

[Draft] School of the Environment, University of Toronto

## Syllabus• ENV 222H1F: Pathways to Sustainability – An Interdisciplinary Approach

SUMMER 2025F • ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS LECTURE /SYNCHRONOUS TUTORIAL DELIVERY



### INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Mark Hathaway

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*To speed processing, **please put “ENV222” somewhere in the subject line.***

### OFFICE HOURS

1:00-2:00 PM Mondays (online via Zoom)

See instructions on Quercus.

Please make an appointment on Quercus by Noon on Monday.

For other alternatives, contact the instructor via e-mail.

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS

**Lead TA: Annika Harley:**

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### TUTORIAL SECTIONS

All tutorials are online, synchronous on Zoom

See Quercus for more details

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

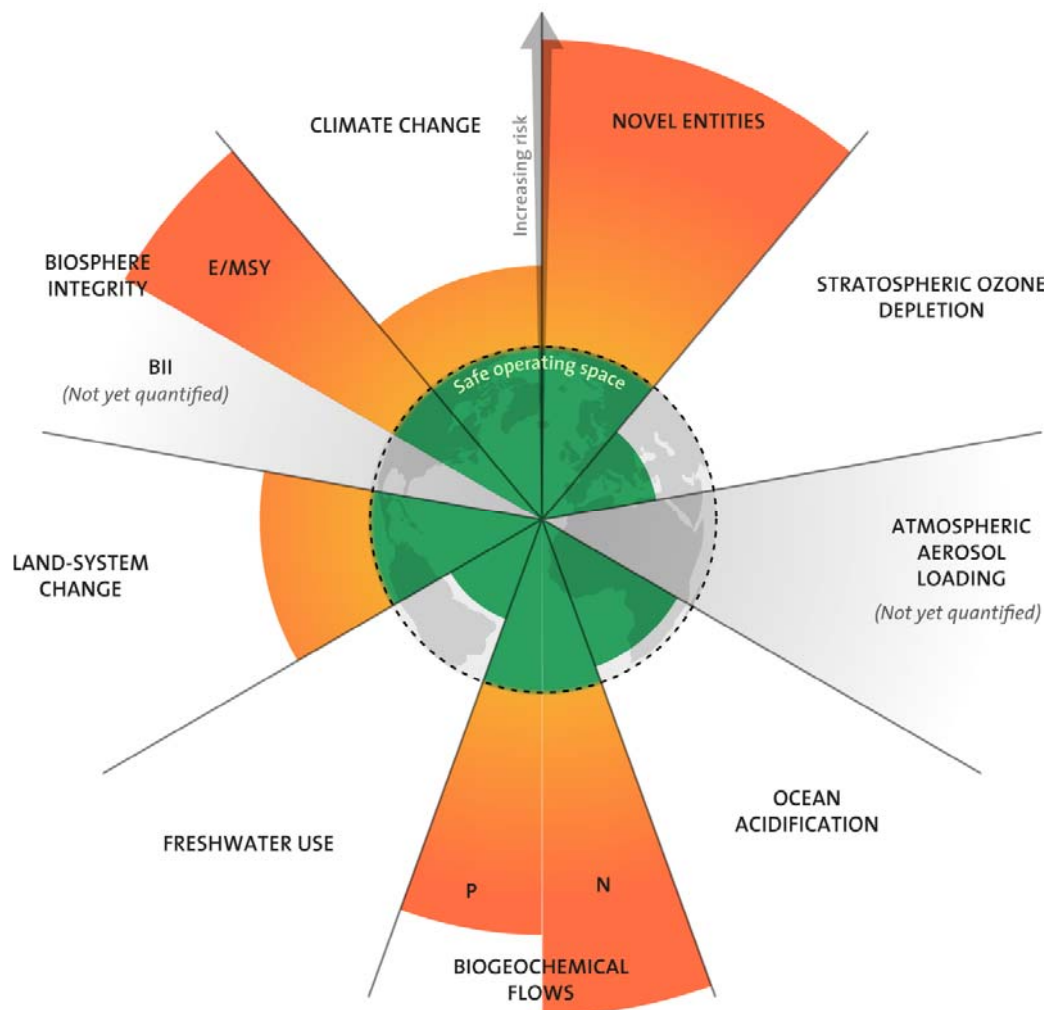
Analysing perils such as rapid climate change, biodiversity loss, stratospheric ozone depletion, ocean acidification, land system changes, and key nutrient cycles, Rockström et al. (2009) observe that we have already exceeded several key boundaries that delineate the safe operating space for humanity on the planet – particularly biodiversity loss and climate change – and that we are rapidly approaching the limits in several other areas such as ocean acidification.

After thoroughly reviewing the current evidence, Ehrlich & Ehrlich (2013) conclude that our current global civilisation is threatened by collapse unless we undertake concerted action to address the most serious problems threatening the well-being of the entire Earth community. Meanwhile, social and economic inequality continues to grow.

Overall, our response to the key challenges threatening the well-being—and even survival—of human societies and living ecosystems seems far weaker than the situation requires (Crompton, 2010), despite the fact that promising policies, technologies, and social innovations to address the ecological crisis exist.

ENV222 explores the concept and practice of sustainability by integrating scientific, technological, economic, political, psychological, historical, and ethical perspectives.

The course begins by analysing the challenges posed by the ecological crisis, including its historical roots. It then goes on to explore and evaluate a variety of approaches, strategies, and actions—at a personal, local, national, and global scale—that could enable us to move towards authentic sustainability.



## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Describe and understand some of the key threats and challenges posed by the ecological crisis and analyse how these are interrelated.
2. Explain why many of the key challenges being faced could be described as “wicked problems” and why it is necessary to adopt an inter (or trans) disciplinary approach to understand and address them.
3. Describe and analyse how technological, political, economic, psychological, perceptual, and ethical factors have contributed to the genesis of the ecological crisis, including historical perspectives.
4. Describe and analyse the nature of sustainability, describe some key characteristics of sustainability (including its technological, political, economic, and ethical dimensions), and envision what kinds of transformations might be necessary to achieve sustainability in practice.
5. Describe, analyse, and assess approaches that have been adopted to date to address the ecological crisis and analyse and assess some possible strategies to achieve sustainable human societies and to regenerate ecosystems.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

In this course, it is assumed that all of us (teachers and students) will learn from each other and that students will engage actively with the course readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments. While lively discussion and probing questions are always encouraged, it is also assumed that each person will treat others with respect. Students are expected to do all required (core) readings, attend lectures and tutorials, engage in appropriate practices and methods for assignments, and think critically. Critical thinking may be demonstrated by:

- articulating a clear understanding of key course concepts;
- applying these concepts appropriately to specific questions and new contexts;
- putting forth logical arguments backed by appropriate course materials (readings and lectures), examples, and evidence;
- making connections between different concepts and perceiving broader patterns; and
- seeking out the concrete implications for values, policies, and actions.

## EXPECTATIONS

As your instructor, I expect that you will:

- Take responsibility for your own learning. This includes participating actively in tutorials, online discussions, and Perusall discussions and seeking out help (via course office hours, use of a writing centre, etc.) when needed.
- Come to every class prepared (having completed the readings) and ready to engage with the material.
- Complete course lectures within the allocated time period (normally, about three days).
- Engage in surveys during course lectures and discussions during tutorials (camera and mic active).
- Come to class and tutorials with a considerate, respectful, and non-judgmental attitude towards each other and the instructor and help to create a positive space for creative learning and exploration: While critiques of ideas are welcome, treat others with kindness.

As students, you can expect that I will:

- Establish and maintain a positive space for exploration and learning.
- Come prepared to every class.
- Help you learn and achieve the course objectives.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR CLASS

In order to be able to get the most out of class and participate fully, you will need to read the materials assigned **before each class** on Perusall. The required readings are listed in the syllabus and are available on Perusall for online discussion and Quercus unless otherwise specified.

### USE OF PERUSALL FOR ONLINE DISCUSSION OF REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

To encourage critical engagement with course readings, we will be using the Perusall platform to facilitate interactive reading. Be sure to allocate sufficient time out of class each week for this activity.

Go to [www.perusall.com](http://www.perusall.com), click Login, and then create an account using your University of Toronto email address. Select I am a student and enter the course code **HATHAWAY-Z7VDR** upon registration. You may access the course directly at <https://app.perusall.com/join/hathaway-z7vdr>

**You will be asked to enter your student ID – please enter your UTOR ID (normally 8 characters that include part of your last name), not your student number.** See “How Perusall Works” posted on Quercus. Also see this set of sample annotations with associated quality scores and an explanation for each score. You are expected to provide comments or questions on all of the assigned readings. For each reading, typically **you should provide 3 (may vary from 2-4) short comments per reading**. Focus on providing comments/questions about the following elements (although you can certainly go beyond this):

1. The key conclusions and arguments of the reading (feel free to skip this if your classmates have already covered this!).
2. The element of the reading that you found most interesting, persuasive, well-argued, or thought-provoking. Please explain *why* you found it interesting.
3. The elements of the reading that you found most problematic, least persuasive, or most in need of further elaboration, and explain why.
4. Connections between the content of the readings and your own experiences, knowledge, or assumptions.
5. Connections between the current reading and past readings in the course or course lectures/discussion. (Do they concur or differ? How so?).

**To obtain the highest score possible on Perusall**, make sure to read the reading online in Perusall and to comment on different parts of the text, spending at least 60 minutes on each reading. You may also upvote comments from other students and reply to questions they may raise. Late post grades will be reduced by about 14% for each day late (falling to zero after one week).

Note that misuse of Perusall – for example, posting comments as your own that are copied from external web sites or other sources – will be treated as every other type of academic misconduct and will, at a minimum, result in an overall Perusall score of zero for the semester.

## LECTURES

Lectures 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 should be completed each week by Wednesday at 11:59 PM while lectures 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 are due on Fridays at 11:59 PM. Lectures may be watched at any time before their due dates. So, you may advance more quickly through the course material if you so desire.

Lectures are available online on Quercus and are graded automatically as you progress through the slides. Please make sure to follow the instructions posted on Quercus to ensure that you earn full marks for each lecture you complete. Also write down the verification words given during each lecture in case you need to complete the alternative lecture verification survey (only necessary if your lecture participation is not correctly registered). **For best results, view the course lectures on a computer with browser cookies enabled.**

**If you wish to review the lecture, please use the review version provided on Quercus so as not to reset your lecture participation grade.**

## TUTORIALS

Each student will attend six, online synchronous tutorials. Tutorials serve both to reinforce key topics from lectures and readings as well as to prepare for assignments and quizzes. Please check and confirm your tutorial group on Quercus under People, seeking out your section number. Tutorials provide students an opportunity to discuss the course subject matter in a smaller group as well as to prepare for course assignments, quizzes, and exams. Each tutorial will be led by one of the teaching assistants. Attendance is required to ensure adequate preparation for exams and papers and active participation will also be part of your participation grade. **You must have and use a functioning camera and mic for tutorials. Those unable to use their camera or microphone may be marked as absent.**

## COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Assignment instructions, including assessment criteria, will be posted on Quercus and discussed in tutorial.

Assignments	Due Date	Value
<b>Attendance and Participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete all asynchronous lectures on time and participate weekly in online synchronous tutorials.</li> <li>Other bonus activities will also be available. See course participation for more details</li> </ul>	Weekly	20%
<b>Quizzes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three online quizzes focusing on lectures (5% each)</li> </ul>	1. May 17 @ 11:59 PM 2. May 31 @ 11:59 PM 3. June 14 @ 11:59 PM	15%
<b>Perusall Readings</b>	Weekly: Check on Perusall	15%
<b>Assignment #1</b>	May 25 @ 11:59 PM	25%
<b>Final Assessment (Assignment #2)</b>	June 16 @ 11:59 PM	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

Participation Grade Details	Marks	Maximum
<b>Asynchronous Lecture Complete</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete lectures on time</li> <li>A verification quiz is available if your lecture participation does not register correctly</li> </ul>	1.0/class	12.0
<b>Tutorial Participation</b>	1.0/tutorial	6.0
<b>Mid-term Course Evaluation</b>	1.0	1.0
<b>Final Course Evaluation Certification</b>	1.0	1.0
<b>Bonus Participation Activities</b>	1.0 each (up to 4.0)	4.0
<b>Total Possible</b>		<b>20.0</b>



## ONLINE QUIZZES

There will be three multiple choice online quizzes accessible via Quercus, one covering the lectures of weeks 1-4 of the course second covering weeks 5-8, and the third weeks 9-12. **Each quiz will open on a Friday at Noon and close Saturday at 11:59 PM.**

You may attempt each quiz three times during the 36 hours it is open, seeking to improve your responses each time. Only the best of the three attempts will count. Each time you attempt the quiz, the questions are drawn from a question bank, so new questions may appear each time.

You are permitted to refer to your notes, posted lecture slides, and readings while taking the quiz, but each attempt is time limited.

## ASSIGNMENTS

There will be two written assignments, each a maximum of 1400 words excluding the reference list. Details of each assignment will be posted on Quercus along with a rubric outlining the criteria for evaluation.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

During tutorial and class time, you are strongly encouraged to use your computers or tablet only for watching the class/tutorial, taking notes, and online student interactions.

## USE OF QUERCUS (PORTAL/LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

It is your responsibility to check Quercus frequently (at least twice a week). You must have a mail.utoronto.ca (or @utoronto.ca) email address indicated on ACORN to properly receive messages from the course instructor through Quercus.

Please note that all written assignments will be submitted through Quercus. It is your responsibility to ensure that your written assignments are uploaded properly. Please make sure the confirmation page appears after submitting your assignments and, if possible, make a copy of the confirmation page ("print" to a pdf document and save).

## COURSE TEXTS AND REQUIRED READINGS

All course texts will be available online via Perusall (core readings) or Quercus (recommended and optional readings). In some cases, to access electronic journal articles and some book chapters, you will need to log into the University of Toronto library.

**Note:** Students are expected **to read all core readings posted on Perusall**. Recommended and optional readings are included for those who wish to explore a theme in more depth. Non-core readings will not be covered in course quizzes (unless the material is covered in course lectures), but may be helpful in understanding key ideas, writing your assignment papers, and answering any bonus quiz questions.

The list of readings included in the syllabus may be modified somewhat during the course – ***please consult Quercus for an up-to-date list of core, recommended, and optional readings.***

## HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD I SPEND ON THE COURSE?

On average, for each class (x 2 classes/week), you should expect to spend:

- Two hours watching the class, participating in surveys, and taking notes
- Two-Three hours on assigned readings (reading and annotating in Perusall, taking notes for study)
- One hour making study notes + (optionally) one hour on a bonus participation activity

In addition, each week you should spend:

- 1.5 hours attending tutorials

On average, every three weeks you also should spend:

- 12-14 hours working on an assignment or preparing for your final exam

In total, this averages to about 16-18 hours per week on the course.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND WEEKLY READINGS

Lectures will generally be available—at latest—by Sunday evening (odd-numbered lectures) or by Tuesday evening (even-numbered). The dates shown are the suggested dates to view the lecture, the latter date being the due date to receive credit (by 11:59 PM of the due date).

### CLASS 1 (MAY 5-7): COURSE INTRODUCTION

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain an overview of the course and have a clear understanding of expectations for participation, assignments, and evaluation.
- Students will be able to define and understand some key concepts such as ecology, environment, and the Anthropocene.
- Students will begin to reflect on and develop an understanding of the nature of the ecological crisis, including problems related to poverty and inequality, resource depletion, and waste accumulation.

#### Bonus Participation Activity

Post a personal introduction in the discussion forum.

#### Core Readings (see following class for the list of readings due on Friday, May 9)

##### Recommended Readings

Brown, L. R. (2009). *Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to save civilization*, pp. xi-27. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

MacDonald, D. (2015). Human capacity, self-interest and moral restraint: Attempting to understand the ecological crisis. Paper delivered at the 2015 annual conference of the Environmental Studies Association of Canada, June 2, 2015, University of Ottawa.

### CLASS 2 (MAY 7-9): THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS – SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain an understanding of key ecological challenges as “wicked problems” and begin to reflect on the importance of an inter/transdisciplinary approach to understand and address these.
- Students will gain a clearer understanding of the scientific dimensions of key ecological problems including the concept of planetary boundaries (and the nature of each of these) as well as the interrelationship between key ecological challenges.
- Drawing on systems theory, students will explore the nature of feedback loops and how these influence ecological changes.

#### Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by Friday, May 9)

Ehrlich, P. R., & Ehrlich, A. H. (2013). Can a collapse of global civilization be avoided? *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 280(20122845), 1-9.

Hathaway, M. & Boff, L. (2009). *The Tao of liberation: Exploring the ecology of transformation*. (pp. 1-22). Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.

Rockström, J., Steffen, W., Noone, K., Persson, Å., Chapin III, F. S., Lambin, E.,... Schellnhuber, H. J. (2009). Planetary boundaries: Exploring the safe operating space for humanity. *Ecology and society*, 14(2), 32.

##### Recommended Readings

Hansen, James (2012). Why I must speak out about climate change. TED talk:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/james\\_hansen\\_why\\_i\\_must\\_speak\\_out\\_about\\_climate\\_change](https://www.ted.com/talks/james_hansen_why_i_must_speak_out_about_climate_change)

##### Optional Readings

Brown, V. A., Harris, J. A., & Russell, J. Y. (Eds.). (2010). *Tackling wicked problems through the transdisciplinary imagination*, pp. 3-21, 26-30. London, UK: Routledge.

Hulme, Mike (2009). Chapter 3: The Performance of Science. In *Why we disagree about climate change: Understanding controversy, inaction and opportunity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 72-108.

### CLASS 3 (MAY 12-14): THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS – POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, & SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to analyse and understand the connection between economic growth, corporate super-persons, finance, monoculture, and domination and the ecological crisis (including its social dimensions) as well as some of the assumptions underlying the dominant global economic system.
- Students will analyse the relationship between population, affluence/consumption, and technology in generating ecological impacts (I=PAT).
- Students will learn how ecological footprints can be used to understand the relative impact of different nations and social classes.
- Students will understand more clearly the political challenges posed by the ecological crisis and continue to deepen the analysis of population, affluence, technology, and ecological impact.
- Students will analyse in more detail the concept of the Anthropocene as well as some alternative ways to understand our current epoch in light of an analysis of relative consumption and economics.

#### Bonus Participation Discussion

Watch the webinar recording with Marilyn Waring on why GDP is a flawed economic indicator and post to the discussion.

#### Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by the Sunday, May 11)

Carter, Neil (2007). Chapter 7: The environment as a policy problem. In *The politics of the environment: Ideas, activism, policy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 174-181.

Ehrlich, P. R., & Ehrlich, A. H. (2004). Chapter 5: Technology matters. In *One with Nineveh: Politics, consumption, and the human future*, pp. 138-180. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Hathaway, M. & Boff, L. (2009). *The Tao of liberation: Exploring the ecology of transformation*, pp. 22-61. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.

#### Recommended Readings

Meyer, William B. (1996). Chapter 2: Changes in population and society. In *Human impact on the Earth*, pp. 22-50. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Hartley, D. (2016). Anthropocene, Capitalocene, and the problem of culture. In Altvater, E., Crist, E., Haraway, D., Hartley, D., Parenti, C., & McBrien, J. *Anthropocene or capitalocene? Nature, history, and the crisis of capitalism* pp. 154-184. Oakland, CA: PM Press.  
Retrieved from <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com>

Battersby, S. (2017). Can humankind escape the tragedy of the commons? *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(1), 7-10.

#### Optional Readings

Marten, G. G. (2010). Chapter 2: Population and feedback systems. *Human ecology: Basic concepts for sustainable development*, pp. 14-25. London, UK: Routledge.

Steffen et al (2018). Trajectories of the Earth system in the Anthropocene. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(33), 8252-8259.

### CLASS 4 (MAY 14-16): THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS – ETHICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS

#### Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain a clearer understanding of how values and perceptions (or worldviews) affect human-nature interactions as well as some factors that may have contributed to a more anthropocentric worldview.
- Students will be able to describe some ethical frameworks including deep ecology, ecofeminism, social ecology, and spiritual-religious perspectives.
- Students will come to understand some of the key psychological and perceptual challenges may impede actions addressing key ecological problems.



## Bonus Participation Discussion

Share a significant life experience that helped move you towards a more ecological worldview.

## Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall, May 16)

Armstrong, J. (2021). The land is us. In Hathaway, M. et al (eds.) *Listening to Indigenous Voices: A Dialogue Guide on Justice and Right Relationships* (pp. 28-31). Toronto, ON: Novalis

Attfield, Robin (2003). Chapter 1: Environmental problems and humanity. In *Environmental Ethics*, pp. 1-30. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Markowitz, E. and Shariff, A. 2012. Climate change and moral judgment. *Nature Climate Change*, p.243-247.

Orr, D. (2006). The trial. *Conservation Biology*, 20(6), 1570-1573.

## Recommended Readings

Hemple, M. (2014). Ecoliteracy: Knowledge is not enough. *State of the World 2014: Governing for Sustainability* pp. 41-52. Washington, DC: Worldwatch Institute.

Merchant, C. (2008). Introduction. *Ecology: Key concepts in critical theory*, pp. 15-39. Humanity Books.

Scharper, S. (2013). From sustainable development to sustainable liberation: Toward an Anthro-po-harmonic ethic. In S. Appolloni (Ed.), *For Earth's sake: Toward a compassionate ecology* (pp. 180-199). Toronto, ON: Novalis.

## Optional Readings

Capra, F. (1996). Deep ecology - A new paradigm. Chapter 1 of *The web of life: A new scientific understanding of living systems* (pp. 3-13). New York, NY: Anchor Books.

Marten, G. G. (2010). Chapter 9: Perceptions of nature. *Human ecology: Basic concepts for sustainable development*, pp. 121-135. London, UK: Routledge.

## CLASS 5 (MAY 19-21): HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION, & LAND USE

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to describe and analyse how changes in food production transformed human-nature relations and contributed to the current ecological crisis.
- Students will gain a clearer understanding of the impacts of modern industrial agriculture on ecosystems as well as how such agriculture may contribute to social inequality.
- Students will continue to deepen their understanding of the Anthropocene or Capitalocene.

## Bonus Participation Discussion

Watch the film *Inhabitants* and contribute to the discussion.

## Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by May 21)

Hathaway, M. (2016). Agroecology and permaculture: Addressing key ecological problems by rethinking and redesigning agricultural systems. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, 6(2), 239-250. doi: 10.1007/s13412-015-0254-8

Marten, G. G. (2010). Chapter 10: Unsustainable human-ecosystem interactions. *Human ecology: Basic concepts for sustainable development*, pp. 136-156. London, UK: Routledge.

Shiva, V. (2015). Women and biodiversity feed the world, not corporations and GMOs. *Common Dreams*:

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2015/05/20/women-and-biodiversity-feed-world-not-corporations-and-gmos>

## Recommended Readings

Burney, D. A., & Flannery, T. F. (2005). Fifty millennia of catastrophic extinctions after human contact. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 20(7), 395-401. doi:10.1016/j.tree.2005.04.022

Moran, E. F. (2006). Chapter 2: The way things were... *People and nature: An introduction to human ecological relations*, pp. 26-56. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Sutton, M. Q., & Anderson, E. N. (2010). Chapter 9: Intensive agriculture. *Introduction to cultural ecology*, pp. 251-289. Plymouth, UK: AltaMira Press.

## Optional Readings

Barje, T. and Erlandson, J. 2013. Looking forward, looking back: Humans, anthropogenic change, and the Anthropocene. *Anthropocene* 4(2013): 116-121.

Malm, A., & Hornborg, A. (2014). The geology of mankind? A critique of the Anthropocene narrative. *The Anthropocene Review*, 1(1), 62-69. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053019613516291>

Moore, Jason W. (2017) The Capitalocene, Part I: On the nature and origins of our ecological crisis, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 44:3, 594-630, DOI: [10.1080/03066150.2016.1235036](https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2016.1235036)

**CLASS 6 (MAY 21-23): HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: ENERGY, INDUSTRIALISATION, & CONSUMERISM****Learning Outcomes**

- Students will be able to describe and analyse how changes in the use of energy and the industrial revolution transformed human-nature relations and contributed to the current ecological crisis.
- Students will gain a clearer understanding of the nature and genesis of consumerism as well as how consumerism contributes to ecological destruction.

**Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by May 23)**

Assadourian, Erik (2010). The rise and fall of consumer culture. In Eric Assadourian (ed.), *State of the world – Transforming cultures: From consumerism to sustainability*. New York: WW Norton. Retrieved from <http://www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/Chapter%201.pdf>

Ponting, C. (2007). Chapter 12: The second great transition. *A new green history of the world*, pp. 265-293. London, UK: Vintage.

**Recommended Readings**

Mokyr, J. (1990). Chapter 6: The later nineteenth century, 1830-1914. *The lever of riches: Technological creativity and economic progress*, pp. 113-148. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Nye, David E. (2006). Chapter 6. Sustainable abundance, or ecological crisis? In *Technology matters: Questions to live with*, pp. 87-108. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Trentmann, F. 2016. How humans became 'consumers': A history. *The Atlantic*, November 28, 2016. (<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/11/how-humans-becameconsumers/508700/>).

**Optional Readings**

Smart, Barry (2010). Consuming: Historical and conceptual issues. In *Consumer Society: Critical Issues and Environmental Consequences*, pp. 1-29. London, UK: Sage.

**CLASS 7 (MAY 26-28): CLEAN PRODUCTION, ECOMODERNISATION, GEOENGINEERING, & ECOTECH****Learning Outcomes**

- Students will be able to analyse and assess the possibilities and limitations of technological innovations including clean production and ecomodernisation.
- Students will be able to analyse the challenges and possible solutions to the problems posed by plastics.
- Students will more clearly understand the possibilities, potential problems, and ethical questions evident in geoengineering.
- Students will be able to analyse the possibilities and implications of creating more durable and sustainable goods.
- Students will understand the principles of ecologically sustainable technology and biomimicry.

**Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by May 28)**

Corner, A., & Pidgeon, N. (2010). Geoengineering the climate: The social and ethical implications. *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 52(1), 24-37. doi: 10.1080/00139150903479563

Foster, J. (2012). The planetary rift and the new human exemptionalism: A political-economic critique of ecological modernization theory. *Organization & Environment*, 25(3), 211-237. doi:10.1177/1086026612459964

Mol, A. and D. Sonnenfeld (2000). Ecological modernisation around the world: An introduction. *Environmental Politics* 9(1): 1-14.

**Recommended Readings**

Hathaway, M. (2015). The practical wisdom of permaculture: An anthropoharmonic phronesis for an ecological epoch. *Environmental Ethics*, 37(4), 445-463.

International Institute for Sustainable Development (2013). Cleaner production: [https://www.iisd.org/business/tools/bt\\_cp.aspx](https://www.iisd.org/business/tools/bt_cp.aspx) [Short, one-page overview]

The Biomimicry Toolbox: <https://toolbox.biomimicry.org/> (Read the introduction and the four core concepts)

**Optional Readings**

Butler, Sarah (2018). Is fast fashion giving way to the sustainable wardrobe? *The Guardian*, 29 December 2018.

Gomez, Isabella (2018). Recycling isn't going to stop plastic from destroying the Earth. *Teen Vogue*, December 20, 2018.

- Kopnina, Helen (2018). Circular economy and cradle to cradle in educational practice. *Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences*, 15:1, 119-134, DOI: 10.1080/1943815X.2018.1471724
- McMahon, J. (2018). Chinese company says it will soon cross \$100 battery threshold, slaying the gasoline car. *Forbes*, December 4, 2018.
- Milanez, B., & Bührs, T. (2007). Marrying strands of ecological modernisation: A proposed framework. *Environmental Politics*, 16(4), 565-583. doi:10.1080/09644010701419105
- Thorpe, Beverley (1999). Citizen's guide to clean production.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260399703\\_Citizen's\\_Guide\\_to\\_Clean\\_Production](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260399703_Citizen's_Guide_to_Clean_Production)

## CLASS 8 (MAY 28-30): MARKETS, STEADY-STATE ECONOMICS, BIOREGIONALISM, & DEGROWTH

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain a basic understanding of ecological economics including its critique of growth, GDP, and hidden externalities.
- Students will be able to analyse and assess the possibilities and limitations of market-based solutions to ecological problems, particularly the use of carbon pricing mechanisms to re-internalise the costs of carbon pollution.
- Students will assess the advantages, limitations, and challenges of more radical economic transformations including bioregionalism and economic degrowth.

### Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by May 30)

- Cato, Molly (2012). Visioning the bioregional economy. In *The Bioregional Economy*, pp. 21-39. London, UK: Routledge.
- Daly, Herman E. (2007). *Ecological economics and sustainable development, selected essays by Herman Daly*, pp. 9-31. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, Inc.

### Recommended Readings

- Eisner, M. (2007). Chapter 8: From greed to green. In *Governing the Environment: The transformation of environmental regulation*, pp. 135-151. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Martínez-Alier, Joan (2012). Environmental justice and economic degrowth: An alliance between two movements. *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 23(1): 51-73.
- Redcliff, Michael (2010). The transition out of carbon dependence: The crisis of environment and markets. In M. Redcliff and G. Woodgate (eds.), *The international handbook of environmental sociology (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*, pp. 121-135. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, Inc.

### Optional Readings

- Ahmed, Nafeez (2018). This is how UN scientists are preparing for the end of capitalism. *The Independent*, 12 September 2018.  
[https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long\\_reads/capitalism-un-scientists-preparing-end-fossil-fuels-warning-demise-a8523856.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/capitalism-un-scientists-preparing-end-fossil-fuels-warning-demise-a8523856.html)
- Davidson, Eric A. (2000). Chapter 9. May We Live in Interesting Times. *You Can't Eat GNP: Economics as if Ecology Mattered*. Cambridge: Mass.: Perseus. pp. 185-216.
- Falkner, Robert (2009). Chapter 1: Global firms in international environmental politics. In *Business Power and Conflict in International Environmental Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 3-15.
- Goodman, M.K., and Boyd, E. (2011). A social life for carbon? Commodification, markets and care. Editorial. *The Geographical Journal*, 177 (2), 102-109.
- Hachadourian, Araz (2017). The 150-mile wardrobe: A solution for one of the world's most polluting industries. *Yes! Magazine*, December 19, 2017.
- World Bank Group. 2017. *State and trends of carbon pricing*. Executive Summary, p. 8-13.  
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29687/9781464812927.pdf>

### Bonus Participation Discussion

Project Drawdown: <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions> (spend some time browsing the different solutions in the different sectors – look towards the bottom of the page for the links).

**CLASS 9 (JUNE 2-4): GOVERNANCE, POLICY APPROACHES, SUSTAINABILITY, AND REGENERATION****Learning Outcomes**

- Students will gain a clearer understanding of the history of international environmental policy making, including the challenges of creating effective, binding agreements.
- Students will be able to explain how questions of ecological justice and global economics affect international environmental negotiations.
- Students will be able to explain and critique the concept of sustainable development, understand essential elements of sustainability, and explain the concept of regeneration and what it might entail in practice.

**Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by June 4)**

Speth, J. G. & Hass, P. M. (2006). Chapter 6: Paths to the future: A second attempt at global environmental governance? In *Global Environmental Governance*, pp. 125-150. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Wahl, D. C. (2016). *Designing regenerative cultures*. pp. 15-18, 39-49, 251-254. Axminster, UK: Triarchy Press.

**Recommended Readings**

Meadowcroft, James (2012). Greening the state?" In Paul F. Steinberg and Stacy D. VanDeveer, *Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice and Prospects*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press. pp. 63-87.

Orr, D. W. (1993). Love it or lose it: The coming biophilia revolution. In S. R. Kellert & E. O. Wilson (Eds.), *The biophilia hypothesis* (pp. 415-440). Washington, DC: Island Press.

**Optional Readings**

Cobb, J. B. (2012). Sustainable urbanization. In I. Leman-Stefanovic & S. B. Scharper (Eds.), *The natural city: Re-envisioning the built environment* (pp. 191-202). Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

Klein, Naomi (2018). Capitalism killed our climate momentum, not "human nature." *The Intercept*, August 3, 2018. <https://theintercept.com/2018/08/03/climate-change-new-york-times-magazine/>

Levin, K., Cashore, B., Bernstein, S., & Auld, G. (2012). Overcoming the tragedy of super wicked problems: constraining our future selves to ameliorate global climate change. *Policy sciences*, 45(2), 123-152. doi: 10.1007/s11077-012-9151-0

Munsch, Mathieu (2017). As the climate clock strikes midnight, it's time to look to the morning. In *Bright Green: Independent media for a radical, democratic, green movement*. <http://bright-green.org/2017/07/22/as-the-climate-clock-is-strikes-midnight-its-time-to-look-to-the-morning/>

TED Talk by Christiana Figueres – Executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), who led the recent COP 21 climate talks in Paris. [https://www.ted.com/talks/christiana\\_figueres\\_the\\_inside\\_story\\_of\\_the\\_paris\\_climate\\_agreement](https://www.ted.com/talks/christiana_figueres_the_inside_story_of_the_paris_climate_agreement)

Vogler, John (2008). Environmental issues. In John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (eds.) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, pp. 350-368. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

**Bonus Participation Discussion**

Participate in the bonus participation discussion on the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Stop Ecocide campaigns.

**CLASS 10 (JUNE 4-6): INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACTION****Learning Outcomes**

- Students will gain an understanding of both the importance and limitations of individual behaviour changes to promote sustainability as well as some of the challenges of motivating such change.
- Students will be able to analyse the challenges and potential effectiveness of collective action to promote sustainability at a community and social movement level.
- Students will be able to explain some of the goals and strategies employed by several pro-environmental social movements such as Fridays for Future, the Earth Charter, Indigenous Climate Action, and Foodshare.

## Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by June 6)

Hinton, E. & Goodman, M. (2010). Sustainable consumption: Developments, considerations and new directions. In M. Redcliff and G. Woodgate (eds.), *The international handbook of environmental sociology (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*, pp. 245-261. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, Inc.

Lange, E. A. (2023). Waves of environmentalism, development, and backlash. Chapter 3 in *Transformative sustainability education: Reimagining our future*. London, UK: Routledge.

## Recommended Readings

Tallullah, Tegan (2018). Why we can't rely on individuals to fix climate change. *The Climate Lemon*  
<https://theclimatemon.com/individual-collective-fixing-climate-change/>

Westley, F., Patton, M. Q., & Zimmerman, B. (2007). *Getting to maybe: How the world is changed*, pp. 19-53. Toronto, ON: Vintage Canada.

## Optional Readings

Elgin, Duane (2006). Voluntary simplicity and the new global challenge. In N. Haenn and R. Wilk (eds.) *The environment in anthropology: A reader in ecology, culture, and sustainable living*, pp. 458-468. New York, NY: NYU Press.

Hackel, L. & Sparkman, G. (2018). Reducing your carbon footprint still matters. *Slate*, October 26, 2018.  
<https://slate.com/technology/2018/10/carbon-footprint-climate-change-personal-action-collective-action.html>

## Bonus Participation Discussion

Participate in the bonus discussion on *Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary* and analyse three of the alternatives considered.

## CLASS 11 (JUNE 9-11): SHIFTING VALUES & WORLDVIEWS, CREATING MODELS OF REGENERATION

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to explain some theories of social change and be able to classify different kinds of transformative action applying these frameworks.
- Students will gain a preliminary understanding for both the importance and challenges of shifting values and worldviews.
- Students will become familiar with and analyse a variety of initiatives seeking to create living models of regenerative sustainability.

## Bonus Participation Discussion

Consider one of the examples below for your contribution to the discussion:

**Permaculture:** <http://www.permaculture.org.uk/> or <http://permacultureprinciples.com/> (and related videos)

**The Earth Charter Initiative:** <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/>

**The Work that Reconnects Network:** <http://workthatreconnects.org/>

**Transition Towns:** <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/> or <http://www.transitionus.org>

## Core Readings (read all the following on Perusall by June 11)

Escobar, A. (2018). Chapter 5: Design for transitions. *Designs for the pluriverse: Radical interdependence, autonomy, and the making of worlds*, pp. 137-164. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Homer-Dixon, T. (2006). Chapter 9: Cycles within cycles. *The upside of down: Catastrophe, creativity, and the renewal of civilization*, pp. 207-234. Washington, DC: Island Press.

See also: Earlier articles on permaculture and bioregionalism.

## Recommended Readings

Marten, G. G. (2010). Chapter 4: Ecosystems and social systems as complex adaptive systems. *Human ecology: Basic concepts for sustainable development*, pp. 42-59. London, UK: Routledge.

Quilley, S. (2012). Resilience through relocalization: Ecocultures of transition? *Ecocultures Working Paper: 2012-1*. University of Essex, UK. URL: <http://www.ecocultures.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Quilley-2012-1.pdf>.

## Optional Readings

Meadows, D. H. (1999). Leverage points: Places to intervene in a system. Hartland, VT: The Sustainability Institute.

Poland, B. et al (2018). The emergence of the transition movement in Canada: Success and impact through the eyes of initiative leaders. *Local Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2018.1555579>



**CLASS12 (JUNE 11-13): COURSE CONCLUSION AND FINAL EVALUATION****Learning Outcomes**

- Students will reflect on and integrate their learning to date regarding the ecological crisis and its causes as well as possible ways to address this crisis.

**Bonus Participation Discussion**

Watch the film *Inhabit* and contribute to the discussion by June 16.

(No readings)

**COURSE POLICIES****REFERENCING STYLE: APA**

All references in written work must be fully cited using the APA format. The following website is a useful style guide. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

**Note:** On course assignments, *please include page or lecture slide numbers in inline citations even when these are not direct quotes*. This helps TAs when marking your essays. You may also simply use lecture citations as described in your course assignment instructions.

**TURNITIN**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to Turnitin 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 Turnitin 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 service are described on the Turnitin web site.

If a student does not wish to participate in Turnitin, the student **MUST** advise their TA at least three weeks before the assignment due date as alternate arrangements for screening the assignment must be arranged. (Normally, this will entail the submission of rough notes and drafts along with their final assignment.)

**LATE AND LENGTH PENALTIES**

Please follow the length guidelines for each assignment carefully. A 2% penalty for up to the first 100 words over the maximum length will be deducted from the assignment (i.e. from 1 to 100 words over the limit) and 5% for each additional 100 words (101 to 200 over, etc.). (

Late papers will be assessed a **5% reduction of the value of the assignment per day late**, unless previously negotiated with the lead TA or with the submission of an ACORN absence self-declaration form. (Please inform the Instructor if you have submitted a declaration of absence form.) Note that late penalties for Perusall readings are different, as noted previously.

Unless previously negotiated, **late papers will only be accepted for one week after the due date**. Papers later than this will not be assessed. **Please do not leave potential issues to the last minute to discuss with the course instructor.**

If assignments are submitted late because of medical reasons, you must submit an online absence declaration on ACORN. (The declaration is available on ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu.). **After submitting the verification of illness form, let the course instructor know how long you anticipate you will not be able to engage in schoolwork due to illness.**

**ASSIGNMENT EXTENSIONS**

If you need to submit an assignment a few days late because of conflicting deadlines, extenuating circumstances, etc., you may request **(48 hours before the assignment is due)** a "life happens"

extension without further explanation by **writing to the Lead Administrative TA** via e-mail. Each student is entitled to *a total of four days* of “life happens” extensions that may be used separately (single days) or in blocks of 2-4 days. Please be careful to use these wisely. (It is probably best to only use 1-2 of these days at a time.) **Make sure to follow the extension request procedure outlined on Quercus.**

You may also, of course, request an extension (**48 hours before the assignment is due**) due to illness (with an ACORN absence declaration) or accessibility-related reason.

**Generally speaking, extensions will only be granted for Perusall readings or Quizzes due to an illness or accessibility-related issue** – “life happens” extensions will not apply. For this reason, it is strongly suggested that you keep up to date on your assigned Perusall readings.

## REMARKING POLICY

If a student believes that their assignment has not been fairly assessed, they should first read all the comments (both in the text and terminal comments) and consult the assignment rubric. If, after reviewing these, the student would like to request a reassessment, they should write their TA – **within one week of receiving their assignment grade** – with a written justification explaining why the assignment should be reassessed. The TA will then consider the request and remark if they believe this is justified. If the student is still not satisfied, they may appeal the grade to Lead Administrative TA, but must submit a written rationale to do so.

## TECHNOLOGY POLICY

This course requires the use of computers to view lectures, participate in discussions, annotate readings on Perusall, and submit assignments. Please keep in mind that computer problems may arise from time to time. **You are responsible for ensuring that you maintain regular backup copies of your files, use antivirus software (if using your own computer), and schedule enough time when completing an assignment to allow for delays due to technical difficulties.** Computer viruses, crashed hard drives, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, and similar mishaps are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for a deadline extension. **You must have a functioning camera and microphone that can be used (in a quiet place) during tutorials.**

## RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE AI

**Students may not use artificial intelligence tools for taking tests (quizzes), creating Perusall annotations, writing forum contributions, or completing major course assignments;** students are also strongly discouraged from using these tools for research purposes due to their unreliability.

## ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS AND SERVICES

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. The office of Accessibility Services at U of T provides a range of services to students with disabilities to help them meet their educational objectives. In conjunction with Accessibility Services, the course instructor and teaching assistant would like to ensure the inclusion and full participation of everyone in the course. 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. As well, if there are things that we can do to facilitate your learning, or that we need to know as members of the teaching team, please contact the instructor during the first few weeks of the course.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

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.

Familiarise 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 UT, 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. Using an AI tool to write your assignment.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorised 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 unauthorised 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.

**You can get further guidance on academic integrity at:** [www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students)

To remind you of these expectations, and help you avoid accidental offences, I will post an **Academic Integrity Checklist** with each assignment on Quercus. ***By submitting your assignment, you confirm that you have read the checklist and affirm that its statements are true.***

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.

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO WRITING CENTRES**

Students having difficulty with writing skills, or those who would simply like to improve their ability, are encouraged to consult the writing centre affiliated with their college at U of T. The writing centres offer free individual tutoring, group workshops, and other resources. For more information, see <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. Students may book up to 2 sessions/week.

**OTHER AVAILABLE SERVICES**

The following are some important links to help you with academic and/or technical service and support:

- General student services / resources at [Student Life](#)
- [University of Toronto Libraries](#)
- Online research through [University Libraries Research](#)
- [Academic Success Centre](#)
- [Technical Support/Quercus Support](#)