# ERS 100
# Foundations: Environment, Resources and Sustainability

## School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability
## University of Waterloo
## Fall 2019

**Instructor Information**
Instructor: Dr. Andrea M. Collins
Office: EV2 2007
Office Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 38317
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Email: andrea.collins [at] uwaterloo.ca

**Teaching Assistants:** Ana Carolina Dias, Richard Giles

**Tutorial Schedule:**

| | |
|---|---|
| TUT 101: 2:30 – 3:20 Fri. HH 259 | TUT 104: 2:30 – 3:20 Mon. HH 345 |
| TUT 102: 2:30 – 3:20 Fri. AL 210 | TUT 105: 3:30 – 4:20 Mon. HH 344 |
| TUT 103: 2:30 – 3:20 Mon. RCH 209 | TUT 106: 3:30 – 4:20 Mon. HH 345 |

**Note:** Given our various responsibilities, your professor and TAs are not always 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". If you email us using LEARN, the course code is automatically added to the subject line.

**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. The course also considers the limitations of approaches that perceive and attempt to manage issues as isolated phenomena. We will learn how to recognize the broader context around environment and resource issues and examine the roots of our problems in ethical positions and ecological, economic and institutional systems.

**Course Goals and Objectives**
- Practice collecting and analyzing data & become familiar with on-campus resources
- Learn foundational concepts for studying in SERS, including sustainability & complexity
- Identify the social and ecological aspects of environmental problems
- Understand the strengths of different kinds of data collection and analytical frameworks for environmental problem-solving
- Examine and evaluate ideas about complex environmental issues

**Required Texts**
- Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, by Lawrence Newcomb – Available in the UW Bookstore
- **Weekly required readings** available on LEARN.
- **One (1) book** for review, selected from the following list. **Please do not buy all of these books. Only select one book to complete your Book Review**:
  - Dan Barber, *The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food* (2014)
  - Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction* (2015)
  - Marla Cone, *Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic* (2006)
  - Annie Leonard, *The Story of Stuff: The Impact of Overconsumption on the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health-And How We Can Make It Better* (2006)
  - Fred Pearce, *The Land Grabbers* (2013)
  - Jonathan Safran Foer, *Eating Animals* (2010)

All of these books are available in the UW Bookstore, the UW Library, local bookstores, and/or online sellers. You may also find copies at the Feds Used Bookstore (in the Student Life Centre). Many are also available as e-Books.


**\*\*ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS & COMPLETE COURSE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON LEARN\*\***

**Course Requirements and Assessment**

**NOTE:** The final exam schedule will be finalized in October. Please do not make travel arrangements in December until the exam schedule has been announced. Instructors are unable to reschedule final exams.

| Assessment | Date of Evaluation | Weighting |
|---|---|---|
| Tutorial Participation | Ongoing | 15% |
| Mid-term Test | In Class, Friday, Nov. 1 | 20% |
| Book Review Essay | Due Friday, November 22 | 30% |
| Final Exam | During Exam Period (Date TBD) | 35% |

**Information on Plagiarism Detection**

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

**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.

**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.