

# GEOG 209 - Intro. to Enviro. Management

## COURSE INFO

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Office Hours: M 15:00-17:00 in room DTB B210

LECTURE: MR: 13:00-14:20 in ECS 116  
LABS: A01 M 15:30-17:20 in DTB B311;  
A02 T 10:30-12:20 in DTB B307  
A03 T 16:30-18:20 in DTB B307;  
A04 W 10:30-12:20 in DTB B311;  
A05 W 14:30-16:20 in B311



## OVERVIEW

Featuring both a lab and lecture component, Geog 209 is the core 200 level course in the Department of Geography's "Environment and Sustainability" concentration. Building primarily on Geog 101A, this course further explores the troubling relationship between humans and their surroundings, critically interrogating the means by which humans attempt to manage environments. Our approach takes bearings from political ecologist Paul Robbins who uses the metaphor of the hatchet and the seed to describe critical inquiry. With "the hatchet" we want to reveal the dynamics of the dominant paradigm that has had such devastating effect, "cutting and pruning away the stories, methods and policies that create pernicious social and environmental outcomes". With "the seed" we want to celebrate and learn from those that are working out creative solutions to bring about a genuinely sustainable and just future. The course attends to rural and urban situations using examples from British Columbia and other national and international contexts. Geog 209 prepares students for further exploration at the 300 level in courses such as: Geog 301 Environmental Impact Assessment; Geog 353 Coastal and Marine Resources, Geog 357 Parks and Protected Areas and Geog 371 Water Resources Management.

## REQUIRED READINGS

**Texts:** There are no mandatory texts assigned for this class.

**Readings:** Essential readings in the forms of journal articles, book chapters and other sources will be posted on the course Moodle site (<http://moodle.uvic.ca/>) and should be read thoroughly and brought to class. While readings are peripheral to learning in some courses, they are central to this one.

**Reading effectively** is absolutely essential for success in this course. Be mindful that simply reading without engaging with the material (i.e. marking, highlighting, frequent re-reading, taking notes and critical reflection) is essentially useless (i.e. the material has no chance of moving from short to long term memory).

## ASSESSMENT

**Assessment:** Students will be evaluated on the following required elements:

1. **Labs:** see handout (35%); 2. **Midterm** - Oct 25th (20%); 3. **Final Exam** - to be scheduled by registrar (30%); 4. **Extra-curricular participation** (10%) ongoing (to be discussed in class)

- **Note on Undergraduate Grading:** Grading practices and procedures are guided by University policies specified in the Calendar. The Department is concerned about the potential problem of **grade inflation** and wishes to ensure **equity in grading standards** among colleagues. In cases in which grades for a course are substantially outside normal ranges, the Chair may ask the instructor to justify or revise those grades. Instructors submit grades online, and those grades are available to students online as soon as they have been approved by

