

# Geography 203

## Environment and Development in a Global Perspective

Department of Geography & Environmental Management  
Faculty of Environment  
Fall 2017

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Class time: Mon 12:30-2:20 in STC 10  
Office: EV1-114  
Office hours: 2:30-3:20 Mondays, or by appointment

### Course TAs:

TA office hours: after tutorial or by appointment

Tut 101+103: TBC

Tut 102+106:

Tut 104+105:

Note: *Routinely refer to the course website (LEARN) for updates*

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

The Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre (<https://uwaterloo.ca/stpauls/waterloo-aboriginal-education-centre>) facilitates the sharing of Indigenous knowledge and provides culturally relevant information and support services for all members of the University of Waterloo community, including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students, staff, and faculty.

### Course description

This course examines the interface between human development and the environment in a global context. Various perspectives are explored to link environmental issues to wealth, poverty, consumption, population, and economic globalization. Case studies focusing on countries in different contexts of development are used to illustrate linkages.

Please note, Geog 203 is a PACS Approved course for all Peace and Conflict Studies academic plans and fulfills a requirement for a PACS major or minor.

### Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain how environmental concerns affect development policy and practice, in a context of global change and uncertainty
- Explain key concepts and debates in environment-development interactions
- Apply your knowledge in a series of practical case studies
- Effectively communicate ideas and critiques verbally and in written form

## Required course text

Paul Robbins, John Hintz, Sarah A. Moore. 2014. *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction*. **Second edition**. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. [available at UW Bookstore & a hard copy is on reserve at Porter Library]

## Course schedule

*To be provided at the start of term*

## Assessment Schedule

*To be confirmed at the start of term*

Assessment	Value (%)
5 Case studies (in class) @ 4% each	20
4 Reading responses	5
Tutorial participation	5
Term paper outline <b>&amp; group contract</b>	5
3MT-style presentation re. term paper	5
Term paper (in groups of 3)	20
Term paper group self-assessment	--
Mid-term test	15
Final exam	25

## Reading responses

To prepare you for tutorial discussions and for the midterm and final tests, you are asked submit four short reading responses of 250 words (maximum) related to the readings for the upcoming week. Each response should address three points:

- First, identify the conclusion and summarize the argument of the reading(s).
- Second, identify the element of (one or both of) the reading(s) that you found most interesting, persuasive, well-argued, or thought-provoking, and explain why.
- Third, identify an element of the reading(s) that you found most problematic, least persuasive, or most in need of further elaboration, and explain why.

These should be posted to the appropriate **discussion forum** corresponding to your tutorial.

## Midterm test & final exam

This course involves an in-class midterm test and a final exam scheduled during the exam period. The format will be a combination of short-answer and essay questions. These tests will assess assigned reading materials

(read them carefully!), class lectures, videos, and tutorial activities. The final exam will be **cumulative**, covering all material from the course, but with more emphasis on the latter half.

## **Term paper & term paper outline**

Guidelines are posted on Learn.

## **3MT presentation (on your term paper topic)**

You will be asked to give a three-minute presentation in tutorial (using just one PPT slide), covering three questions:

1. What is the environment-development problem that you identified?
2. Choose one of the mechanisms you identified and explain how it addresses the problem.
3. Briefly discuss the advantages/disadvantages of this mechanism.

Please have all group members contribute to presenting your material. Rehearse carefully to ensure you stick to the time limit. Your slide can be simply an image, or some key words, or a flow chart of the main ideas from your paper. We will encourage your fellow classmates to provide feedback and questions after each presentation.

## **Creating a positive learning environment: Mutual expectations**

**What you can expect of me, and the course format:** Your learning is my priority, and I recognize that teaching does not necessarily imply learning. To cater to diverse learning styles, my course exposes you to ideas in different formats (readings, seminar discussions, lectures, videos, real world experience from guest speakers) and encourages you to engage with the material through reflective writing, class presentations, interaction with peers and the instructor, and a research project.

I welcome your participation, comments, and questions, since I believe that your participation contributes to a much more interesting class and valuable learning experience for all. My teaching style is interactive. At some points I will present a lecture, in order to provide background information and concepts that I think are important for developing effective knowledge of development processes. Complementing this, however, the classes will typically engage you in large and small group discussions.

**What I expect of you:** You are expected to arrive on time, attend all classes, and invest on average 8-10 hours per week in this course, in and outside of class. Since class discussions and assignments will require you to apply information obtained from the readings, you are expected to complete the assigned readings, and to participate actively and consistently in class. (I recognize that not everyone will feel comfortable speaking out in a large seminar class, but you can make up for this by participating actively in small group discussions when appropriate.)

**Use of laptops/devices:** If you feel the need to use your laptop, tablet or phone during class, limit your use to course-related activities. Checking email, browsing web sites, internet chatting, texting, etc. during class time is disruptive to fellow students and the instructor.

## **Email policy (→ put Geog 203 in the subject line & indicate your TA's name)**

I will use the 'Announcements' tool in Learn to post important updates regarding the course. Check this section of the site regularly. You can also subscribe to receive email notifications. For general questions, please use the 'Q&A' webboard, where other students can see and also reply to messages. Any questions related to individual grades or a personal matter (e.g., health issue) may be sent as an email message, preferably through Learn.

If you would like to contact me outside of my scheduled office hours, please direct course-related questions to me through Learn. I prefer this to my regular email inbox, where your email may get lost amongst other

messages. I will try to respond to your email within 2 working days. If you do not hear back from me within three days (excluding weekends), feel free to contact me again in case the message got overlooked.

Note that email is the official channel of communication between the University and its students. You are required to check your *uwaterloo.ca* email account regularly; I recommend that you check for course-related emails at least twice a week. If you use another email service (e.g., Gmail), it is your responsibility to ensure that mail sent to your *uwaterloo.ca* account is forwarded to your other account.

## The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre works across all faculties to help students clarify their ideas, develop their voices, and communicate in the style appropriate to their disciplines. Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, using and documenting research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit [www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre). Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

**Please note** that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for you. Please bring hard copies of your assignment instructions and any notes or drafts to your appointment.

## Strongly recommended sources on writing skills

For this and other undergraduate geography courses, you are expected to have a high level of writing competency. To further hone your skills, I strongly recommend the sources below to all students.

- *Writing Effective Essays and Reports*, by Rob de Loe (free online resource): [http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/u/rdeloe/writing\\_booklet/](http://www.environment.uwaterloo.ca/u/rdeloe/writing_booklet/)
- *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace* by Joseph Williams (free PDF online, or in the library)
- [www.grammarbook.com](http://www.grammarbook.com) (free online resource).

## Submission of assignments

Submit your term paper & outline in **Microsoft Word (not as a PDF)** in order to enable feedback using 'track-changes.' Assignments must be submitted to the designated Dropbox on Learn **by 11:59 pm on the due date, unless otherwise noted.**

By submitting an assignment for this course, you are agreeing to the following:

- You have properly referenced and footnoted all ideas, words or other intellectual property from other sources used in the completion of this assignment.
- You have included a proper bibliography, which includes acknowledgement of all sources used to complete this assignment.
- This is the first time you have submitted this assignment or essay (either partially or entirely) for academic evaluation.

**Turnitin:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done both as an educational activity for you and to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. If you have objections to having your work submitted to Turnitin, please inform me by **Sept 26** to discuss alternative arrangements.

**Academic Integrity & Plagiarism:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Waterloo's policy dealing with plagiarism. Be especially careful when using materials obtained from the internet, and be aware that software available to instructors can be used to check student submissions for plagiarism (e.g. [www.Turnitin.com](http://www.Turnitin.com)). Plagiarism offences are treated seriously by the University and can result in significant penalties being assessed (e.g. failing grade on an assignment, repeating a course, suspension or expulsion).

Definition of Plagiarism: "The act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one's own." - Source: University of Waterloo, Policy 71.

**The bottom line:** it is inappropriate (and constitutes plagiarism) to have more than 5 words taken word-for-word from a source, if it is not listed as a direct quote. Thus, even if you have cited a source, you must sufficiently paraphrase the material or else present it in quotation marks.

**To Avoid Plagiarism:** The use of other people's work **must** be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material such as take-home examinations, essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement, however, is an offence under policy 71.

Please visit the on-line tutorial at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>. See 'Check your understanding' to learn more about what constitutes an academic offence.

**Late policy:** You are expected to take account of the possibility of computer failure in planning your time. Emailed or faxed assignments will not be accepted. The penalty for late assignments is **5 %** of the total possible mark per day, including weekends and holidays. Assignments submitted more than 5 days after the due date will not be accepted unless we have made a prior arrangement.

**When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement Due to Illness or Other Reasons:** There will be no unpenalized extensions on assignments except for illness, severe personal extenuating circumstances, or weather emergencies. When you find yourself unable to meet a course requirement because of medical, compassionate or other reasons, please advise me in writing by email; make sure to include your full name in your message. Where possible, you must contact the instructor **in advance** of the assignment due date, but otherwise as soon as possible after the due date. As a rule, you must provide appropriate documentation, for example, a note from your doctor indicating the dates during which you were ill, and describing the severity of your illness. *Manage your time carefully. Pressure of work alone is not an acceptable reason for seeking an extension without penalty.*

**Information for Students Using Waterloo Learn (course website):** Waterloo Learn is a web-based course management system that enables instructors to manage course materials (posting of lecture notes etc.), interact with their students (drop boxes for student submissions, on-line quizzes, discussion boards, course e-mail etc.), and provide feedback (grades, assignment comments etc.). Users can login to Learn via: <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>. Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password. If you still cannot get on after checking your password, please confirm with your instructor that you are on the class roster.

## Missed tests/exams

**The midterm test is mandatory**, and thus, every effort should be made to attend. The only exceptions to this are those students who have a valid medical reason, personal or family emergency, etc.:

- Valid medical reason such as illness or accident (proof such as a note from Health Services is required);
- Significant personal or family emergency, death in the family, etc. (with suitable proof where possible);

- Other valid reasons beyond the control of the student (to be approved on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor). If you know in advance that you will not be able to make a test, please contact the instructor as far in advance as possible to discuss alternatives.

If you miss a test or exam for any reason:

1. Communicate to the instructor the reason you missed the test.
2. IMPORTANT! As soon as possible, please obtain a *valid medical, counselor's or other 'proof of absence' note* explaining the reason for your absence, degree of incapacitation, dates covered by the note, etc. Please make a copy of this note and give the copy to your instructor in person, or scan and submit it by email.
3. Due to the time consuming nature of creating a make up test, tests can only be written on the day originally scheduled. Do NOT assume a make up test is possible.

If you miss a test but do NOT have a doctor's/counselor's note or other valid explanation for your absence, explain the reason for your absence to the instructor (ideally during office hours or by email). The instructor will determine on a case-by-case basis whether an alternative arrangement can be made, or whether to assign a zero on the test.

## University policies and support

A gentle reminder to take care of yourself and find ways to **de-stress**. Getting enough sleep and eating well will go a long way to helping you accomplish your academic goals. Balance things out with some time away from studying. Here are some links on Academic and life wellness services at UW: <https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/academic-and-life-wellness-services>.

**Mental Health:** The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments 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.

**Students with disabilities:** AccessAbility Services 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 at the beginning of each academic term.

**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.

**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. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (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, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. Within ENV, those committing academic

offences (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) will be placed on disciplinary probation and will be subject to penalties that may include a grade of 0 on affected course elements, 0 on the course, suspension, and expulsion.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

**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. 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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

**Unclaimed assignments** will be retained 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](#).