

Geography 101A

**Environment, society and
sustainability**

Fall Term 2019

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

Office hours: Monday, Thursday 3.00-4.30

Lectures:

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, climate change, 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 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. those who wish to do a BA/BSc Major/Minor in geography, 101A being a prerequisite for some higher geography courses; and
3. Environmental Studies students wishing an introduction to the functioning of environmental systems and human interaction with these systems.

Evaluation

EXAMINATIONS:	Mid-term	15%
	Final	40%
	Labs	45%
LAB 1: Introduction and Introduction to EcoAction		P*
LAB 2: Natural areas and EcoAction preparation		P*
LAB 3 Natural Areas - Field Work		P*
LAB 4 Natural Areas Presentations/assignments		10%
LAB 5 Debate Motion #1	see debate below re value	
LAB 6 Great Bear Rainforest		P*
LAB 7 Debate Motion #2	D	

COURSE CONTENT¹

Lecture and Lab Schedule Fall term 2019, Dr. Dearden:

Date:	Lecture:	Readings:	Lab:
Sept 5	Introduction	Chapter 1; Diamond (2003), <i>Why Do Some Societies Make Disastrous Decisions</i> . On reserve, course site or google it	NO LABS FOR 101A
Sept 9 Sept 12	Spaceship Earth Human-Environment Relations	<i>Reserve Reading Natural Areas Fieldwork</i> ; Chapter 1, again.	1. Lab Orientation Ecoaction Project Introduction
Sept 16 Sept 19	Energy Biomes	Chapter 2	2. Natural Areas Project Introduction Eco Action planning
Sept 23 Sept 26	Ecosystem Change Biogeochemical Cycles		3 Natural Areas fieldwork
Sept 30 Oct 3	Sulphur and Acid rain Global Climate Change		4. Natural Areas presentation
Oct 7 Oct 10	Water Agriculture		5. Debate I
Oct 14 Oct 17	Thanksgiving Biodiversity I		Chapter 10

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.*,

Academic Honesty:

“Academic honesty has been compromised when a student (or students) enrolled in a course has

E	0	Conditional supplemental.
F	0	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the e46 0.72 3.7