

GEOGRAPHY 314:
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND THE HUMAN RESPONSE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Course outline – Fall 2015

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dr. Shannon Fargey
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Office hours: Wednesday 12:30 to 1:30 pm, Thursday 10:00 am -12:00 pm
or by appointment

Lecture Information:

Time: W – 6:30-9:20 pm
Location: DTB A102

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the causes of global environmental change, the present and expected impacts on natural and social systems, and response strategies that have been proposed or enacted. Topics include global environmental change; sustainable development; biodiversity; and population impoverishment and environmental degradation among others.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course has been designed with the idea in mind that it will be important, regardless where you live in the world, that you understand the ecological, social, cultural and economic changes that will surround you in the coming decades.

By the end of the course you should be able to answer the following questions:

- What is the relationship between natural climate variations and human-induced climate change?
- What are the major concerns regarding global environmental change?
- How does global environmental change relate to other problems like population growth, sustainable development, biodiversity, poverty, pollution and land/environmental degradation?

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Assignments (3)	30%
Term Paper	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

Exam format will include a combination of short and long-answer and multiple-choice questions. The questions for the midterm exam and final exam will be based on lectures, assigned readings and class discussion. The midterm test will cover only the topics discussed immediately preceding it. The final exam is comprehensive, although may be weighted more heavily on material not previously tested on.

Final Grade Allocation

A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C D F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) is a very serious matter in any academic institution and is dealt with severely at the University of Victoria.

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic

TERM WORK – IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

Assignments (30%)

Assignment 1 – Topic Readings and Questions	(10%)
Date Assigned: September 23 rd	
Date Due: September 30 th (6:30 pm)	
Assignment 2 – Climate Change in the Movies Evaluation	(10%)
Date Assigned: October 7 th	
Date Due: October 28 th (6:30 pm)	
Assignment 3 – Media Assessment	(10%)
Date Assigned: October 28 th	
Date Due: November 18 th (6:30 pm)	

Information on individual assignments will be provided in class and on Coursespaces.

Midterm Exam – October 21^h (in lecture period) (20%)

Term Paper - December 2nd (6:30 pm) (25%)

Students need to have their term paper topic approved by **November 4th**. Before (or on this date) submit a 1-page document outlining your final project (ie. topic and hypothesis (if applicable), anticipated organization (headings), key papers/literature to be used).

Final Exam – During examination period (date/time TBD) (25%)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Sept 7-11

Topic 1: Introductory Concepts

Week 2: Sept 14-18

Topic 2: Basics 3.76 677.2 cmBT 50 0 0 50 0 0 Tm /TT1 u.2 (s) -0.2 (i) 0.2 (