

ENV200H1 F

Assessing Global Change: Science and the Environment Summer 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

ENV200H1 F

Section	Day & Time
LEC0101	Monday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Wednesday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Tutorial Time, Dates and TAs

Tutorial Section	Time	Participation Dates	Assignment Submission	TA
TUT0101	Wednesday, 3 to 4 pm	May 14, and 28, June 11	May 16, 30 and June 13, 11.59 pm EST on Quercus	Coral Chell
TUT0201	Wednesday 4 to 5 pm	May 14, and 28, June 11	May 16, 30 and June 13, 11.59 pm EST on Quercus	Coral Chell
TUT0301	Wednesday 5 to 6 pm	May 14, and 28, June 11	May 16, 30 and June 13, 11.59 pm EST on Quercus	Coral Chell

Course Contacts

Course Website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/389283>

Instructor: Dr. Romila Verma

Email: romila.verma@utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: After lectures or by appointment only

Course Overview

The perspective which scientists bring to the understanding and resolution of environmental concerns having global implications: atmospheric systems and climate change, the biosphere and conservation of biodiversity.

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

Earth's natural system is undergoing considerable changes. Although these changes are following a natural cyclical path, the past 200 years have seen an accelerated rate, scale and scope of change not witnessed before. These changes have brought global impacts with implications on our atmospheric systems, climate, the biosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere. To understand and assess the global impacts of these changes, ENV200 has been designed to examine the environment through a scientific lens.

Even though 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, I am hoping that it will make you an ecosystem thinker so that you are able to integrate the concepts learnt in this course in any field of study.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and describe the mechanisms of the natural system: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere.
- Linking the interdependence of ecosystem and evaluating the impacts of humans on the environmental system.
- Analyze the interactions between nature and humans, with emphasis on the understanding and resolution of environmental concerns having global implications: atmospheric systems and climate change, the biosphere and conservation of biodiversity.
- Evaluate scientific and critical thinking in devising creative solutions to global environmental challenges.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: BIO120H1, EEB208H1

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Course Materials

READINGS:

Required Textbook: You are expected to read the chapters corresponding to the lectures as described in the lecture schedule. The required textbook is:

Environmental Change and Challenge: A Canadian Perspective by P. Dearden and B. Mitchell, Erin O'Connell, Sixth Edition

Environmental Change and Challenge 6e eBook

<https://www.uoftbookstore.com/adoption-search-results?ccid=7562068&itemid=36867>

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Mid-term quiz	19%	Online mid-term has 38 quiz style, multiple choice and true/false questions. The exam will open on Quercus, under Quizzes. Once you open the quiz between 1 to 3 pm, you have only one hour to complete the quiz.	2025-06-04
Tutorial Assignments	45%	TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES: There are three tutorials incorporated into the course with the objective that the students will work to further their understanding and application of the role of science in global environmental issues using these different exercises. There are 2 components of the tutorial: 1. Take-home Assignment: I will post the assignment questions one week before the due date. Students are expected to complete their assignments and upload it on Quercus on due date/time. 2. Participation mark: Please register for tutorial on ACORN.	2025-05-16, 2025-05-30, 2025-06-13

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
		For in-person tutorial, you must come prepared to discuss preassigned question, based on the assignment topic of the week. • Assignments are each worth 15% and tutorial participation is worth 6% of your final mark.	
Tutorial Participation	6%	Please register for the tutorial on ACORN. For in-person tutorial, you must come prepared to discuss preassigned question, based on the assignment topic of the week. Please be aware that the participation mark is not just for attending the tutorial but also involves your participation in the discussion. Each tutorial participation is worth 2%. Tutorial participation is worth 6% of your final mark.	2025-05-14, 2025-05-28, 2025-06-11
Online Final Exam	30%		Final Exam Period

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

A penalty of 5% of the overall course mark per day, including weekends.

Course Schedule

Week	Description
Week 1 May 5 and May 7	Administration and Introduction Understanding Environmental Issues and Science
Week 2 May 12 and May 14	Environmental Systems- Energy and Material Cycles Evolution, Species Interactions and Biological Communities Tutorial 1 in-person- May 14. Assignment due by May 16, 11.59 pm EST

Week 3 May 21	Biomes, Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (outdoor class)
Week 4 May 26 and May 28	Food and Agriculture Water Resources Tutorial 2 in-person- May 28. Assignment due by May 30, 11.59 pm EST
Week 5 June 2 and June 4	Human Population and Urbanization Online Quiz starts 1 pm to 3 pm on June 4.
Week 6 June 9 and June 11	Climate and Energy Environmental Geology and Earth's Resources Tutorial 3 in-person- June 11. Assignment due by June 13, 11.59 pm EST
Week 7 June 16	Environmental Science: The Big Picture
Week 8 Date	
Week 9 Date	
Week 10 Date	
Week 11 Date	
Week 12 Date	

Policies & Statements

Late Penalties: Late penalty of 5% per day, including weekends.

This item is listed here to remind you to include your late/missed assignment policy; if you have late penalties, you are required to publish them in your syllabus. Please see the [A&S Academic Handbook \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook) sections on missed term work (Section 4.7), late term work and extensions (section 4.8), and missed term tests (Section 5.3) for more information.

Late/Missed Assignments

- Deadlines for assignment submissions and late policy: Late penalty is 5% per day.
- Submission methods: All assignments, quizzes and assessments are to be posted/uploaded on Quercus.
- Process for requesting re-grading of course 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.

However, if you would like to request re-grading, please wait for two days after getting the marked assignment back. You can email me the request with clear petition on why you are requesting re-grading.

- Process for signaling course absences and requesting make-up tests or exams, if applicable: For students who miss the regularly scheduled assignments, quiz test or final assessment, Dr. Verma verma@utoronto.ca must be notified as soon as possible.
 - Extensions or penalties for late work: In case of emergency, please notify Dr. Verma ASAP. To get an extension on assignments, quiz and/or final assessment, students must submit Absence Declaration tool on ACORN.

This item is listed here to remind you to include your late/missed assignment policy; if you have late penalties, you are required to publish them in your syllabus. Please see the [A&S Academic Handbook \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/teaching/academic-handbook) sections on missed term work (Section 4.7), late term work and extensions (section 4.8), and missed term tests (Section 5.3) for more information.

Make-Up Quizzes/Tests

Make-Up Quizzes/Tests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Dr. Verma if you are going to miss the quiz or test.

Assignment Submission Method

Please upload your assignments on Quercus.

Recording Lectures (by Student)

Please note that lectures are the intellectual property of the instructors, and the recordings should be respected thus.

Quercus Info

The main web site for the course is Quercus (<https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/354400>)

which will be used for the following:

- Lecture slide repository, assignment instructions, required readings.
- Grades will be posted on the Quercus.

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Academic Integrity

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a

complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see [A&S Student Academic Integrity \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity \(https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca\)](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

Mental Health and Well-Being

Your mental health is important. Throughout university life, there are many experiences that can impact your mental health and well-being. As a University of Toronto student, you can access free mental health and wellbeing services at Health & Wellness (<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/health-wellness/>) such as same day counselling, brief counselling, medical care, skill-building workshops, and drop-in peer support. You can also meet with a Wellness Navigation Advisor who can connect you with other campus and community services and support. Call the mental health clinic at 416-978-8030 ext. 5 to book an appointment or visit <https://uoft.me/mentalhealthcare> to learn about the services available to you.

You can also visit your College Registrar to learn about the resources and supports available: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices>

If you're in distress, you can access immediate support: <https://uoft.me/feelingdistressed>

Video Recording and Sharing (Download and Re-use Prohibited)

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 the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

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. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Re-marking Policy - Timeline and Protocol

- Process for requesting re-grading of course 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.

However, if you would like to request re-grading, please wait for two days after getting the marked assignment back. You can email me the request with clear petition on why you are requesting re-grading.