

ENV200 H1: Assessing Global Change: Science and the Environment

Summer 2017 Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Romila Verma

Lecture Room: SS2118

Lecture Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 to 3 pm

Tutorial: Each student will attend three tutorials.

Office Hours: SS5061, 3 to 4 pm every Monday and Wednesday or by appointment only. I will also be available for questions immediately following class in the lecture room.

Contact Information: romila.verma@utoronto.ca or 416-930-8659

Course Website: Blackboard Portal

Teaching Assistants: Mark Horsburgh mark.horsbuugh@mail.utoronto.ca

Susan Frye s.frye@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Description

Earth's natural system is undergoing considerable change. Although Earth is a highly dynamic system characterized by spatial and temporal changes, the past 200 years have seen an accelerated rate, scale and scope of change not witnessed before. To understand and assess the global impacts of these changes, ENV200 has been designed to examine them through a scientific lens. These impacts have global implications: atmospheric systems and climate change, the biosphere and conservation of biodiversity.

This course is intended to fulfill the environmental literacy requirement for students in the BA programs of the School of the Environment or environment breadth course requirement for Commerce, Humanities and Social Science students.

At the end of the term, the students are expected to have a thorough understanding of the following concepts:

- The workings of the natural system: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere;
- A clear understanding of the interactions between nature and humans and how we are an integral part of the ecosystem;
- To expand scientific and critical thinking in devising creative solutions to global environmental challenges.

Required Textbook

Environmental Change and Challenge : A Canadian Perspective by P. Dearden and B. Mitchell
ISBN-10-9780199015146

Publication Year: 2015 | Paperback | 624 pp.

The cost for the book is \$117.95 and can be purchased from the UofT bookstore.

The e-book is available as a 180-day rental for \$50.95 USD. The students can purchase the e-book directly at this link: <https://www.redshelf.com/book/526791/environmental-change-and-challenge-526791-9780199015153-philip-dearden-bruce-mitchell>

STUDENT LOGIN ID: OUP291

STUDENT PASSWORD: D9\$w<q

Evaluation

The evaluation for this course consists of three tutorial assignments, midterm test and final exam.

Grading Scheme and Due Dates

Assignments	Percentage	Due Date
Three Tutorials:		
Tutorial 1	10%	May 29 & 31
Tutorial 2	10%	June 5 & 7
Tutorial 3	10%	June 12 & 14
Tutorial participation	5%	During Tutorials
Midterm	25%	June 5
Final exam	40%	TBA

Three tutorials have been incorporated into the course structure with the objective that the students will work to further their understanding and application of the role of science in global environmental issues using three different exercises. Please sign up for the tutorial on ACORN.

Tutorial Time, Location and TAs

Meeting Section	Time	Location	TA
T0101	M12-1	SS2120	Mark Horsburgh
T0201	M3-4	SS2120	Mark Horsburgh
T0301	M4-5	SS2120	Mark Horsburgh
T0401	W12-1	SS2120	Susan Frye
T0501	W3-4	SS2120	Susan Frye
T0601	W4-5	SS2123	Susan Frye

Tutorial Dates

Tutorial	Dates
1	May 29 and 31
2	June 5 and 7
3	June 12 and 14

Each tutorial is designed to illustrate a specific concept that is relevant to the course. Attendance is mandatory and there is an assignment associated with each tutorial, which is due **at the beginning of tutorial classes**. The tutorial topic will be assigned during the lecture, one week before the due date. Students are expected to complete their assignment and submit a hard copy to their respective TAs. Each assignment is worth 10%. Please note that tutorial assignments will **NOT** be accepted unless the accompanying tutorial is attended. In addition, there is a 5% participation marks for the tutorials (1.6 marks for each tutorial).

Course Policies

All tutorial assignments are due **in tutorial class** and cannot be submitted without accompanying tutorial attendance.

No late assignments will be accepted. If an assignment is missed, a University of Toronto Verification of Student Illness and Injury Form must be submitted for the missed tutorials before any special consideration will be considered.

For students who miss the regularly scheduled Midterm exam on June 5, 2017, the Instructor must be notified within 48 hours and a completed University of Toronto Verification of Student

Illness and Injury Form must be presented within a week before any special consideration (such as a deferred midterm) will be considered.

Assignment Evaluation Criteria

The primary criteria used in evaluating **written work** are the following:

1. **Mechanics:** Defined as freedom from spelling and grammatical errors. Students are expected to include thorough, accurate and consistent references in any bona fide academic referencing style that includes page numbering.
2. **Writing style:** Defined as clarity, succinctness, appropriate diction and tone.
3. **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.
4. **Precision and accuracy:** Precision means saying exactly and specifically what you mean, avoiding vague generalities. Accuracy refers to absence of major factual errors.
5. **Analysis:** Student tutorials, essays are expected to include critical distance, reflection and originality of thought.

The primary criteria used in evaluating **oral presentations** are the following.

1. Success in communicating key concepts succinctly and accurately, thereby demonstrating sound understanding of the work being presented.
2. Mechanics of communication, such as manner of speaking (including good diction and tone), structure of the presentation and level of organization.
3. Ability to respond appropriately and fairly to questions and contribute to and stimulate unstructured discussion among peers.

Evaluating Student Work

Students will be evaluated on the course requirements according to the information in the assignment document. Students will be provided with evaluation criteria for each assignment. Overall grades will be assessed in accordance with the University's description as provided in the Academic Handbook as discussed below.

<i>Letter Grade</i>	Grade Definition
A+	Outstanding performance, exceeding even the A described below.

A	Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
B	Good performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
C	Intellectually adequate performance: student who is profiting from her or his university experience; understanding of the subject matter and ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
D	Minimally acceptable performance: some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.
F	Inadequate performance: little evidence of even superficial understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; with limited or irrelevant use of literature.

Student Laptop Guidelines in the Classroom

- Do not use your laptop for entertainment during class time.
- Turn the sound off on your computer.
- Do not display material on your screen which may be offensive or distracting to your peers.

Email Étiquette

- You can email the TAs or me directly with your questions and concerns. Questions regarding assignments will be answered if sent via email to me. Emails might not be returned promptly during the weekend.

Plagiarism

Please note that according to the University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, it is an offence for a student to:

1. "represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e., to commit plagiarism."

2. “submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.
3. “submit for credit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted.”

See “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” on the U. of T. Governing Council website at this address: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

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>

Cases of suspected plagiarism will be addressed in accordance with the procedure established by the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

Accessibility Services

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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:

<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/Contact-Us.htm> and get information about its services at: <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>

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Medical Certificate & Documentation Supporting Extensions, etc.

Students must use the University’s official **Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form** as the standard documentation requirement for medical-based extension requests. A copy can be found on the web at:

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

Faculty of Arts & Science Policies

Information about important policies about marking, petitions, etc., can be found on the Faculty of Arts and Science website at:

<https://fas.calendar.utoronto.ca/rules-regulations>

LECTURE SCHEDULE- SUMMER 2017

DATE	LECTURE TOPICS	READINGS*
Monday, May 15	Administration and Introduction Understanding Environmental Issues and Science	Pages 3-27
Wednesday, May 17	Environmental Systems- Energy and Material Cycles	Pages 49-65 and 114-148
Wednesday, May 24	Biomes, Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation	Pages 83-110
Monday, May 29	Evolution, Species Interactions and Biological Communities	Pages 491-534
Wednesday, May 31	Food, Agriculture and Health	Pages 374-413
Monday, June 5	Mid-Term	Lectures 1 to 5
Wednesday June 7	Air and Water Resources	Pages 332-370
Monday June 12	Human Population	Article to be posted on BB
Wednesday June 14	Climate and Energy	Pages 201-229
Monday June 19	Environmental Geology and Earth's Resources	Pages 419-454
Wednesday June 21	Urbanization Environmental Science: The Big Picture	Pages 459-487

* These page numbers refer to the Dearden and Mitchell textbook "Environmental Change and Challenge"