

# ENV221H1F: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the Environment Fall 2016

Last Updated: Sep 8, 2016

**Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:00 pm  
**Location:** ES 1050 - Earth Sciences Auditorium (enter via Bancroft)  
**Tutorials:** Four tutorials are scheduled through the term: week of Sept 27, Oct 11, Nov 1 and Nov 29.  
**Instructor:** Karen Ing, ES2098, 416-978-4863; [karen.ing@utoronto.ca](mailto: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 midterms should be addressed to the Head TA, Mark Horsburgh. Issues associated with final exams should be directed to your college registrar.

Mark Horsburgh (Head TA) [mark.horsburgh@utoronto.ca](mailto:mark.horsburgh@utoronto.ca)  
Jillian Bieser [jillian.bieser@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jillian.bieser@mail.utoronto.ca)  
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**Course website:** Blackboard (accessible via <http://portal.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 listed below along with the lecture schedule.

## Course Evaluation

Midterm, 45min in-class	Oct 20	20%
Written Assignment	Nov 9	30%
Final Exam	Dec exam period	40%
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 approach 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 three case studies: **climate change and energy use, environmental health, and biodiversity.**

### **Course Format**

The course begins with an examination of the contribution various disciplinary perspectives bring to the study of the environment. Three 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 in the field of environmental studies. 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 three specific environmental problems facing contemporary society ( climate change and energy use, environmental health, and biodiversity) 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 assignment and for the final exam.

There are four tutorials scheduled throughout the term, approximately timed to occur near the end of a case study module: week of Sept 27, Oct 11, Nov 1 and Nov 29. For each tutorial students are expected to **come prepared with a short hard copy written submission that need to be submitted at the tutorial.**

**Note:** Readings have been chosen to be electronically accessible. Links for the readings are posted below. Additional readings with links may be posted on the course homepage on Blackboard.

Date	Lecture Topic and Readings	Tut
T Sept 13	<b>Course Introduction</b>	
R Sept 15	<b>Environmental Science</b>	
T Sept 20	<b>Environmental Ethics</b>	
R Sept 22	<b>Environmental Policy</b>	
T Sept 27	<b>Environmental Economics/Overview of Disciplinary Contributions</b>	1
R Sep 29	<b>Climate Change – The Background</b>	1
T Oct 4	<b>Climate Change – The Background (cont'd)</b>	
R Oct 6	<b>Energy and Climate Change – The Basics</b>	
T Oct 11	<b>Energy and Climate Change Policy</b>	2
R Oct 13	<b>Energy and Climate Change Ethics</b>	2
T Oct 18	<b>Energy and Climate Change: overview and assignment discussion</b>	
R Oct 20	<b>Midterm (Location EX100)</b>	
T Oct 25	<b>Environmental Health – The Basics</b>	
R Oct 27	<b>Environmental Health – The Basics</b>	
T Nov 1	<b>Environmental Health – Policy</b>	3
R Nov 3	<b>Environmental Health – Ethics</b>	3
T Nov 8	Fall Break – No Class	
W Nov 9	<b>Assignment Due</b>	
R Nov 10	<b>Environmental Health – Overview</b>	
T Nov 15	<b>Biodiversity – The Basics</b>	
R Nov 17	<b>Biodiversity – The Basics</b>	
T Nov 22	<b>Biodiversity – Policy</b>	
R Nov 24	<b>Biodiversity – Ethics</b>	
T Nov 29	<b>Biodiversity – Overview</b>	4
R Dec 1	<b>Biodiversity Case Study – Ecuador – ITT Yasuni</b>	4
T Dec 6	Course Review	

### Note: Important Dates

Sept 25 – last day to add or make section changes to F and Y section code courses

Oct 20<sup>th</sup> - midterm

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop 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 7-8<sup>th</sup> – November Break, no classes

Nov 9<sup>th</sup> – assignment due

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – classes end

Dec 9-20 – exam period

## COURSE POLICIES

### Submission of assignments:

We will be using Turnitin.com AND the online assignment function in Blackboard for submission of the written assignment in this course. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays 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 the essay assignment must be submitted to **BOTH** the Turnitin.com site and the Blackboard Assignment function before **midnight of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

You will need to visit the Turnitin.com website and follow student instructions to submit your assignment for vetting. Your TA will supply you with the code and password to identify the appropriate course and TA to which the assignment should be submitted.

When submitting your assignment on Blackboard, 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 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 the certificate 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 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>

**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](http://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.

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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: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> .*

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