

ENV341 H1F: ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

I. CONTACTS

Instructor: Prof. Clare Wiseman

Office Hours (virtual): TBA

Email: clare.wiseman@utoronto.ca

Tutorial Assistant: Luyao Zhang

Email: ly.zhang@mail.utoronto.ca

II. COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description: ENV341 is designed as a survey course intended to introduce students to major issues and perspectives in environment and health. As part of this, case studies will be explored to highlight how environment and health are interconnected, and the factors involved in modulating associations between exposures and human health outcomes. A primary objective of the course is to equip students with needed skills to identify, critically analyze, and interpret key literature and evidence in related disciplines. Topics presented in lectures and readings will reflect the interdisciplinary nature of environment and health, which covers areas from toxicology, environmental science and chemistry to public health and geography.

The course will start by exploring the concepts of “health” and “environment” and how they are interconnected. This will be followed by an overview of the fields of environmental toxicology and public health sciences, and how they help inform our understanding of environment and health issues, including an examination of related tools and methods to evaluate scientific evidence. Following this, a range of important topics and case studies will be examined to highlight the multifaceted and varied ways health and environment are interconnected. Concepts related to population inequities and vulnerability will be particularly emphasized to help us understand how and why certain populations are particularly at risk for exposures and health outcomes.

Educational Objectives: Upon successful course completion, students will be expected to:

1. Have a basic understanding of core concepts central to environment and human health,

2. Have an understanding of the complex nature of environment and human health and how various biological, physiological, developmental and socioeconomic and cultural factors may impact the health of individuals, communities, and populations at all levels, ranging from the local to the global level, and
3. Have acquired the skills necessary to research and critically assess available information on topics related to environment and health.

III. COURSE ORGANIZATION

Course Delivery: Lectures will be held in-person from 13:00-15:00 on Wednesdays.

Access to Course Materials and Readings: The course uses Quercus for the provision of course and lecture materials, submission and completion of assignments and important communications between instructor and students. To access the Quercus-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password.

Students will be provided access to all readings in the form of links provided in the Course Schedule and Readings file provided in the Modules section of Quercus. No textbook purchase required. All readings will be accessible using your UTORid and password through UofT's electronic library system.

COVID Precautions: While COVID restrictions have been lifted, we still need to be mindful of the fact that new viral strains are in circulation that may pose a risk to vulnerable individuals. IF YOU DEVELOP COVID SYMPTOMS AT ANY POINT, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO EITHER WEAR A MASK OR NOT COME TO CLASS.

IV. EVALUATION/GRADING SCHEME

Evaluation:

- Literature Review proposal = 25% (Due Date: Oct. 11, 2023)
- Environmental Justice & Health Assignment = 35% (Due Date: Nov. 1, 2023)
- Literature Review Paper = 40% (Due Date: Nov. 29, 2023)

Details regarding the above, including expectations and guidelines, will be provided in the course's website in Quercus (see ENV341 ASSIGNMENTS: INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES).

Please note: This course will be using Ouriginal for the submission of assignments on the course's website in Quercus. 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>). If you object to using Ouriginal, please see the course instructor to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments prior to the submission deadline.

V. COURSE POLICIES

Email and Communication:

The TA should be considered the first point of contact when it comes to general inquiries about the course and assignments. Please contact the course instructor directly, if requesting an accommodation or an extension or in the event of an emergency.

The instructor will hold virtual office hours using Zoom (day and time to be announced). Students must pre-register using the course calendar in Quercus for an appointment during this time (allocated as 15-minute time slots).

It is recommended that students pay attention to the announcements posted on the course's website on Quercus, as this will be the primary way the instructor will communicate important messages, including ones of an urgent matter should unexpected events occur.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the course syllabus and expectations regarding course assignments. Should you have a question about course assignments or quizzes, it is ALWAYS good practice to read the syllabus first to find the answer, to avoid sending any unnecessary emails. For more substantive questions regarding assignments such as choosing a topic for your literature review, students are expected to book a time during virtual office hours to discuss directly with the course instructor.

Please do not expect responses to emails on evenings and weekends, just before class or within 24 hours of exams or assignment due dates.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI): The use of generative artificial intelligence tools and apps is strictly prohibited in all course assignments, unless explicitly stated otherwise by the course instructor. This includes ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants. Use of generative AI in this course may be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which is a form of academic misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly.

This policy is intended to promote your learning and intellectual development and to help you achieve the learning outcomes, especially those relating to the use of public health approaches to conduct research.

Notice of video recording and sharing: 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. You should not copy, share or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. Students creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Late Penalties and Deadline Extensions: Assignments should be handed in on the due date. A late penalty of 5% per day (including weekends) will be deducted from the mark for assignments submitted up to 7 days following the due date. After 7 days, assignments will not be accepted for consideration and will automatically receive a grade of 0%. Extenuating circumstances may arise that impact your ability to complete an assignment on time. Students are expected to discuss these issues with your instructor **before or on the assignment due date** to make alternative arrangements for submission.

Students who are absent from class for any reason (e.g., COVID, other illness or injury, family situation), and who require consideration for missed academic work, MUST report their absence through the online Absence Declaration Tool on ACORN (in the Profile and Settings menu). As per that outlined by the University's Registrar at <https://registrar.utoronto.ca/policies-and-guidelines/absence-declaration/>, are only allowed to use the ACORN Absence Declaration tool once per academic term and for a maximum of 7 consecutive days.

The decision to waive the penalty for late assignments for students that contact the instructor AFTER an assignment deadline will be made at the instructor's discretion.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SUPPORT

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic->

[matters-july-1-2019](#)) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement (including the use of phrases verbatim without quotation marks, even if you provide the appropriate reference in brackets or as a footnote).
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>).

Accessibility Needs: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. 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.

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](#)