

ENVS*2230 - Communications in Environmental Science

Fall 2023 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This course provides students with direct training in the academic skills used in researching and communicating environmental science. Within the context of current problems in environmental science, students will develop skills in library research, statistical interpretation, oral and poster presentation and written communication to diverse audiences. Students will research and report on scientific issues within environmental issues being reported in the media.

Prerequisite(s): 1 of ENVM*1000, ENVM*1200, ENVS*1030

Restriction(s): Registration in BBRM, BSC(Env) or BSC(Agr) programs.

Department(s): School of Environmental Sciences

Lecture Schedule

Mon 4:30pm-5:20pm in MCKN*315 (9/7 to 12/15)

Fri 2:30pm - 5:20pm in MCKN*315 (9/7 to 12/15) (Seminar)

Instructor Information

Simone Haerri

Email: shaerri@uoguelph.ca

Communicating With Your Instructor

Office hours via appointment only. But I am very open to answer questions before and after class.

E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. I generally answer E-mails once a day. So expect a response within 24 - 48 hours. If your E-mail is time-sensitive, then I will answer as quickly as possible.

Learning Resources

Required Resources

COURSELINK

The instructor uses CourseLink (<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/>) for posting class announcements, lecture slides, seminar worksheets, grades and other required and recommended materials that is relevant to this course. Please check CourseLink at least once a day.

If you need any assistance with the software tools or the CourseLink website, contact CourseLink Support.

Email: courselink@uoguelph.ca

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 56939 Toll-Free (CAN/USA): 1-866-275-1478

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Practice using online research tools to find and read relevant scientific literature and correctly incorporate articles as citations into your writing.
2. Design an experiment, analyze and interpret data to write a scientific research paper using the IMRAD structure by applying best academic writing practices regarding clarity, conciseness, paragraph structure and connection.
3. Design presentation slides and a scientific poster using software (i.e Powerpoint, Keynote, Prezi) by incorporating best design principles to enhance and support your main points.
4. Deliver an oral presentation and present a scientific poster that applies best practices for extemporaneous (without many notes) presentations.
5. Write a Research Snapshot (Plain language summary) of a peer-reviewed article by applying the inverted pyramid structure and by framing the results for your lay audience.
6. Communicate effectively current environmental issues to a lay audience using various media and social media tools by applying principles of science communication

Teaching and Learning Activities

Weekly Activities

- Week 1 - Basic communication principles
- Week 2 - Scientific process, literature search & how to correctly use references
- Week 3 - Tips and tricks on how to improve your oral presentation skills
- Week 4 - How to do a poster and student presentations
- Week 5 - How to structure and write a scientific paper
- Week 6 - Basic introduction into data analysis and how to write a result section
- Week 7 - Experimental design and Poster presentations
- Week 8 - Scientific writing principles
- Week 9 - Principles of science communication
- Week 10 - Research snapshot and student presentations
- Week 11 - Using social media for science communication
- Week 12 - Wrap-up

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Scientific presentation	10%	Week 4 (Oct 5)
Scientific poster	15%	Week 7 (Oct 26)
Scientific paper - First submission	15%	Week 9 (Nov 9)
Lay audience presentation	15%	Week 10 (Nov 16)
Research snapshot	10%	Week 11 (Nov 23)
Media piece	15%	Week 12 (Nov 30)
Scientific paper - Second submission	10%	Exam Period (Dec 6)
Weekly worksheets	10%	Weekly

Grading Schemes

During the first week of exams (after you received all your grades), you can request to switch 7.5% of the weight of one of your assignment to another assignment. You cannot choose an assignment that you did not complete.

Assessment Details

Scientific presentation: Choose a primary peer-reviewed scientific paper about a current environmental issue. Prepare a slideshow and present to your peers. Presentations take place during the seminar of week 4.

Scientific poster: In groups of two, choose a primary peer-reviewed scientific paper about a current environmental issue.

Scientific paper: Write a scientific paper using the IMRAD structure using the provided data set as the basis. Apply clear and concise scientific writing, incorporate relevant literature and design an experimental method that fits your data. Your first submission is your best attempt and NOT a draft. I will then give you feedback and you can resubmit the paper with having my feedback incorporated. The second submission is not mandatory. If you don't submit a second version, you will get the same grade as for your first submission.

Lay audience presentation: Choose a peer-reviewed primary scientific paper on a current environmental issue. You will be assigned a specific lay audience. Prepare a presentation delivering the main results of your paper to your assigned audience using principles of science communication. Presentations will be given during the seminar of week 10.

Research snapshot: Choose a peer-reviewed scientific article published within the last two years and that has a faculty member of the School of Environmental Sciences as one of the authors. Write a plain-language summary (research snapshot) about that article. Best research snapshots might be featured on the School of Environmental Sciences website.

Media piece: Choose an environmental science topic. Choose a media tool to present the problem to a chosen lay audience by applying the principles of science communication. Can be done alone or in groups of two.

Weekly worksheets: Most seminars will consist of small groups working on a worksheet. The worksheet will be submitted and assigned a maximum of 10 marks. 5 marks for the worksheet itself, and 5 marks for participation. The two lowest marks will be ignored.

Last Day to Drop Course

The deadline to drop Fall 2023 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: December 01

After this deadline, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Grading Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be submitted online via D2L before midnight on the due date. When submitting your assignments using the Dropbox tool, do not leave the page until your assignment has successfully uploaded. To verify that your submission was complete, you can view the submission history immediately after the upload to see which files uploaded successfully. The system will also email you a receipt. Save this email receipt as proof of submission.

Be sure to keep a back-up copy of all of your assignments in the event that they are lost in transition. In order to avoid any last-minute computer problems, your instructor strongly recommends you save your assignments to a cloud-based file storage (e.g., OneDrive), or send to your email account, so that should something happen to your computer, the assignment could still be submitted on time or re-submitted.

Late Assignment

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 (i.e an 80 will become a 70 if your submission is late by one day). If you require an extension on an assignment, you must have a valid reason and contact Dr. Ha#rri in advance of the due date. Extensions will be considered for medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances. If you require an extension, discuss this with the instructor as soon as possible and well before the due date.

Course Standard Statements

Course Policies

Turnitin

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your first submission of the research paper through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

All other assignments will be screened, but you will only have access to your Turnitin score if you contact the instructor at least two days before the due date.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

Academic Integrity

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.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)