

## ENV337H1S – Human Interactions with the Environment Winter 2024

Last Updated: Jan 4, 2024

**Lecture:** Mondays 10am – noon  
**Location:** ES (Earth Sciences Building, specific room location can be found in your timetable.)  
**Tutorials:** Wednesdays: 9-10am in MP or 10 – 11am in MP  
Four tutorials are scheduled through the term: Jan 31, Feb 14, Mar 13, Mar 27.  
**Instructor:** Karen Ing, 416-978-4863; [karen.ing@utoronto.ca](mailto:karen.ing@utoronto.ca)  
**Office Hours:** by appointment, and usually available after lectures  
**Teaching Assistant:** Namee Choi ([namee.choi@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:namee.choi@mail.utoronto.ca))

### Required Text:

There is no required hardcopy textbook for ENV337H. Instead resources will be drawn from a variety of open sources, and links to any relevant readings will be posted prior to each associated lecture. You may have to sign into the UofT library system to gain full access to some of the readings.

### Marking Scheme

Assignment #1 – Moving Forward	Feb 4	20%
Assignment #2 – Impact of Your Diet	Mar 17	20%
Midterm	Feb 26	20%
Tutorials (presentation, slides & participation)		10%
Final Exam	Apr exam period	30%

### Introduction and Learning Objectives:

The impact of 7 billion people on the planet is enormous and challenges future generations. The interconnected systems of the planet means that as humans interact with their surrounding environments, they too will be influenced and impacted in turn. What are these impacts today and in future? What solutions and tools are available? What can we learn from environmental and cultural history? Using an integrated and interdisciplinary systems approach, we explore problems and solutions to the earth's limits to growth.

The course introduces students to Earth Systems interactions, and their limits to growth of human systems using an analytical perspective and, most importantly, how to critically analyze, quantify and solve problems arising from meeting these limits to growth.

Our learning objectives are to:

1. Familiarize you with Earth Systems, environmental processes, and ecological issues arising from human activities.

2. Understand the interconnectedness of these systems to each other and to human well being.
3. Learn to integrate disparate issues with roots in natural sciences and social sciences, and to develop solutions to these issues.
4. Improve your critical thinking, analytical abilities and problem solving skills.
5. Improve your ability to conduct research, assemble information, and communicate the results of your research.

### Lecture Topics and Tutorial Schedule

Week of	Lecture Topic and Readings	Tutorials
Jan 8	Introduction – Anthropocene	
Jan 15	Population & Measurements of Sustainability	
Jan 22	Planetary Boundaries & Drivers of Environmental Change	
Jan 29	Environmental Systems & Biogeochemical cycles	#1
Feb 5	Water I	
Feb 12	Water II	#2
Feb 19	Family Day – Reading Week	
Feb 26	Midterm	
Mar 4	Agriculture I	
Mar 11	Agriculture II	#3
Mar 18	Oceans I	
Mar 25	Oceans II	#4
Apr 1	Urban Ecology	

### Important Dates

Jan 8 – start of term

Jan 21 - last day to enroll in S courses

Feb 19 – Family Day

Feb 19-23 – Reading Week

Mar 11 - last day to drop S courses

Apr 5 – classes end

Apr 10-30 – exam period

## **COURSE POLICIES**

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. UofT does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

### **Technology Requirements**

Lectures and tutorials will be in-person, but we may be using Zoom on occasion for online teaching & learning in this course.

This course requires the use of computers, and of course sometimes things can go wrong when using them. 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, broken printers, 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.

### **Lectures/Copyright**

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.

### **Use of AI**

In this course, you may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT as learning aids and to help complete assignments. Generative AI may produce content which is incorrect or misleading, or inconsistent with the expectations of this course. These tools may even provide citations to sources that don't exist—and submitting work with false citations is an academic offense.

Generative AI is not required to complete any aspect of this course, and we caution you to not rely entirely on these tools to complete your coursework. Instead, we recommend treating generative AI as a supplementary tool only for exploration or drafting content. Ultimately, you (and not any AI tool) are responsible for your own learning in this course, and for all the work you submit for credit. It is your responsibility to critically evaluate the content generated, and to regularly assess your own learning independent of generative AI tools. Overreliance on generative AI may give you a false sense of how much you've actually learned, which can lead to poor performance on the midterm test or final exam, in later courses, or in future work or studies after graduation.

### **Tutorials**

There are four tutorials scheduled throughout the term: Jan 31, Feb 14, Mar 13, Mar 27.

The tutorials are intended as a forum in which students can discuss and get guidance with their upcoming assignments. In addition, students will be challenged with the opportunity to research and share innovative and positive examples of human interactions with their environment to better promote a sense of hope for moving forward. Once within the tutorials, each student will be required to deliver a 3-5 minute presentation using a maximum of 5 slides on a case study of their own choosing.

### **Submission of assignments:**

We will be using a plagiarism detection program within the online assignment function in Quercus for submission of the written assignments in this course. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool website for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 University's plagiarism detection tool service are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

If a student does not wish to submit to the online plagiarism tool, the student **MUST** advise the TA immediately as alternate arrangements for screening the assignment must be arranged.

To avoid late penalties, assignments must be submitted to the Quercus Assignment function before **midnight on the posted due date**.

When submitting your assignment on Quercus, the file should be saved in a single file, with an extension of .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. 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, your name and student number

### **Late penalties**

The late penalty on all assignments will be 5% of the assignment grade per day late, including weekends and will only be waived with the Absence Declaration Tool on ACORN.

Please note the declaration must cover the period of time you missed, e.g. the week before the assignment/essay is due, etc.

**Assignments will NOT be accepted one week past the due date** even if accompanied by an absence declaration form unless prior approval has been obtained from your TA or the course instructor.

### **Graded Material**

Any disputes or questions on graded material must be brought to the attention of the TA or instructor within 2 weeks of return or posting, otherwise will be considered final.

## Tests

For students who miss the midterm on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the instructor must be notified within 48 hours and a completed Absence Declaration on ACORN must be presented within a week before any special consideration (such as a deferred test) will be considered.

The final exam will be administered by the Faculty and students will need to contact their college registrars if they need to make alternate arrangements.

## 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>

### **ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility: if you require accommodations for a disability, or have any other accessibility concerns about the course, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

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

### **ADDITIONAL SERVICES and SUPPORT**

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

- General student services and resources at [Student Life](#)
- Full library service through [University of Toronto Libraries](#)
- Resources on conducting online research through [University Libraries Research](#)
- Resources on academic support from the [Academic Success Centre](#)
- Learner support at the [Writing Centre](#)

Information for [Technical Support/Quercus Support](#)