ENV337H1S – Human Interactions with the Environment
Winter 2021

Last Updated: December 17, 2020

Lecture: Mondays 10am–12noon

Instructor: Carlos Avendano; carlos.avendano@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Mondays after the lecture times.

Teaching Assistant: Susan Frye; s.frye@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Wednesdays at the tutorial times- when there are no tutorials.

Required Text:
There is no required hardcopy textbook for ENV337H. Readings and other sources are indicated in the lecture schedule. Readings can be acquired through the UofT Library online catalogue.

Course Evaluation
Lecture Test #1 February 1st 12%
Lecture Test #2 March 1st 12%
Reading Quiz March 8th 5%
Documentary Quiz March 22nd 5%
Final Exam April exam period 30%
Tutorial Projects: 36%
  Water Footprint -group- (16%) due February 12th
  Individual Research Proposal (10%) due March 19th
  Local Project -group- (10%) due April 1st

Tests, quizzes and final exam will be delivered via Quercus (a combination of multiple-choice, multiple-answer, short-answer, essay)

Introduction and Learning Objectives:
The impact of 7 billion people on the planet is enormous and challenges future generations. The interconnected systems of the planet means that as humans interact with their surrounding environments, they too will be influenced and impacted in turn. What are these impacts today and in future? What solutions and tools are available? What can we learn from environmental and cultural history? Using an integrated and interdisciplinary systems approach, we explore problems and solutions to the earth’s limits to growth.

The course introduces students to Earth Systems interactions, and their limits to growth of human systems using an analytical perspective and, most importantly, how to critically analyze, quantify and solve problems arising from meeting these limits to growth.

Our learning objectives are to:
1. Familiarize you with Earth Systems, environmental processes, and ecological issues arising from human activities.
2. Understand the interconnectedness of these systems to each other and to human well being
3. Learn to integrate disparate issues with roots in natural sciences and social sciences, and to develop solutions to these issues.
4. Improve your critical thinking, analytical abilities and problem-solving skills.
5. Improve your ability to conduct research, assemble information, and communicate the results of your research.
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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic and Readings Schedule</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Introduction.</td>
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| 2  | Jan 18 | **Are we in the Anthropocene?** Human dominated planet.  
| 3  | Jan 25 | **Earth Sciences.** The importance of understanding planetary geodynamics for planetary restoration: Solar forcing and plate tectonics.  
| 4  | Feb 1  | **Planetary Functioning.** Have we transgressed planetary thresholds? What are the Planetary Boundaries?  
[http://stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html](http://stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html) | Lecture Test#1 (online via Quercus): Weeks 2-4 |
| 5  | Feb 8  | **Ecosystem theory.** Disturbance and Resilience.  
Due Feb 12th |
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td><strong>Population growth.</strong> Humans through the Quaternary Period. Consumption thresholds.</td>
<td>Tut No. 2. Individual Research proposal.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mar  1</td>
<td><strong>Historical human interactions with the environment.</strong> Socio-ecological resilience cases: The Maya Civilization case study. Was there really a socio-ecological collapse?</td>
<td>Lecture Test#2 (online via Quercus): Weeks 5, 7, 8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar  8</td>
<td><strong>Human impacts on the environment.</strong> What has happened since the Industrial Revolution?</td>
<td>Reading Quiz (online via Quercus): Article TBD</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td><strong>Conservation Biology in a dynamic world.</strong> Biodiversity beyond protected areas.</td>
<td>Tut No. 3 Local Project</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td><strong>Socio-Ecological Systems Restoration.</strong> Mitigation or adaptation to climate change?</td>
<td>Documentary Quiz (online via Quercus): Video link TBD</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td><strong>The Great Acceleration.</strong> Is deceleration possible?</td>
<td>Tut No. 3 due April 1st</td>
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**Important Dates** ([https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/dates-deadlines/academic-dates#academic-dates-deadlines-accordion-6](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/dates-deadlines/academic-dates#academic-dates-deadlines-accordion-6))

Jan 11 – Classes begin in S courses.  
Jan 21 – Waitlists for S courses close at end of day.  
Jan 24 - Last day to enrol in S courses  
Mar 15 - Last day to cancel S section code courses without academic penalty; last day to add or remove a CR/NCR option for S section code courses.  
Apr 2 – Good Friday – University closed.  
Apr 9 – Winter term classes end; last day to request LWD from S code courses.  
Apr 13-23 – Examination period.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Submission of tutorial projects:**  
Tutorial projects are handed in through online submission. If students experience any disruption to their studies, they should use the self-declaration form on ACORN ([https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca](https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca)). 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.

Formatting of reports for the different project reports will be specified during tutorials.

**Late penalties**  
The late penalty will be 2.5% of the assignment grade per day late.
Accessibility Needs
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.

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:
- 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 me 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

Communication
You are encouraged to ask questions in class and during office hours. If you would like to discuss class material please communicate further with the professor. If you have a schedule conflict to meet for office hours, please contact me to set-up a time when we can meet.

E-mail can be used to make appointments and address brief questions but should not be viewed as an alternative to meeting with the professor during office hours. Weekend emails may be sporadic so please plan accordingly.

1. Always use your University of Toronto e-mail address (@utoronto.ca) for all course-related communications. Other e-mail addresses may be filtered as spam and we do not promise to respond to them.
2. Please include the course code (e.g., ENV337) as part of your subject line, and include your full name and student number in the body of the e-mail.
3. Please read the course handouts and check the course online site before e-mailing a question, to make sure that it hasn’t already been answered. Questions that can be answered by reading information in Quercus, will not be answered.

Please e-mail the professor concerning a lecture or assignment-related query.