

GEOGRAPHY 314:
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND THE HUMAN RESPONSE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Course outline - Fall 2014

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dr. Shannon Fargey
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Office hours: Monday & Thursday 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Wednesday 2:00 to 4:00 pm
or by appointment

Lecture Information:

Time: Tues – 6:30-9:20 pm
Location: DTB A110

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.

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.

TOPICS TO BE STUDIED

- Global Environmental Change Basics
- Impacts (Natural and Anthropogenic)
- Mitigation and Adaptation strategies (Local, National, Global)
- Resources Development and Environmental Security

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Pittock A.B. (2009). Climate Change: the science, impacts and solutions.
(available at the University Bookstore)

A list of supplemental reading and texts will be posted on the course page.

COMMUNICATION:

CourseSpaces learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication in this course. Please monitor the page on a regular basis for course announcements, readings assignments and lecture handouts.

<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>

If you are having difficulty logging in or password problems, contact the Computer Help Desk Email: helpdesk@uvic.ca, Tel: 250-721-7687

Topic handouts *based* on lecture presentations will be provided. They will be posted by 7 PM the evening before the next lecture on the course page. They will be removed within 7 days of the posting date. Students are responsible for downloading/saving, and completing notes packages. If you miss any material, make arrangements to get notes from a fellow student, not from the instructor!

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Assignments (3) = 25%

Term Paper = 20%

Midterm Exam = 20%

Final Exam = 35%

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
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	75-79%	70-74%	65-69%	60-64%	55-59%	50-54%	<49%

MISSED EXAMS AND LATE POLICY

- Students will not be permitted to write make-up tests except for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Please inform the instructor of your situation promptly and present written proof within five (5) working days.
- A grade of zero will be recorded for missed tests and exams.
- Any make-up test or examination may not follow the same format as the in-class one.
- Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day (including weekends and holidays). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.
- All assignments must be submitted to write the final exam.
- Conflicts with holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred examination or assignment extensions.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions during the lectures.
- *Cell phones and portable music players must be turned off or silenced during lectures. Students are also required to remove earphones.*
- Students are required to attend all lectures and take notes.
- Students are expected to be punctual for classes. Not all material presented in the lectures is covered in the text.
- The individual student is required to read the assigned chapters of the textbook *prior to class*. Not all the textbook will be covered in the lectures but may be covered in the test or exam.

CLASS CLIMATE

The University of Victoria has made a conscientious effort to increase diversity in the student, staff and faculty member populations. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavour to be respectful in our language, our examples, and the manner in which we conduct our discussions and group work.

If you have any concerns about the climate of the class, please contact me.

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.

Infractions will be dealt with in accordance with university policy. Commonly, the penalty for any form of cheating is a grade of F on the tests or final exam, or a final grade of F in the course. Please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic dishonesty found in the Undergraduate Calendar at the following website:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2011/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html>

If you have any questions, please contact me.

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

If you have any type of disability, there are support systems, resources, and accommodation actions available to you. If you wish to access any of these supports, resources or accommodations, I encourage you to contact the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (<http://www.stas.uvic.ca/osd/home.ihtml>) and I would be more than happy to work with you to ensure your success in this course. Please Note: You are under no obligation to disclose your disability.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to the department improve the overall program for

students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, table, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

TERM WORK – IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:

Assignments (25%)

Assignment 1 (8%) Date Assigned: September 23rd, 2014
Date Due: September 30th, 2014

Assignment 2 (9%) Date Assigned: September 30th, 2014
Date Due: October 14th, 2014

Assignment 3 (8%) Date Assigned: October 28th, 2014
Date Due: November 4th, 2014

Information on individual assignment topics will be provided in class.

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

Term Paper (20%) - Due December 2nd, 2014 by 9:20 pm

The term paper component of this course should be viewed as an opportunity to perform an insightful analysis on a climate change topic or hypothesis of the individual students choosing. The term paper will be a max. of 10-pages.

Students need to have their term paper topic approved by **November 7th**. 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).

This is worth no marks, but rather acts an opportunity for me to make sure you are on the right track for a successful and interesting term paper. However, failure to do this will result in an automatic 10 mark deduction on your final paper.

Final Exam (35%) - during exam period (Date/Time TBA)