

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Global Environmental Change and Human Response

Geography 314 Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Kadonaga
Class Time: 10:30-11:30 TWF

Email Address: arkenseal@gmail.com
Office: Turpin B208 (hours TBA)

Course Objectives:

This course will examine various facets of global environmental change and some of their ecological, economic, cultural, and geographic implications. Along the way we'll be looking at examples from around the world within our own community. One of the areas we'll be considering is how fictional depictions of environmental change in films, TV, books, and visual art are being affected by scientific and popular knowledge (and how this in turn shapes perceptions and expectations).

The background history and social responses to several different regional and global-scale anthropogenic changes will be considered: climate change, invasive exotic species, macronutrient cycling, persistent organic pollutants, microplastics, stratospheric ozone depletion, acid rain, fine particulates, and photochemical smog. Particular emphasis will be placed on climate change, and various proposals for adaptation and mitigation. We will be looking at what we've learned from past situations, and also some possible implications of new strategies for dealing with these problems. The science and political responses are evolving quickly, so along with the textbook, assigned readings will include scientific reports by organizations such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, international environmental treaties, and policy documents from governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Films and videos may also be viewed in class or assigned online.

Because this is an upper-year course, we will proceed on the assumptions that students have already been introduced to the background information on widely publicized environmental science topics such as how the "greenhouse effect" works in previous introductory classes — we will be doing quick reviews of some topics to make sure everyone is on the same page, and hope for people's patience if they are already familiar with a particular issue. Beyond that, it will be up to individual students to catch up using the textbook and other readings suggested by the instructor.

Given wait-listing (and possible late arrival by students in the wildfire zone), we will try to accommodate as many people as possible. This will require cooperation. This is particularly the case for group work. In response to student concerns, we will be checking up to make sure that people are on schedule and bonding, with direct bearing on course grades.

Course handouts, such as assignment information and exam review questions, will be distributed in class — students should attend regularly to make sure they receive this information, and not assume that checking online is sufficient.

Recommended Text (either electronic or print):

Burch, S.L., and Harris, S.E. (2014). Understanding climate change: science, policy, and

practice Toronto: U of Toronto P.

Late Assignment Policy:

A deduction of 10% per day (or part-day) will apply to late work.

Course Grade Components:

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72% by individual work:

*Assignment 1 (“Future food” recipe, discussion of components, and “ecological footprint” context): 15%

*Assignment 2 (Assessment critique of the assumptions, science, and “messaging” of climate change in a film, TV show, or video game): 10%

*Final Exam: 4%

28% by group work:

*Assignment 3 (Chapter contribution to Climate Change Impacts on BC Foodways class submission to Minister of Agriculture): 22% report, 3% handout, 3% presentation

Grading Scale (letter grade and Grade Point Value)

A+(9)	A(8)	A-(7)	B+(6)	B(5)	B-(4)	C+(3)	C(2)	D(1)	F(0)
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	49% or Less

Key Dates: (more detailed info in class):

Sep 6: First class
Sep 29: Last day to get into group for Assignment 3
Assignment 1 due

Oct 27: Assignment 2 due
Nov 24: Assignment 3 report due