail and appropriate support to warrant any special consideration.

Assignments will NOT be accepted one week past the due date even if accompanied by a medical certificate unless prior approval has been obtained from the course instructor or head TA.

Academic Integrity

The following is taken from the Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Integrity website (<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students>):

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work,
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to your instructor or TA or seek the advice of your college registrar.

See also the handout "How Not to Plagiarize," Margaret Proctor, 2009, available online at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Evaluation criteria

The primary criteria used in evaluating written work are the following.

Form:

Defined as freedom from spelling and grammatical errors. Students are expected to include thorough, accurate and consistent references in any academic referencing style that includes page numbering which is included in the document "Standard Documentation Formats" available at: www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html

Writing style:

Defined as clarity, succinctness, appropriate diction and tone.

Structure:

Defined as coherence of the organization of the paper. The logic of the structure is determined by the purpose, which is to test a hypothesis, answer a research question or defend a thesis statement.

Precision and accuracy:

Precision means saying exactly and specifically what you mean, avoiding vague generalities. Accuracy refers to absence of major factual errors.

Analysis:

Student essays are expected to include critical distance, reflection and originality of thought. The written assignments will be evaluated on the defensibility of their analysis in terms of their use of evidence and logical coherence.

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility: if you require accommodations for a disability, or have any other accessibility concerns about the course, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> .

ADDITIONAL SERVICES and SUPPORT

The following are some important links to help you with academic and/or technical service and support

- General student services and resources at [Student Life](#)
- Full library service through [University of Toronto Libraries](#)
- Resources on conducting online research through [University Libraries Research](#)
- Resources on academic support from the [Academic Success Centre](#)
- Learner support at the [Writing Centre](#)
- Information for [Technical Support/Quercus Support](#)