

ERSC 1020H Introduction to Environmental Science- Canadian Issues Syllabus and Student Manual - Winter 2011

Instructors:

Brendan Hickie (coordinator). bhickie@ trentu.ca

Peterborough: ESB A128, 705-748-1011 x7623

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Brendan studies the fate, bioaccumulation and effects of contaminants in animals both small (e.g. plankton) and large (e.g. otters, seals and killer whales) in locations ranging from small lakes to the Arctic Ocean. He prepared for this career by first getting a BSc in Agriculture at Guelph. In his spare time he chases after his two kids, coaches soccer, makes beer and tries to play hockey.

Marta Wolniewicz, martawolniewicz@trentu.ca

Peterborough: ESB B318, 705-748-1011 x7959

Oshawa: office info TBA

Marta is a post-doctoral researcher studying the impacts of acid deposition on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Marta developed her interest in geochemistry while pursuing her MSc in Geography and Environmental Science at the University of Western Ontario. Outside of work, Marta enjoys cycling, swimming, and dancing. Over the past several years she has been actively involved in Toronto's salsa dance community.

Office hours will be posted on our "My Learning System" page. You can also book an appointment with us via email or during class time. email is the preferred means for contacting us outside of class. ***For this you must use your Trent email account*** and you should include "ERSC 1020" in the subject heading. A "Group email list" to Trent email accounts will be used for posting responses to FAQs.

Please note that our phones in Oshawa and Peterborough are linked so you do not need to try calling us in both locations if you really need to track us down (ie our phones ring in both locations when you call and voice message go to the same inbox).

If you live in Toronto you can call us "Toll-free" using the number (416) 848-0616

Secretary:

Deb Mills (Peterborough) ESB B202, 705-748-1011 x7199, dmills@trentu.ca

Course Description:

This course provides the student with an interdisciplinary exploration of how Canadians use, affect and protect our environment on a national, regional and local (ie your backyard). We will examine the scientific basis of a range of issues and explore their social, political and economic implications. Issues that will be examined include: the urban environment, waste management, water and air pollution, and environmental contaminants. Assignments in the course give students opportunities to explore a number of environmental issues in detail while also developing fundamental academic skills of critical thinking, problem analysis, effective research and the clear, concise communication of ideas.

The course is delivered in one three hour session per week that will include a mix of lecture, tutorials, workshops and discussions of current environmental issues and videos. While the course is aimed at students that may wish to major in ERS it will enhance the environmental literacy and citizenship of all students.

Required Text/Materials:

Living in the Environment - Second Canadian Edition. 2010. G.T. Miller and D. Hackett. Nelson Education Ltd, Toronto, Canada. ISBN: 0-17-650184-3

The text is available from the Trent in Oshawa bookstore during the first several weeks of term. It may also be available from major online bookstores. Material in the text will be discussed in most, but not all, lectures. This text will also be used in the companion course ERSC 1010H. Additional readings and resources may be given in class or on myLS.

MyLearning System (myLS):

We will use **myLS** to distribute lecture notes, assignments and other course material. It also provides a place for you to ask questions and chat with other students in the course. As such, you should regularly use myLS to access lecture notes, check for announcements, and communicate with people in the course.

If you have not done so previously, you will need to activate your Trent University email and “My Learning System” (myLS - formerly webCT) accounts for this course. You can do this by going to

www.trentu.ca/claimid.

Additional information on your Trent IT services is available at **www.trentu.ca/it/student.php**.

MyLS can be accessed by going to **www.trentu.ca/webct** and signing in with your Trent system username and password (ie same ones used to access your Trent email account and MyTrent).

Course Format:

The course will be delivered in flexible three-hour sessions which will combine lectures, tutorials, workshops etc. Brief “health breaks” will be given during each session.

The class meets once a week on Thursdays 14:10 - 17:00 Room 125 Oshawa Campus

Course Schedule and Readings

Assigned chapters should be reviewed in advance of lectures and pertinent sections read more thoroughly following the lecture. Note that this schedule may be subject to modification due to factors such as weather. Any revisions to the schedule will be posted on *myLS*.

Date	Prof	Topic	Chapter	Tutorial / Assignment
Jan. 13	BH	Introduction: Canadian Environment	1,2	Class Discussion - VIDEO "Story of Stuff"
20	MW	Urban Environments I	25	VIDEO "End of Suburbia" **
27	MW	Urban Environments II	25	Research Skills Workshop** (Research Essay Assignment posted)
Feb. 3	MW	Waste Management	24	Guest speaker TBA**
10	BH	Environmental Contaminants I	19	Writing Skills Workshop**
17	BH	Environmental Contaminants II	19	Midterm Exam Tips/Review (Research Skills/Essay Plan Due)
Feb. 24		READING BREAK - No Class		
Mar. 3	MW	MIDTERM TEST (1hr)	---	VIDEO "Crapshoot" **
10	MW	Water and Air Pollution I	20, 22	Local Issues Assignment Workshop **
17	MW	Water and Air Pollution II	20, 22	Class Discussion (Essay DUE)
24	BH	Mining Impacts in Canada	24, 16	Q&A re Local Issues
31	BH	Arctic Climate Change	21	(Local Issues Assignment Due and Class Debate)
Apr. 7	BH	"Hot Topic" and course wrap-up	---	Exam study tips
Apr. 21	BH/MW	FINAL EXAM		

** Identifies activities where participation grades will be given.

Please note that the final course drop date without academic penalty is March 11th.

Evaluation and Grading

	Grade	Due Date
Participation ** a). Video - End of Suburbia b). Research Skills Workshop c). Guest Speaker d). Writing Skills Workshop e). Video - Crapshoot f). Local Issues Workshop	10% (5x2% **)	Jan. 20 Jan. 27 Feb. 3 Feb. 10 Mar. 3 Mar. 10
Assignments: I. Research Skills and Essay Plan II. Research Essay (1000 words) III. Local Issues Assignment	8% 18% 14%	February 17 March 17 March 31
Midterm Test	15%	March 3(first hour)
Final Exam	35%	April 21

Note: 25% of final grade available by the deadline for withdrawal without academic penalty (March 11, 2011).

- ** Participation grades allocated for attending and participating in:
- Assignment/Skills Workshops (3x) and Video Discussions (2x)
 - Guest Speaker (1x)
 - 10% given for **fully participating** in five of the six activities (2% each)
 - bonus for fully participating in all six!

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more:

www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

Access to Instruction

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact **Oshawa's Disability Services Advisor, Tina Murray, kristinamurray@trentu.ca; 905-435-5100**, as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under Access to Instruction in the Academic Calendar.

Please see the Trent University academic calendar for University Diary dates, Academic Information and Regulations, and University and departmental degree requirements.

Course Policies and Other Information

ERSC 1020H is governed by the academic regulations at Trent University, found on pages 14-28 of the Trent University 2010-2011 Academic Calendar. Additional policies specific to this course are given below.

Assignments:

Assignments will be distributed in class or via myLS with ample time to work on them. **All assignments are to be submitted during class time on the day they are due (i.e., assignments submitted after 5:00 pm will be considered late).** We will do our best to grade your assignments and return them as soon as possible.

Late assignments will be penalized 10% if not handed in before the end of class on the due date and a further 3% per day up to 7 calendar days. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than one week late. Extensions may be granted by the **course coordinator** (ie Prof. Hickie) for exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical condition, family emergency etc.) - Note that documentation (eg doctor's note) may be required.

If you feel that any assignment has been incorrectly or unfairly graded, please put your argument in writing (Note: no written argument, no re-grade), attach it to the original assignment and submit it to one of the professors. A regrading request form (with detailed instructions) is available on myLS.

Be sure to make regular back ups of all computer work to avoid lost or corrupted files. Also keep a back-up copy of your assignments, including your rough notes. If your assignment gets lost, this will ensure that you can resubmit and still get full marks for your work.

Exams:

We will give you an outline of the format of all exams in this course and useful study tips in a review session prior to each exam. Trent University regulations for exam workload will apply.

Referencing your work:

You are expected to provide references for all of your assignments, unless instructed otherwise. References serve three purposes: (1) to credit others for their ideas; (2) to demonstrate your understanding of the literature; and (3) to allow the reader to refer to the original reference for further detail or interpretation. Reporting references cited in your work should conform with established citation conventions (e.g. APA, MLA, CBE). More information about proper referencing can be found at the Trent Library webpage: www.trentu.ca/admin/library/help/citations.html. **Specific instructions on referencing for this course will be provided in your assignments.**

Help with studying, taking notes, time management, reading, writing, etc:

We encourage ALL students to access the many resources of the Trent University Academic Skills Centre which makes regular visits to the Oshawa campus. The ASC has a wonderful array of materials and people who can assist you in improving many aspects of your academic performance. Visit their website at www.trentu.ca/academic/academicskills.

Workload:

Some of you might be wondering how much time should you be spending on ERSC 1020H? The answer is: it all depends how much you want to learn and how well you want to do. Of course that's not very helpful so here's some guidance to help you manage your time.

You should expect to spend at least 5-7 hours per week outside of class doing readings, completing assignments, and preparing for exams. We think that this amount of time will be needed if you expect to earn the 60% or higher required to continue in ERS. You shouldn't expect to cut too many corners. If you want to

do well in the course, you may need to spend more time than we're suggesting, particularly on the assignments.

Finally, we are empathetic with those of you who are working to support your education. It's not an easy thing to do and we commend your effort. We also recognize that many students volunteer their time to campus groups, teams and to the community. This is also commendable. That said, we want to be fair to everyone and so we won't normally consider workload as an acceptable basis for accommodating students who miss lectures, tutorials and assignments.

Getting Help and Asking Questions:

Your job at Trent is to learn! You are encouraged to ask questions about the course content, about your assignments, about the marks you receive, about exams, and so on.

When you have questions about the course, we encourage you to ask us and help each other. If you have a question, someone else may have had or may have the same question.

1. *Check to see if your question is answered somewhere else.* This means to check the Course Syllabus, Student Manual, or myLS.
2. *Ask your question during class* (so that everyone can hear the question).
3. *Ask your question after class.*
4. *Email us.* For this you **must** use your Trent email accounts. Be sure to include "ERSC 1020H" in the message subject line. You can sign up for your Trent email account at www.trentu.ca/claimid. We will use Trent/UOIT email and myLS exclusively to send out important class announcements.

Respect for Learning Policy:

We want to make our lecture halls and seminar rooms as conducive to learning as possible. We know that many information technologies, while useful tools in some circumstances, can be distracting and unhelpful in the wrong setting. As instructors, we have had a number of discussions about these issues and have examined the practices of other courses and universities. In particular, we found the following sources to be helpful:

1. http://www.doit.wisc.edu/network/wireless/advice_stu.asp
2. <http://fp.arizona.edu/geog695c/PDFs/wireless.classroom.pdf>
3. <http://edc.carleton.ca/blog/index.php/2008/03/28/research-notes-classroom-management-for-the-wireless-classroom/>

As well, we reviewed some of the emerging evidence in this area:

*"Recently, a debate has begun over whether in-class laptops aid or hinder learning. While some research demonstrates that laptops can be an important learning tool, anecdotal evidence suggests more and more faculty are banning laptops from their classrooms because of perceptions that they distract students and detract from learning. The current research examines the nature of in-class laptop use in a large lecture course and how that use is related to student learning. Students completed weekly surveys of attendance, laptop use, and aspects of the classroom environment. Results showed that students who used laptops in class spent considerable time multitasking and that the laptop use posed a significant distraction to both users and fellow students. Most importantly, the level of laptop use was negatively related to several measures of student learning, including self-reported understanding of course material and overall course performance." (C.B. Fried, 2008. *Computers & Education*. 50(3) p.906-14).*

Based on these resources, we have developed a set of course expectations for laptops and cellphones:

1. **Cellphones should be turned completely off during classes.** Texting is not permitted during lectures.
2. **Laptop use during lecture is discouraged.** If, however, you choose to use a laptop to take notes during lecture, we expect that you will (1) turn off your Wi-Fi access to minimize distractions to your learning; and (2) sit on the left side of the lecture hall to minimize distractions to others.

We expect that you will follow and help enforce this policy. We also welcome discussion about these issues and any of the following pointers that are intended to make our class time run smoothly.

3. **Use your university email when contacting your instructors.** Personal accounts (e.g. *wickedchild@hotmail.com* or *bifsplx@yahoo.com*) might be intercepted by Trent's "SPAM" filter, and they **will not** be included in the class email list.
4. **It is important that you include "ERSC 1020" in the subject of any emails that you send us.** This will help us sort the many emails we receive every day and respond as quickly as possible. Do your best to direct your email to the appropriate instructor (all course admin issues to bhickie; lecture questions to the instructor that covered that topic as noted in lecture schedule).
5. **Printed copies of assignments (stapled together) are to be submitted during class on the due date.** Emailed assignments will not be accepted under normal circumstances!
6. **Please treat all class members with respect.** This includes keeping noise levels down during class, encouraging participation of other class members in discussion, and refraining from distracting activities like: gabbing about Justin, Paris, the Raptors or the Leafs, checking email, web browsing, texting or using your iPod during class.
7. **Questions during class time are welcome!** (Most of the time anyways). If you like to ask lots of questions please remember that there are many people in the class so please save ones of "personal interest" for break time or after class.
8. **If you miss a class, you are still responsible for knowing what went on during that class.** We do our best to pass on course news via myLS and/or email as well but cannot guarantee that "extra" information given in class always gets passed on by other means.

Class Cancellations

Classes may be cancelled on short notice due to inclement weather or illness. We will communicate news about cancellations as soon as we can via email and myLS posting, although such decisions may only be made an hour or two before class. If the weather is terrible in Peterborough or Oshawa, please listen to local radio stations and check you email before traveling.

January 6, 2011