Website: Lecture and lab materials and notices are found on the Geography 101A course site. Please check regularly for updates.

Readings: Dearden, P., and Mitchell, B. (2012). *Environmental change and challenge: A Canadian perspective*. 4

Geography 101A

Environment, society and sustainability

Fall Term 2014

Course Instructor Dr. Phil Dearden (pdearden@mail.geog.uvic.ca)
Office: DTB B 358 Tel: 721-7335

Office hours: Monday, 2 30-4.30, Friday 11-1230

Lectures: Mondays, Thursdays, 1 pm – 2:20 pm David Turpin Building, Room A120

Labs: Monday

4:20 DTB 307 Alison Macnaughton alimacna@gmail.com
6:20 DTB 307 Kinga Menu kmenuA006 T19av1006 Tw 0.253 -0.003 Tw 0.253 0 Td [(3)12(07)12( )12( )]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw ( )T

th Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Course The course includes 2 one hour and 20 minute-minute lectures per week and weekly 2-hour laboratory sessions.

Structure: The laboratory sessions will include field work, discussions, projects and debates. These laboratory sessions form an integral part of the course since they enable a more detailed discussion of topics relevant to the course. Furthermore, they are intended to counter the anonymity often experienced in the large lecture section.

This course outline provides an introduction to GEOG101A. More detailed information on the course including the labs can be found in the lab manual available on the course site

COURSE CONTENT

The goal of Geography 101A is to introduce students to the way in which the ecosphere functions and the ways in which humans interact with the natural environment. There is a strong emphasis on gaining understanding of key environmental problems and developing more sustainable approaches to societal interactions with the environment.

Two main themes of geographical enquiry are determining and explaining the biophysical processes that underlie areal differentiation of the earth's surface, and understanding the relationship between these processes and human activities. The first focus is physical geography and includes biogeography, climatology, and geomorphology; the second focus is resource management and includes environment, and development, and regional geography. Although there is a long history of geographical enquiry in these foci, they have come to greater prominence over this last decade due to the increasing scale and severity of environmental change in the biosphere and the role of human activity in causing this change.

To understand the dimensions of various environmental problems, such as acid rain, global warming, eutrophication, species extinction, deforestation, and a host of others, students must have some idea of how the biosphere functions. The first part of the course focuses on this aspect, involving understanding the ways in which energy flows and materials cycle through the biosphere, and the structure and organization of ecological communities. From this base, students will more readily appreciate the ways in which these naturally occurring processes are changed by human activities such as forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and water management. These are covered in the second half of the course. Examples from throughout the world, but primarily from Canada and British Columbia, are used to illustrate these changes. Due to the high profile of many of these issues in the media, students are expected to pay particular attention to these current issues as the course progresses.

The course is designed to meet the requirements of three groups of students:

1. those who wish to take basic courses in geography to supplement their major in another field;
2.

Evaluation

COURSE CONTENT[1]

Lecture and Lab Schedule Fall term 2014, Dr. Dearden:

Date:	**Lecture:**	**Readings:**	**Lab:**
Sept 4	Introduction		

Laboratory Work

Assignments are due at the beginning of the lab. ***Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day***. Exceptions to the late policy will only be granted by your lab instructor for verified illnesses (ie, doctor's note needed). *All* assignments must be submitted to get a passing grade in the laboratory component.

As with any course which includes laboratory work, students will be required to make satisfactory standing in both parts of this course. Results in laboratory work will be announced by the department concerned prior to the final examinations, and students who have not obtained a grade of at least D in their laboratory work will NOT be permitted to write the examination, nor receive any credit for the course.

If you must miss a lab you are required to either make it up by attending another lab section (with both TA's permission) or by doing a relevant replacement assignment as to be decided between you and your TA with the professor being the overriding decision maker.

DEPARTMENT POLICY ON GRADE EXPECTATIONS

The performance expectations for a given letter grade should be consistent with the level of the course (100, 200, 300, 400). The higher the course level, the more should be expected when assigning a letter grade.
First class letter grades (**A-, A, A+**) are assigned for performance above expectations, *i.e.*, demonstrating a thorough understanding of most, or all, aspects of course material.
Letter grades of **B-, B, and B+** are assigned for performance that is about as expected, *i.e.*, demonstrating a good understanding of the key, but not all, aspects of the course material. A passing grade of **D, C, or C+** is assigned for performance that is marginally acceptable. A **failing grade** is assigned for unacceptable performance. Performance is unacceptable if the student does not display an understanding of at least the essentials of the course material. It is expected that the rate of course failure will be higher in lower level courses than in higher level courses. The expected average grade for courses in the Geography Department will typically be in the range of B-

Academic Honesty:

"Academic honesty has been compromised when a student (or students) enrolled in a course has committed one of the following offences:

a) If the lecture assignment or lab project was completely done by somebody else, it is complete or full plagiarism, which will result in expulsion from the course for any student(s) submitting the work (course grade of F). The Assistant Dean of Arts and Science will be notified of this action.

b) If the lecture assignment or lab project includes extensive copies of phrases or complete sentences without citation, it is substantial plagiarism, which will result in a zero on the assignment for any student(s) submitting the work. Submitting the same assignment for two courses without both instructors' prior approval will also result in a zero on both assignments or projects.

c) If the lecture assignment or lab project has only one or two instances where the writing in a sentence is presented as one's own but it not, it is minor plagiarism, which will result in at least a half-grade reduction on the assignment or project for any student(s) submitting the work."

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

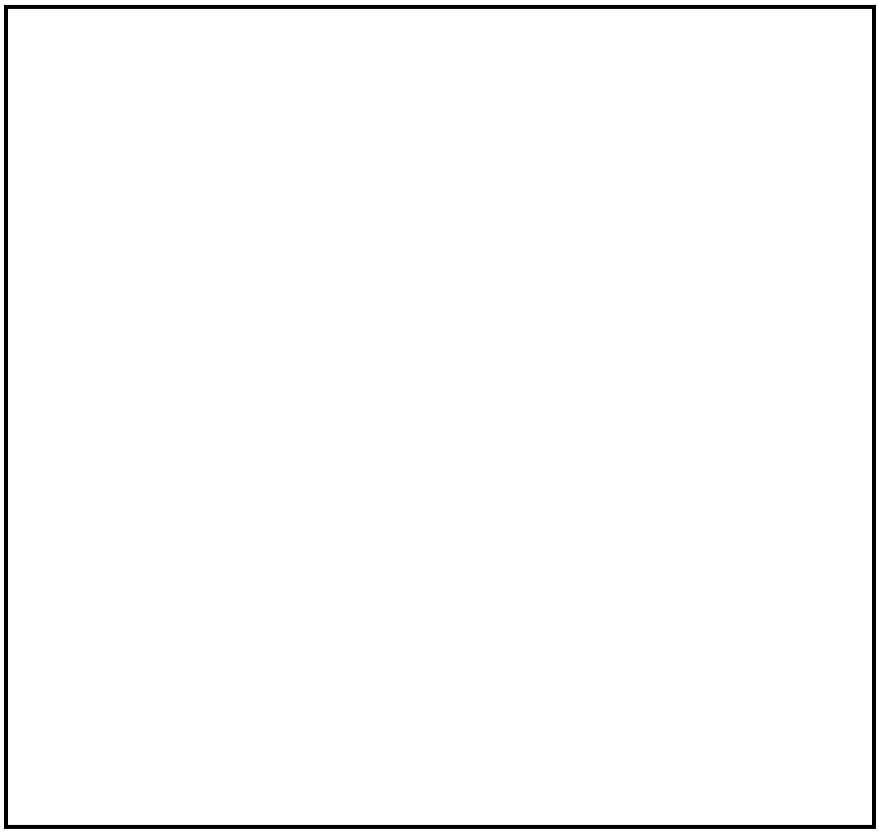
The policies of the current University of Victoria Calendar will guide our grading of your work. Read carefully the section ***Policy on Academic Integrity*** (see 2014/2015 UVic Course Calendar). If you are having personal or medical problems and cannot complete your assignments on time or cannot write the exams, it is your responsibility to request assistance from the Counselling Centre, or our lecturers, senior lab instructor, or your lab instructor, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Grading – Uvic Policy

The table below shows the official grading system used by UVic instructors in arriving at final assessments of student performance.

Undergraduate Grading		
Passing Grades	**Grade Point Value**	**Description**
A+ **A** **A-**	9 8 7	**Exceptional**, **outstanding** and **excellent** performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.

B+



OBJECTIVE OF THE GEOGRAPHY 101A LAB PROGRAM

The labs are designed, through a variety of techniques, to supplement and enhance the material covered in lectures. The overall course goal is to kindle your interest in and develop your critical faculties concerning people's relationship with the environ