# Course Outline Form: Fall 2015

## General Information

**Course Title:** ENVS\*2270 – Impacts of Climate Change

**Course Description:**

This course will provide students with an overview of recent research into what climate change means for Canada and Canadians. Students will learn about the science of climate change and the impacts of climate change in Canada and worldwide. As well students will learn about adaptation and mitigation strategies that might help us to cope with these impacts. The course is intended to bridge the gap between abstract discussion of the climate and an understanding of what these changes mean at both personal and societal levels.

**Credit Weight:** 0.5

**Academic Department (or campus):** School of Environmental Sciences

**Campus:** Distance Education

**Semester Offering:** Fall 2015

**Class Schedule and Location:** DE

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Simone A. Härri

Instructor Email: shaerri@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: Bovey 2216. Office hours by appointments only. Virtual office hours every Friday from 10am – 12pm in the CourseLink Chat room.

## GTA Information

GTA Name: TBD

GTA Email:

GTA office location and office hours:

## Course Content

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain how interactions among atmosphere, ocean, land, and life lead to climate changes.
2. Describe the direct observations of climate change in recent decades, and articulate the evidence attributing global warming in this time period to human causes.
3. Evaluate your own contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
4. Assess the utility - and limits - of climate models to predict global and regional climate change.
5. Analyze the assumptions and evaluate the worth of the evidence regarding impacts of climate change in Canada.
6. Engage critically and in a scholarly manner, in public arguments about climate change issues.
7. Evaluate the opportunities for adaptation globally and more specifically in Canada.
8. Discuss proposed mitigation strategies

### Lecture Content:

This course is divided into seven units. Each unit covers either a one- or a two-week timespan (indicated in brackets).

Unit 01: Weather and Climate (2 weeks)

Unit 02: Let’s talk about Science (1 week)

Unit 03: Evidence of Climate Change (2 weeks)

Unit 04: Climate Projections (2 weeks)

Unit 05: Impacts of Climate Change on Oceans (1 week)

Unit 06: Impacts of Climate Change (2 weeks)

Unit 07: Adaptation and Mitigation (2 weeks)

### Labs:

N/A

### Seminars:

N/A

### Course Assignments and Tests:

| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unit Quizzes (one for each Unit = 7 Quizzes) | Sundays at the end of each unit (September 27, October 4 & 18, November 1, 8 & 22, December 4) | 20% | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 |
| Carbon Footprint Assignment | Monday October 5, 2015 | 15% | 2, 3 |
| Debunk Climate Change Myths (Group project) | Monday November 2, 2015 | 15% | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 |
| Impacts of Climate Change Report | Monday November 30, 2015 | 25% | 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 |
| Final Examination | Thursday December 10, 2015  14:30 – 16:30 | 25% | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 |

Additional Notes (if required):

Your final quiz grade will be calculated from your six highest quiz grades, i.e your lowest quiz mark will be dropped.

### Final examination date and time: Thursday, December 10, 2015. 14:30 – 16:30

### Final exam weighting: 25%

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

*Climate Change: What the science tells us* (2013) Charles Fletcher, Wiley, 1st edition.

Also available on library reserve.

There are additional required readings that you will find directly on CourseLink in the eReserve section.

### Recommended Texts:

N/A

### Lab Manual:

N/A

### Other Resources:

N/A

### Field Trips:

N/A

### Additional Costs:

N/A

## Course Policies

### Grading Policies:

Assignments are to be submitted online via Dropbox before midnight (by 23:59) on the due date. Assignments handed-in late, for which an extension has not been granted ahead of time, will lose 10% of the total marks for every day (or part thereof) that it is late. If you require an extension on an assignment, you must have a valid reason and contact Dr. Härri (shaerri@uoguelph.ca) in advance of the due date.

### Course Policy on Group Work:

This course encourages group work and collaborative problem solving. The “Carbon Footprint Assignment” and the “Impact of Climate Change Report” should be written entirely by the student alone, should reflect the opinion of the student alone and should be the original work of the student. For the “Debunk Climate Change Myth” assignment, the completed assignment should contain only work which has been produced by members of the group in question.

### Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

N/A

## University Policies

### Academic Consideration:

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting students in their learning experiences and responding to their individual needs and is aware that a variety of situations or events beyond the student's control may affect academic performance. Support is provided to accommodate academic needs in the face of personal difficulties or unforeseen events in the form of Academic Consideration.

Information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions, including categories, grounds, timelines and appeals can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml).

### Academic Misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Misconduct policy is available in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml).

### Accessibility:

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or visit the [Student Accessibility Services website (http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/)](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).

### Course Evaluation Information:

End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions used as an important component in the Faculty Tenure and Promotion process, and as valuable feedback to help instructors enhance the quality of their teaching effectiveness and course delivery.

While many course evaluations are conducted in class others are now conducted online. Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/) **for more information.**

### Drop period:

The drop period for single semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period and extends to the Fortieth (40th) class day of the current semester (the last date to drop a single semester courses without academic penalty) which is listed in [Section III (Schedule of Dates) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/).

The drop period for two semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period in the first semester and extends to the last day of the add period in the second semester.

Information about Dropping Courses can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/).