

## **GGR223: ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY, AND RESOURCES**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Alana Boland  
**SECTION:** Wednesday, 2-4 pm, MC 102  
**COURSE EMAIL:** ggr223ab@geog.utoronto.ca  
**OFFICE:** SS5006, tel: 416-978-1587  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 12:30-2:30, or by appointment

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This course provides an introduction to environmental geography. It focuses on society-environment relations and different approaches to resource governance and management. This includes exploration of the spatial, social, and political economic origins and implications of humans' changing relations to nature. It draws on debates from environmental governance and political ecology literatures. The course also investigates the ways that different actors and institutions have framed and sought solutions to environmental and resource challenges.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

There is no textbook for the course. A reading packet is available at Scholar House Productions (100 Harbord Street, west of Spadina on north side, 416-977-9641). Cost is \$35 (inc tax). Links to the readings will also be posted in Blackboard.

### **GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND DUE DATES:**

Tutorial participation .....	5%	
Term test .....	20%	February 24
Assignment #1 .....	10%	March 2
Assignment #2 .....	10%	March 16
Assignment #3 .....	20%	April 6
Final exam .....	35%	???

### **INTERNET RESOURCES:**

For course announcements, lecture outlines, study guides and other class specific materials, I will use the course Portal Blackboard site. I will also be using your utoronto email address for individual communications. If you are having troubles with receiving emails via Blackboard, please review: <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/sending-and-receiving-email>

All the information you should need to activate your account is available at:  
<http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Week	Lecture date	Topic	
1	January 13	Introduction: Points of departure	
2	January 20	A problem of governance?	
3	January 27	Political economy and the environment	Tutorial #1
4	February 3	Socionatures	Tutorial #2
5	February 10	Case #1: The Lawn	Tutorial #3
		<b>READING BREAK</b>	
6	February 24	<b>Term Test</b> [room change, see Blackboard]	
7	March 2	Scalar Dynamics [assignment #1 due]	Tutorial #4
8	March 9	A question of development?	Tutorial #5
9	March 16	A question of change? [assignment #2 due]	
10	March 23	Case #2: Water	Tutorial #6
11	March 30	Case #3: Garbage	
12	April 6	Environmental work [assignment #3 due]	
	???	Final exam	

NOTE: I will post announcement on Blackboard if any changes to the order of topics or readings.

**OFFICE HOURS AND EMAIL:**

Office hours are available for you to meet with me (or your TA) one-on-one or in small groups. If I am unable to make office hours due to an unexpected meeting, I will send an email to the class in advance and post a note on Blackboard. Most weeks, I'll also be available at the end of lecture for follow up questions.

I do not mind email queries for short answer questions, however, for anything requiring conceptual or longer response, I suggest we meet to talk in person. For emails you send to me, use only the course email address of **ggr223ab@geog.utoronto.ca**. I have set this up to simplify organization of email from students in the class. **Use your UofT email account** for correspondences related to this course and check it regularly. This is the account that the University uses for all official correspondence and is the one used with any messages I send to you via Blackboard. Note also, that using (or forwarding emails) to some providers, such as Gmail or Hotmail, can result in lost and/or delayed messages.

Please allow 2-3 working days for replies to phone and email messages so you should plan ahead and not leave your questions until the last minute.

## **POLICY ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:**

Reminder that cell phones and other communications devices should either be turned off or in silent mode. Do not answer your phone or text message during class. If you use a laptop for taking notes, please do so in a way that does not disturb other students or distract the instructor (i.e., quiet on the keyboard, do not use computer for non-class related activities, turn off the internet function).

If you plan to use a keyboard, please sit in the middle section only. The side sections are 'keyboard free' zones to address the distraction problems for those who do not use computers in class. The only exception is if you need access to the power outlet on the side wall. We will revisit this arrangement later in the term to see if it is working to create a more focused learning environment. Also, given the role of class discussion, I ask that students do not sit in the 'hard to see' last two rows (left and right corners).

Taking photos and video recordings are not permitted. Audio recording requires permission of the instructor. This holds for both lecture and tutorials. Non-compliance with these rules on recording will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

## **COURSE ORGANIZATION:**

The course is organized around one weekly lecture and six required tutorial meetings. These may also include short in-class videos. The required readings are the central building block of the course. In some weeks, we will use lecture and/or tutorial time to closely examine and discuss part of the readings. We may do this also with short supplemental readings handed out in class. The lectures serve to enrich, clarify, and illustrate – but not repeat – the assigned readings. A good portion of class time will be used to present materials that complement the readings. If you do not attend lectures or tutorials you will be missing material that is important for tests and your written assignments. Readings must be read in advance of the lecture for which they are assigned. Come to class with questions, comments and criticisms regarding the readings. You will be required to have a solid grasp of the course readings, lecture materials and tutorial topics for the assignments, term test and final exam.

## **TUTORIALS:**

All students are to participate in tutorials. You are expected to attend the tutorial that you are registered in on the ROSI system. The first tutorial will meet in Week 3, so please be sure to get yourself enrolled a tutorial section by last day to add a class (January 24). Tutorials give students the opportunity to meet in small groups to talk about the readings, themes from lecture, and the assignments. Some topics covered in tutorial are not covered in lecture (e.g., aspects of the assignments or in-class tutorial exercises).

Your tutorial grade is based on your attendance and engagement in the tutorials. Attendance alone will not guarantee a top tutorial mark. Students who attend regularly but do not make meaningful contributions do better than students who do not attend at all, but students who attend diligently and make meaningful contributions will earn highest marks for tutorial participation.

## **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

Your project will be a research paper that focuses on a resource or 'object'. The course materials have been selected to provide theoretical inspiration and examples for your analysis. You will need to do outside research for this project, though your analysis will also need to reflect your engagement with

the ideas introduced in lecture and course readings. The first assignment provides an opportunity to develop analytical skills that you will apply in your project (length: 500-600 words). For the second assignment, you will apply these skills to an analysis your 'object' using source materials and one of the analytical approaches introduced in Weeks 2-4 (length: 500-600 words plus annotated bibliography of source materials). For your third assignment, you will extend your research and analysis. You will apply a second analytical approach, providing a synthesis that reflects ongoing engagement with themes of the course and responds to feedback you received. The length of this will be 1500-1700 words (not including bibliography). I will provide detailed instructions for these later.

All assignments should be legibly written, with effort taken to check for problems involving basic grammar and spelling. It is well worth asking a sympathetic reader (e.g., friend, classmate, College Writing Centre tutor) to look over your assignment before handing it in to the instructor. Information on services available to help with undergraduate writing can be found at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Information about FAS support for English Language Learning (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

### **TESTS:**

Term test: A mid-term test will be given in class during Week 6. The mid-term test covers materials of Weeks 2 – 5. It will be based on readings and class discussions, combining short and long answer questions. A study guide will be provided. It will be worth 20%.

Final exam: The final exam will include long and short answer questions that cover the whole term. A guide will be provided and I will use some time in the last class to talk about studying strategies for final. The exam will be worth 35%.

### **MISSED TESTS OR ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES:**

Extensions on assignments will be granted sparingly in the case of illness or other non-medical emergencies. If you do become ill (or otherwise incapacitated) you must provide me with appropriate documentation. For a missed term test, contact me as soon as possible – and no later than one-week after the original test date. For medical exemptions, use the official U of T form (available online here <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>). Please consult your college registrar if you are having difficulties during the term that prevent you from completing your course work. For non-medical emergencies, they may be able to provide a letter documenting your situation. Be aware that submitting a note which has been altered or obtained under false pretences is considered a very serious academic offence by the University.

### **ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION AND LATE PENALTIES:**

Written assignments for this class are to be submitted in both a print and electronic form. The time of submission is based on receipt of the print version. Information on electronic submission via Turnitin.com is provided at the bottom of the next page.

The hardcopy print versions of your assignments are due at the beginning of class (2:10 Wednesday) and these should be submitted to me in the classroom (MC 102). Contact me in advance if you need to submit your assignment early so that we can make arrangements for that (otherwise, it will be 'late' since anything submitted to the department drop box will be time stamped at 5pm).

Anything handed in after the 2:10 deadline will be considered one day late (including assignments handed in after class has begun). There will be a late-penalty of 5% for each day late. Weekends count as one day. For example, if you hand something in on Monday afternoon, it will be penalized 15%. All late assignments should be submitted through the large assignment drop box in the Main Office (Sid Smith 5047) of the Department of Geography and Planning. The office is open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm. Late assignments are time stamped at 5pm when the Main Office closes. This is normally at 5pm sharp, so you should not wait until the last minute. There is an 'after-hours' mail slot just outside the Main Office doors. Use only if the Main Office is closed. Anything submitted through this will be time stamped at 5pm the next day.

No assignments will be accepted more than one week after the due date unless the student has obtained prior permission from the instructor in the case of documented illness or other extenuating circumstances.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

While I encourage you to have others read and comment on your assignments, I expect that the assignments that you submit to be your own work. Note also that using information directly from sources such as books, articles, videos, the Internet or work of fellow students without proper citation is considered plagiarism. Quotation marks are required when using someone else's words. Changing a few words in a sentence is not enough to make it your own. More fundamentally, for this course, we are not interested in reading a regurgitation of authors' ideas – we are interested in your ideas about the materials you will be interpreting.

For some useful information on documenting sources and problems of plagiarism, see the very helpful online document: "How not to plagiarize" (online at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>). I will assume you have read this and are familiar with the proper use of citation (which includes quotations marks when using words of an author). Be aware that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Nor should you submit any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought. The Department and University treat these all as serious offenses and sanctions are severe. You should be familiar with the university's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>. Students are expected to abide by this code. We check papers for plagiarism, and in past years I have followed up on suspected offenses. I will continue to do so.

### **Submission of assignments via TURNITIN.COM**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. If you have an objection to the use of Turnitin for the submission of your work, please contact me to discuss alternatives, which may include submission of your working draft. Note that I will be setting up the Turnitin account such that your essay will be stored only in the U of T institutional repository (i.e., not with Turnitin.com in the USA). Instructions on use of the system will be provided with Assignment #1.

The electronic copy should be posted no later than 5 p.m. on the day after you submit your essay. For example, if you submit your essay on time, by Wednesday 2 p.m., you should post your electronic

version by Thursday 5 p.m. The biggest risk here is that you will forget to follow through on the electronic submission. To minimize this risk, try to upload the essay as you are printing out your final version and confirm you receive your electronic receipt via email. Remember also that the essay you submit electronically to turnitin.com must be the same version you hand in to me (we check for this). Finally, it is recommended that you keep a copy of everything you hand in. You would also be well advised to hang on to the graded assignments and tests as well.

### **ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS:**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

### **ABOUT THE READINGS**

There is no single textbook that covers the topics of this course. The readings I have assigned are from various sources and are of different styles to provide you with varied perspectives (note: I do not agree with all of the authors – nor should you necessarily agree with them all. Critical thinking is welcome!) Some of the selections will be easier than others for you to get a handle on. I have listed each week's readings in a suggested order, but I encourage you to first skim them and then read them in the order that makes sense to you. I also recommend that you keep a set of 'reading notes' where you notes ideas of interest, areas of confusion, and jot down thoughts you have about connections between readings.

### **ASSIGNED READINGS:**

#### Week 1: Introduction: Points of departure

#### Week 2: A problem of governance?

Hardin, G. (1968) The tragedy of the commons. *Science*, 162: 1243-8.

Feeny, D., Berkes, F., McCay, B. J., & Acheson, J. M. (1990) The tragedy of the commons: Twenty-two years later, *Human Ecology*, 18(1): 1-19

Hardin, G. (1998) Extensions of "The tragedy of the commons". *Science*, 280: 682-683.

#### Week 3: Political economy and the environment

Robbins, P., J. Hintz and S. Moore (2014) Political Economy, in *Environment and Society* (2nd Ed), pp. 99-112

Scales, I. (2014) Green consumption, ecolabelling and capitalism's environmental limits. *Geography Compass* 8/7: 477-489.

#### Week 4: Socionatures

Dempsey, J. (2010) Tracking grizzly bears in British Columbia's environmental politics. *Environment and Planning. A*, 42(5), 1138-1156.

Shillington, L. (2008) Being (s) in relation at home: socio-natures of patio 'gardens' in Managua, Nicaragua. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 9(7), 755-776.

#### Week 5: Case #1: The Lawn

Robbins, P., J. Hintz and S. Moore (2014) Lawns, in *Environment and Society* (2nd Ed), pp. 243-256.

Harris, E. et al (2013) Beyond "Lawn People": The role of emotions in suburban yard management practices. *The Professional Geographer*, 65:2, 345-361.

Week 6: Term Test      ROOM LOCATIONS FOR TEST: To be announced. See Blackboard.

#### Week 7: Scalar dynamics

Sievanen, L., R. Gruby, and L. Campbell (2013) Fixing marine governance in Fiji? The new scalar narrative of ecosystem-based management. *Global Environmental Change*, 23: 206-216.

#### Week 8: A question of development?

Zackey, J. (2007) Peasant perspectives on deforestation in southwest China: Social discontent and environmental mismanagement. *Mountain Research and Development*, 27(2), 153-161.

#### Week 9: A question of change?

O'Brien, K. et al (2007) Why different interpretations of vulnerability matter in climate change discourses. *Climate Policy*, 7: 73-88.

Farbotko, C. and H. Lazrus (2012) The first climate refugees? Contesting global narratives of climate change in Tuvalu. *Global Environmental Change*, 22: 382-390.

#### Week 10: Case #2: Water

Keeling, A. (2005) Urban waste sinks as a natural resource: the case of the Fraser River. *Urban History Review/Revue d'histoire urbaine*, 34(1), pp. 58-70.

Perramond, E. (2012) The politics of scaling water governance and adjudication in New Mexico. *Water Alternatives*, 5(1): 62-82.

#### Week 11: Case #3: Garbage

Kirby, P. and A. Lora-Wainwright (2015) Exporting harm, scavenging value: Transnational circuits of e-waste between Japan, China and beyond. *Area*, 47(1): 40-47.

Gregson, N. (2009) Challenging Assumptions: Recycling as policy and assemblage. *Geography*, 94(1), 61-65.

#### Week 12: Environmental work

White, R. (1995) Are you an environmentalist or do you work for a living? in Cronon (ed.) *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking Human Place in Nature*, New York: W.W. Norton and Co., pp. 171-185.