

Integrated Science 2001G: Sustainability and the Environment Course Outline – Winter 2025

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1. Course Information

Course Information

INTEGSCI 2001G: Sustainability and the Environment, Winter 2025

Class hours and location are posted in the OWL site for the course.

List of Prerequisites: Completion of first year of Western Integrated Science Program

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Department/Program Advisors and Science Academic Advising) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

List of Anti-requisites: Environmental Science 1021F

Important Dates:

Classes begin: January 6, 2025

Last day to add a second-term half course or drop a course without showing WDN: Jan. 14

Spring Reading Week: February 15 – 23, 2025

Last day to withdraw from a second-term half (0.5) course without academic penalty: Mar. 30

Group presentations: Feb, 13 and March 27, 2025

Individual essay due: March 31, 2025

Classes end: April 4, 2025

Exam period: April 7 – 30, 2025

2. Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours
Dr. Adrienne Larocque, aka Dr. Addie	alaroc2@uwo.ca	Either on Zoom or in person, by appointment

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting the instructor. Include the course name or number in the subject line of your email so that it is clear what course you are asking about. There is no TA for the course.

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

An exploration of socio-scientific issues facing humanity, including climate change, world hunger, energy/water availability and habitat loss. The interdisciplinary nature and interconnectivity of these issues will be discussed. Students will access the scientific literature and government reports, critically evaluate the data presented and use it to develop cogent arguments.

Learning Outcomes:

Classroom and tutorial sessions are intended to help students develop skills in:

1. Demonstrating understanding of how the environment intersects with students' respective specializations
2. Critically evaluating how science and society interact with the environment
3. Summarizing ideas in environment and sustainability, in a way that is suitable for a scientific as well as a general audience
4. Working collaboratively to prepare a presentation on a specific environmental topic
5. Writing a formal paper with critical analysis of a specific environmental topic
6. Sharing ideas with peers in a moderated discussion setting
7. Providing and incorporating feedback on written work in a collaborative setting
8. Communicating scientific ideas with scientists from other areas of specialization

Furthermore, by the end of the course, students will be expected to be able to discuss and answer questions based on:

1. The value provided by the environment
2. Different environmental perspectives and the regulation of the environment and valuable ecosystems in Canada
3. The importance of biodiversity from the genetic level to the whole ecosystem
4. Sources of pollution in the air, water, and on land
5. Human influence on the degradation of the environment
6. The causes and consequences of climate change
7. Renewable and non-renewable energy sources, where they are most prominent and the climate consequences of each
8. How the environment, technology and society intersect

Contingency plan

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously or asynchronously, the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Lecture Schedule:

The lecture topics presented below are *tentative* and may change as the semester develops.

Wk	Date	Media	Tutorial	Lecture
1	Jan 9	Ch 1, Ch 2 video	Meet group, discuss possible topics for presentation, submit 3 ranked choices	Earth System Science
2	Jan 16	Ch 3	Energy balance assignment	All I need is the air that I breathe...
3	Jan 23	Ch 4	Time to work on group presentations	Global warming
4	Jan 30	Ch 5, 16	Porosity activity and assignment	Water, water, everywhere
5	Feb 6	Ch 8, video	Time to work on group presentations	The Biosphere
6	Feb 13	Ch 6	Biosphere activity: food webs	Group Presentations
Feb 17-21 - Reading week – no lecture				
7	Feb 27	Ch 9-11	Time to work on group presentations or individual essays	Ecology
8	Mar 6	Ch 12-14	TBD	Climate change
9	Mar 13	Ch 17	Time to work on group presentations or individual essays	Resources
10	Mar 20	Ch 18, 21, 22	Time to work on group presentations or individual essays	Pollution
11	Mar 27	Ch 24	Economics and Consumption	Lecture: Agriculture Group presentations
Essay due March 31!				
12	Apr 3	Ch 25, 28	Concept map activity	Sustainable Development

4. Course Materials

The textbook for this course is *Environmental Science - A Canadian Perspective*. It is a **free** resource available for online viewing or downloading as a PDF. [View or download the textbook here](#). Other resources such as articles or videos may be made available on OWL for your reading/viewing. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students

in the class. All other course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Technical Requirements

If it becomes necessary to pivot to remote learning, you will need to have a stable internet connection, and a computer with a working microphone and/or webcam and the ability to support remote-proctoring software. [Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL (and ProctorTrack, should we need to pivot to online learning); update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). If you need assistance, you can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, you can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). WTS can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as follows:

Item	Timing	Details	Weight
Forum posts	One each week	Based on readings/other media. Post with the lowest score will be dropped. Optional post may replace a missed post or one with a low score.	10%
Assignments	As indicated in class schedule	Based on activities during tutorial periods	10%
Group presentations	Feb. 13 Mar. 27	1 st : to define a sustainability problem/issue 2 nd : to identify solutions to the problem	20% 20%
Individual essay	Due Mar. 31	Essay/report to be written on same topic as presentation.	20%
Final exam	To be scheduled by university	Covers all course content.	20%

Forum posts: There will be 12 forum posts, 1 each week. The best 10 will be counted towards your final grade (the lowest 2 will be dropped). The posts will be related to readings or other media (e.g., videos).

Assignments: As indicated in the class schedule, will be based on activities during tutorial periods and are due the following week unless indicated otherwise.

Group presentations: Group members have been randomly assigned to 6 teams. Your group will choose a topic related to environmental sustainability and prepare 2 presentations during the semester. You'll have 15 minutes for the presentation, plus some time for questions.

Individual essay: You will write an essay or report (1500 \pm 200 words) on the topic of your group presentation. You are welcome to discuss ideas with your group members, but your essay/report must be original and submitted individually.

Attendance at lectures is **highly** recommended. However, we are still in a global pandemic. If you are unwell, **please do NOT come to class**, even if you are wearing a mask. To facilitate absences due to illness, participation will be assessed using the online Forum (the lowest score will be dropped). Contact your instructor if you have questions, for example, if you must be absent during an exam or group presentation. If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All Academic Consideration requests normally must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

Group presentations are one of the milestones in the course and always require documentation when requesting Academic Consideration. This includes the first and second presentations. Under special circumstances, if the instructor is informed in advance, a student may join the presentation remotely (if the technology is available in the classroom) without seeking Academic Consideration.

This is an **essay** course, so failing to submit your essay is simply not an option. Students are expected to submit the final essay by March 28 (earlier submissions are encouraged!). Should extenuating circumstances arise, students **do not** need to request Academic Consideration and are permitted to submit their essay up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. If a student submits their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be applied. Academic Consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that started before the deadline and last longer than the No-Late-Penalty Period. Please note that it is University policy that all course work must be submitted by the last day of classes (April 4).

When a student mistakenly submits their one allowed Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** for the assessments listed above or those in the **Coursework with**

Assessment Flexibility section below, the request cannot be recalled and reapplied. This privilege is forfeited.

Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

The lowest 2 **forum posts** (including those not submitted) will be dropped. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students do not need to request Academic Consideration for the first 2 missed forum posts. Academic consideration requests will be denied for the first 2 missed posts. Late forum posts will receive a deduction of 1 point per day.

Assignments are due the following week unless otherwise indicated. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students do not need to request Academic Consideration and are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without a late penalty. If a student submits their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be applied. No assignments can be accepted after graded submissions have been returned to the rest of the class.

When a student misses the **Final Exam** and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Essential Learning Requirements

Even when Academic Considerations are granted for missed coursework, the following are deemed essential to earn a passing grade in the course:

- a passing grade on the final essay as this course is designated as an “essay course”
- 50% on the final exam (or Special Exam, with Academic Consideration)

If you do not meet **both** of these requirements, you will not pass the course.

Coursework with Assessment Flexibility

By policy, instructors may deny Academic Consideration requests for the following assessments with built-in flexibility:

- Forum posts
- Assignments
- Essays

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

6. Additional Statements

Religious Accommodation

When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as

early as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the writing or the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays:

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Calculators are not required on the final exam.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

In the event of a health lockdown, tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:

<https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>

Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Advising webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic-related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

7. Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.