

ENV200H1 S

Assessing Global Change: Science and the Environment

Summer 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

ENV200H1 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Tuesday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Online Synchronous
	Thursday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Online Synchronous

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

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.

Tutorial dates are Tuesdays- July 15, 29 and August 5 and Thursdays- July 17, 30 and August 7.

Course Contacts

Course Website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/390171>

Instructor: Dr. Romila Verma

Email: romila.verma@utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 3 to 4 pm or by appointment.

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

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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

COURSE SCHEDULE & RELEVANT SESSIONAL DATES:

DATE	UNIT/WEEK	TOPICS	CLASS TIME
June 29 to July 5	1	Administration and Introduction	July 3, 1 to 3 pm
July 6 to 12	2	Understanding Environmental Issues and Science	July 8, 1 to 3 pm
		Environmental Systems- Energy and Material Cycles	July 10, 1 to 3 pm

			July 15, 1 to 3 pm
		Biomes, Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation	
July 13 to 19	2	Evolution, Species Interactions and Biological Communities	July 17, 1 to 3 pm
		Due July 20 by 11.59 pm EST	Tutorial 1 online discussion: July 15 and 17
		Online Quiz- July 22, 1 to 3 pm EST on Quercus	July 22, 1 to 3 pm
July 20 to 26	2	No lecture Food and Agriculture	No lecture July 24, 1 to 3 pm
		Water Resources	July 29, 1 to 3 pm
July 27 to August 2	2		
		Human Population and Urbanization	July 31, 1 to 3 pm

**Tutorial 2 Due
August 3 by 11.59
pm EST**

**Tutorial 2 online
discussion:**

July 29 and 31

Climate and Energy

August 5, 1 to 3 pm

Environmental
Geology and Earth's
Resources

August 7, 1 to 3 pm

August 3 to 9

2

**Tutorial 3 Due
August 10 by 11.59
pm EST**

**Tutorial 3 online
discussion:**

August 5 and 7

August 10 to 16

1

Environmental
Science: The Big
Picture

August 12, 1 to 3 pm

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Assignment 1	15%		2025-07-20
Assignment 2	15%		2025-08-03
Assignment 3	15%		2025-08-10
Tutorial Participation	6%		2024-07-09, 2024-07-11, 2024-07-23, 2024-07-25,

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
			2024-07-30, 2024-08-01, 2025-07-15, 2025-07-17, 2025-07-29, 2025-07-31, 2025-08-05, 2025-09-04
Midterm Test	19%		2025-07-22
Online Final Exam	30%		Final Exam Period

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

A penalty of 5% per day of the total mark will be applied.

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.

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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.

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.

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.