

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES			
TERM:	FALL 2016	COURSE NO:	GEOGRAPHY 101
INSTRUCTOR:		COURSE NAME:	ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY: UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three instructional hours per week, and an additional hour delivered through other activities, per week for a 15-week semester. This includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

There are few natural systems on Earth that have *not* been impacted by humans. Accordingly, it has been proposed that we dub the time period since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution as the *Anthropocene*, or ‘the recent age of man’. The significance of this new geological epoch is that—for the first time in the history of humans on Earth—we recognize ourselves as not separate from the workings of the natural world, but instead a significant part of these workings. In short, humans have caused Earth to work differently. Therefore, the Anthropocene is not just about recognizing that we have caused problems, but also that we have the ability—through the same ingenuity that brought us here—to solve these problems.

Geography is about Earth—both its physical and human aspects. Geography is also interdisciplinary in that geographers recognize the many complex interrelationships that operate in the Earth system. These attributes make Geography the ideal discipline in which to study environmental issues. Thus, Geography 101 is about understanding the science behind the environmental problems we have created as well as, and perhaps more importantly, about the solutions to these problems.

We will begin this course by studying the relationship between ourselves and our environment. This framework will allow us to speculate on the causes of environmental degradation. Next, to appreciate how Earth works and why things are connected, we will explore biogeochemical cycles. With this as background, we will devote the rest of the course to examining several of the major environmental issues we currently face. These environmental problems are problems of both quantity and quality. That is, we *use* resources and we *pollute* resources. We will study the ways in which the atmosphere is changing from the local to the global scale, we will study agriculture with the aim of understanding how it can become sustainable, we will study the problems of both depletion and degradation of our water resources, and finally we will study the implications of creating vast quantities of solid waste.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. to appreciate the complexity of environmental issues by recognizing that Earth operates as a system
2. to understand the reasons for the recent rapid growth of the human population and the role of overpopulation in environmental degradation
3. to explain the science behind a variety of major environmental issues

4. to recognize how our economic, political, and social systems influence decisions that affect the natural environment
5. to identify ways in which society, and individuals, can lessen their negative impact on the environment

REQUIRED TEXT:

Chiras, Daniel D. Environmental Science, 10th Ed. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2016.

COURSE CONTENT:

Week 1	Introduction – What is Environmental Science? The Relationship between Humans and the Natural Environment – How can we Assess our Impact?
Week 2	The Relationship between Humans and the Natural Environment, cont. Population – An Underlying Problem?
Week 3	Population, cont. Introduction to Our Changing Atmosphere – From Local to Global
Week 4	Air Pollution
Week 5	Ozone Depletion Climate Change
Week 6	Climate Change, cont.
Week 7	Water – Quantity and Quality
	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8	Water, cont.
Week 9	Water, cont. Agriculture – Can We Feed People Sustainably?
Week 10	Agriculture, cont.
Week 11	Solid Waste – The Implications of Garbage
Week 12	Solid Waste, cont.
Week 13	Conclusions – Can we be Optimistic?

Weeks 14 and 15 **FINAL EXAM PERIOD**

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Participation	5%
Fourth-Hour Assignments	10%
Term Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

EVALUATION TOOLS:

Participation: The following will be considered in assigning your participation grade:
- your engagement with the course material both in and out of class,
- your contributions to in-class activities, and
- your attendance.

Assignments: All assignments—including fourth hour assignments—will be described in detail on a separate handout.

Midterm and Final Exams:
These exams will test material covered in the course. This includes material covered in lectures, and could also include material from videos, readings, and class discussions.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Office Hours: To be announced.

Attendance: Regular attendance is highly recommended.

Responsibility for Material covered during a missed class:
When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during their absence. This includes material covered in class or group discussions, and in videos.

Missed exams:
Students who are unable to write the exams must have an acceptable excuse and are expected to contact the instructor before the exam. The exam must be completed as soon as possible after returning to class.

Incomplete Grades: Students are expected to keep up with class assignments. Incomplete grades will be considered IF REQUESTED, and must be discussed with the instructor at least

one week before the end of classes. Requests should be in writing, giving the reason for the incomplete and the date the student expects to finish the course. Students requesting incompletes may be asked to hand in additional assignments. Only legitimate reasons will be considered.

English Usage: All written work submitted must use good academic English and follow the guidelines provided in the “*Capilano University Guide to Writing Assignments*” (available from the University Bookstore).

Cheating/ Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the presentation of another person’s work or ideas as if they were one’s own. Plagiarism is both dishonest and a rejection of the principles of scholarship. Information about how to avoid plagiarism by proper documentation of sources is available from the Library and the Writing Centre. All students should familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism* (See the *University Website*) as such behavior can result in suspension from the University.

Cell Phones: During all classes, turn off cell phones and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Please read the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.