

ERS 100

Foundations: Environment, Resources and Sustainability

School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability
University of Waterloo
Fall 2017
Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:20, EV3 1408

DRAFT: COMPLETE SYLLABUS AVAILABLE ON LEARN

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Andrea M. Collins

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., or by appointment

Email: andrea.collins@uwaterloo.ca

Note: Given our various responsibilities, your professor and TAs are not necessarily able to answer emails immediately. Anticipate hearing back from us within 1-2 business days (Monday-Friday) of sending your initial email. All emails regarding ERS 100 should include the course code in the subject line, for instance: “ERS 100: Question about Week 10 reading”.

Course Description

This course provides the theoretical foundations for studying in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability. The course emphasizes the need to understand how we can use social, natural, and physical sciences to understand and solve environmental and resource problems in sustainable ways. Students will also learn foundational skills for research in SERS, including field research, library research, and evaluating and interpreting data.

Course Goals and Objectives

- Conduct several types of research at the university level using a variety of on-campus resources
 - Undertake research at the Ecology Lab
 - Use library resources to begin an independent research project
- Understand the complexities of environmental problem-solving
 - Describe the different social and ecological aspects of environmental problems
 - See where different challenges overlap and intersect
- Describe different analytical approaches for defining and addressing environment and resource issues.
 - Understand the strengths of different kinds of data and analytical frameworks
- Explain the importance of a transdisciplinary approach to environmental problem-solving

Course Requirements and Assessment

The final exam schedule will be finalized on Oct. 18. Please do not make travel arrangements in December until the exam schedule has been announced.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Tutorial Participation	Ongoing	10%
Annotated Bibliography & Research Report	Due October 17 by 2:30 p.m.	25%
Book Review	Due November 21 by 2:30 p.m.	30%
Final Exam	During Exam Period, Dec. 7-21	35%
Total		100%

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	September 12	What is SERS? What is Transdisciplinarity?	Adams, W. M. (2007).
2	September 19	Understanding Data and Research on Sustainability	Northey, M., Tepperman, L., and Albanese, P. (2009). Northey, M., Knight, D.B., and Draper, D. (2012).
3	September 25	Ecological Economics	Rockstrom et al (2009)
4	October 3	Environmental Governance, Policy and Law	Looney (2016) Winfield (2009)
5	October 12	Ecological Principles	Ellis et al (2010) Kareiva et al (2012)
6	October 17	Complexities of International Environmental Problem-Solving	Pauly et al (2012) Urbina (2015)
7	October 24	Complexities of Urban Socio-Ecological Action & Planning	Swilling (2016) Taber (2016)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
8	October 31	Incorporating Gender into Environmental Studies	Seager (1993)
9	November 7	Gaps between Environmental Awareness, Behaviour, and Policies	Kennedy et al (2009)
10	November 14	Principles of Sustainability and Impact Assessment	Gibson (2005): only read pages 47-65
11	November 21	Creative Problem-Solving through Public Participation	Ballard and Belsky (2010)
12	November 26	Conclusion & Exam Review	-

Late Work

All written assignments submitted after the deadline will receive an **automatic penalty of 5%**. An additional late penalty of 5% per day will apply thereafter. No assignments will be accepted after 7 days; those assignments will earn a grade of zero.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. To better understand the meaning of 'similarity' in Turnitin, see https://guides.turnitin.com/01_Manuals_and_Guides/Student/Classic_Student_User_Guide/17_Similarity_Check#Viewing_an_Originality_Report.

Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy

71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm. Read: Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Other sources of information for students

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health

The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments/Schools consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. Please note that help is available. Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services> is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Religious Observances:

Students need to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

Appeals:

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground.

Unclaimed assignments:

Unclaimed assignments will be retained for until one month after term grades become official in Quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

Communications with Instructor and Teaching Assistants:

All communication with students must be through either the student's University of Waterloo email account or via Learn. If a student emails the instructor or TA from a personal account they will be requested to resend the email using their personal University of Waterloo email account.