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Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:00 PM or by appointment

DTB 324

[carodenuto@uvic.ca](mailto:carodenuto@uvic.ca) ; [Instructor's Website](#)

Examines the decision-making theory and real-world processes associated with resources management at the policy and field levels. Case studies used to illustrate decision making behaviour, from conflict to co-operation. Simulation sessions, field trip and field methods review .

Understanding how societies make decisions through their formal and informal governance processes is at the core of natural resource management and environmental sustainability. In the past decades, decision making processes have become much more complex and are facing a vast array of new challenges. As management systems have moved through shifting paradigms of integration, sustainability and ecosystem-based management, governance and decision processes have struggled to adapt and evolve. Information needs have become much more complex, our understanding of the human impacts on ecosystems is much more sophisticated, global economies, trade relationships and governance systems have become more integrated, and the rise of widespread cyber-literacy has created new demands for citizen involvement and direct governance.

This course has been designed as a capstone course in applied geography for students interested in environmental sustainability and is best taken in the final term of their undergraduate coursework. The emphasis will be on the real-world practical application of knowledge and skills learned in other courses to the challenges facing society in making complex decisions.

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As per the Academic Calendar:

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(may be subject to revision)

Week 1 January 7	: Objectives, Conceptual Frameworks, Governance and the Elements of Decision Making	Journal Entry #1

Week 2 January 14



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1. Class contributions and participation 10%
  2. Weekly Journal Entries 25% (Due weekly during the duration of the course)
  3. Sustainability Indicator 20%
  4. Briefing Note 20%
  5. Term Project 25%

Students will be assessed on their contributions and participation in class by asking questions, making comments and engaging in discussions and stimulating debates, and through their direct contact with the instructor. A 1-2 page written statement of key themes learned and a summary of your participation should be submitted at the end of the course to assist the instructor in assigning your participation mark. Two weeks are especially important for the participation mark: the excursion and the stakeholder negotiation. These activities are core components of this course and the weight of the weekly journal entry will be increased accordingly for these weeks (see below).

To show engagement in the course and demonstrate the ability to clearly articulate thoughts and observations on themes covered.

2. : Students will be expected to submit a class journal in the format specified on the course website. This will require a simple 1-2 page entry on each separate week throughout the term, identifying key themes from the lectures, current events outside the class, key readings and class discussion. Each journal entry will be worth of your total grade for this course (except for the weeks of the excursion and negotiation, where the journal entry is worth %). Journal entries are required to be submitted on CourseSpaces by 5 PM Thursday on each week as indicated in the schedule above. No late policy for journal entry. If its late (even by one minute), it is not marked.

To ensure that students stay engaged throughout the course and can identify key information from the readings, current events and comments of other students.

3. : Based on material covered in class, students will select an example of a sustainability indicator and describe how it helps us gain2 ran26(beu)-19(o7275 392 reWp)5(a68 5(li)5(t)-5(y )-22