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# ENVS\*3010 - Climate Change Biology

## Summer 2026 Course Outline

Section: DE

Credits: 0.50

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## 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 examines the impacts of climate change on living organisms, biological communities and ecosystems. The course focuses on what is known, and what is not known, about the ways in which the suite of changing climate variables influence biological systems.

**Prerequisite(s):** BIOL\*2060

**Department(s):** School of Environmental Sciences

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## Course Description

This course begins with an overview of climate variability and future projections, providing essential background on climate change. We then focus on its effects on biology, climbing the ecological ladder from individual organisms to populations, communities, and entire ecosystems.

You'll learn that climate change impacts vary by species and their interactions with the environment. While we'll cover some species-specific cases, the main goal is to teach you how to scientifically approach questions about biological impacts. You'll explore the kinds of questions asked at different ecological levels, the techniques used to answer them, and key aspects of experimental design and statistical analysis.

By the end, if someone asks, "What will be the effect of climate change on X?" you may not know the answer—but you'll know how to find out.

## Instructor Information

**Dr. Simone Haerri (she/her)**

Main instructor

Email: shaerri@uoguelph.ca

**Puspa Dulal**

Teaching assistant

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Teaching assistant

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## Communicating With Your Instructor and Office Hours

I will mostly be working from home. E-mail will be 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.



**E-mail:** If you have a conflict that prevents you from completing course requirements, or have a question concerning a personal matter, you can send your instructor a private message by email.

**Office hours:** Via appointment only. Email me to set up an appointment (shaerri@uoguelph.ca).

**Discussion Forum:** Use the discussion forum to ask questions of your instructor about content or course-related issues with which you are unfamiliar.

If you encounter difficulties, the instructor is here to help you. Please post general course-related questions to the discussion forum so that all students have an opportunity to review the response. To access this discussion forum, select Discussions from the Tools dropdown menu.

General Note: Your physical and mental well-being is more important than your schoolwork. If you find yourself unable to participate to the best of your abilities, reach out to me, and we can discuss the best way for you to navigate and succeed in this course. Take care of yourself and each other.

## Method of Delivery

As a distance education course, this class is designed for you to work through the material independently and at your own pace. There are no scheduled class meetings. However, to successfully complete the course, I **strongly recommend following the suggested weekly schedule**. This will help you stay on track with readings, assignments, and deadlines.

You are expected to **log in to the course site frequently—at least three times per week**. Regular participation is essential to your success in this course, especially since there are no live lectures to keep you on a fixed timeline.

## Course Learning Outcomes

1. Interpret the current climate change in a historical context and define natural and human causes of climate variability
2. Examine the general trends in future climate and interpret the variability in future climate predictions through running different computer models
3. Explain expected changes in the net primary production of ecosystems through the analysis of different effects of climate change on plant physiology and decomposition
4. Hypothesize how different species and entire communities react to the changing climate by formulating a scientific question that will be applied to the design of a poster
5. Design experimental methods necessary to study how individuals, populations, communities, and entire ecosystems will respond to the changing climate and discuss their limitations

## Learning Resources

### Required Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

### Course Website

CourseLink (<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/>) (powered by D2L's Brightspace) is the course website and will act as your classroom. It is recommended that you log in to your course website every day to check for announcements, access course materials, and review the weekly schedule and assignment requirements.

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca>

### Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with an Academic Advisor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/enrolment-records/academic-advisors/>) 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.

## Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

Textbook / Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost
N/A		0



## Library Course Reserve (Ares)

For this course, you will be required to access course reserve materials through the University of Guelph McLaughlin Library. To access these items, select **Ares** on the navbar in CourseLink. Note that you will need your Central Login ID and password in order to access items on reserve.

For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit [How to Get Course Reserve Materials \(https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares/\)](https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares/).

If at any point during the course you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, please contact the e-Learning Operations and Reserve Services staff at:

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 53621 | Email: [libres2@uoguelph.ca](mailto:libres2@uoguelph.ca) | Location: McLaughlin Library, First Floor, University of Guelph

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Method of Learning

During this course you will encounter a variety of different learning tools. The course uses an array of different approaches to satisfy all learning styles. You are provided with several videos of narrated PowerPoint slides explaining the most important concepts more in-depth and with a more visual approach. In addition to the videos, interactive learning activities for each concept are designed to engage you directly with the material, which will deepen your understanding of the subject and give you a chance to test your understanding without having the pressure of grades. To help you stay on track with the course material, there will be an online quiz (comprised of two parts; one part with multiple-choice questions, and one with written answers) at the end of each unit. You will also complete a series of individual assignments that build on each other, as well as contributing to online discussions.

### Course Structure

This course is divided into ten units.

- Unit 01: Introduction and Climate Definition
- Unit 02: Climate Variability
- Unit 03: Climate of the Past
- Unit 04: Future Climate Projections
- Unit 05: Physiological Changes Under Climate Change
- Unit 06: Population Responses to Climate Change
- Unit 07: Community Responses to Climate Change
- Unit 08: Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change
- Unit 09: Evolutionary Responses
- Unit 10: Applications: Forest, Agriculture, and Biodiversity

### What to Expect for Each Unit

Each unit begins with an introduction and learning outcomes to situate your focus for each unit.

## Course Schedule

The schedule outlines what you should be working on each week of the course and lists the important due dates for the assessments. By following the schedule, you will be better prepared to complete the assessments and succeed in this course. Additional content is outlined within CourseLink for each unit.

### Unit 01: Introduction and Climate Definition

Week 1 - Thursday, May 7 to Sunday, May 17

#### Readings

- Website: Unit 01 Content

#### Activities

- Familiarize yourself with the course website by selecting **Start Here** on the navbar.
- Review **Outline** and **Assessments** on the course website to learn about course expectations, assessments, and due dates.
- Confirm your access to the course reserve materials by selecting **Ares** on the navbar.



- Introduce yourself to the instructor and your classmates in the Class Introductions **Discussions** forum. Select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu on the course navbar.
- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.

### Assessments

- **Unit 01 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Thursday, May 7 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, May 17 by 11:59 pm ET

Note: Each Unit Test Your Knowledge Quiz assignment consists of two quizzes: Quiz A and Quiz B. Please see the Assessment descriptions section of the course outline for more information on the types of questions in each quiz and their respective grade weighting. Both Quiz A and Quiz B will open/close on the same dates/times as indicated in the outline. You're not required to complete the quizzes in a particular order.

## Unit 02: Climate Variability

**Week 2 – Tuesday, May 19 to Sunday May 24 (Holiday: Monday, May 18)**

### Readings

- Website: Unit 02 Content

### Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.

### Assessments

- **Discussion 1** (select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu)
  - Opens: Tuesday, May 19 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, May 31 by 11:59 pm ET

Note: You must make two (2) posts during each week of this discussion. For full marks, one of the two posts must be made on or before Wednesday for each week of this discussion.

- **Unit 02 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Tuesday, May 19 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, May 24 by 11:59 pm ET

## Unit 03: Climate of the Past

**Week 3 – Monday, May 25 to Sunday, May 31**

### Readings

- Website: Unit 03 Content

### Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.
- Familiarize yourself with the **Future Projection Assignment** description (see Assessments)
- Check whether you find your assigned region for the Future Projection Assignment (see **Announcements** on the course home page).

### Assessments

- **Discussion 1** (select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu)
  - Closes: Sunday, May 31 by 11:59 pm ET

Note: You must make two (2) posts during each week of this discussion. For full marks, one of the two posts must be made on or before Wednesday for each week of this discussion.

- **Unit 03 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, May 25 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, May 31 by 11:59 pm ET

## Unit 04: Future Climate Projections

**Week 4 – Monday, June 1 to Sunday, June 7**

### Readings

- Website: Unit 04 Content



## Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.
- Work through your **Future Projection Assignment**.

## Assessments

- **Unit 04 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, June 1 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, June 7 by 11:59 pm ET

## Unit 05: Physiological Changes Under Climate Change

Weeks 5 and 6 – Monday, June 8 to Sunday, June 21

### Readings

- Website: Unit 05 Content
- Ares:
  - Wheeler, T., & Von Braun, J. (2013). Climate change impacts on global food security. *Science*, 341(6145), 508-513.
  - *Chapter 1.2 (page 450) up to (but not including) chapter 1.2.2.2 (page 456) from:* Mbow, C., C. Rosenzweig, L.G. Barioni, T.G. Benton, M. Herrero, M. Krishnapillai, E. Liwenga, P. Pradhan, M.G. Rivera-Ferre, T. Sapkota, F.N. Tubiello, Y. Xu, 2019: Food Security. In: Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)]. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157988.007>

Note: These two readings are required for your discussion assignment.

### Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.
- Finish your **Future Projection Assignment**.
- Familiarize yourself with the **Poster Assignment** assessment details and rubric (see **Assessments**).

### Assessments

- **Future Projection Assignment** (submit to **Dropbox**)
  - Due: Monday, June 15 by 11:59 pm ET
- **Unit 05 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, June 8 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, June 21 by 11:59 pm ET
- **Discussion 2: Food Safety** (select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu)
  - Opens: Monday, June 15 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, June 28 at 11:59 pm ET

Note: You must make two (2) posts during each week of this discussion. For full marks, one of the two posts must be made on or before Wednesday for each week of this discussion.

## Unit 06: Population Responses to Climate Change

Week 7 – Monday, June 22 to Sunday, June 28

### Readings

- Unit 06 course content

### Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.
- Work on your **Poster Assignment**

### Assessments

- **Discussion 2: Food Safety** (select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu)
  - Closes: Sunday, June 28 at 11:59 pm ET



Note: You must make two (2) posts during each week of this discussion. For full marks, one of the two posts must be made on or before Wednesday for each week of this discussion.

- **Unit 06 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, June 22 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, June 28 by 11:59 pm ET

## Unit 07: Community Responses to Climate Change

Week 8 – Monday, June 29 to Sunday, July 5 (Holiday: Wednesday, July 1)

### Readings

- Unit 07 course content

### Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.
- Work on your **Poster Assignment**.

### Assessments

- **Unit 07 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, June 29 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, July 5 by 11:59 pm ET

## Unit 08: Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change

Weeks 9 and 10 – Monday, July 6 to Sunday, July 19

### Readings

- Unit 08 course content
- Ares:
  - Wynes, S., & Nicholas, K. A. (2017). The climate mitigation gap: education and government recommendations miss the most effective individual actions. *Environmental Research Letters*, 12(7), 074024.
  - Zhang, Z., Moore, J. C., Huisingh, D., & Zhao, Y. (2015). Review of geoengineering approaches to mitigating climate change. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 103, 898-907.

Note: These two readings are required for your discussion assignment.

### Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.
- Familiarize yourself with the **Method Assignment** description and rubric (see **Assessments**).
- Start brainstorming for your experimental design for your **Method Assignment**.

### Assessments

- **Poster Assignment** (submit to **Dropbox**)
  - Due: Wednesday, July 8 by 11:59 pm ET
- **Discussion 3: Mitigation** (select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu)
  - Opens: Monday, July 13 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, July 26 at 11:59 pm ET

Note: You must make two (2) posts during each week of this discussion. For full marks, one of the two posts must be made on or before Wednesday for each week of this discussion.

- **Unit 08 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, July 6 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, July 19 by 11:59 pm ET

## Unit 09: Evolutionary Responses

Week 11 – Monday, July 20 to Sunday, July 26

### Readings

- Unit 09 course content



## Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.
- Work on your **Method Assignment**.

## Assessments

- **Discussion 3: Mitigation** (select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu)
  - Closes: Sunday, July 26 at 11:59 pm ET

Note: You must make two (2) posts during each week of this discussion. For full marks, one of the two posts must be made on or before Wednesday.

- **Unit 09 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, July 20 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Sunday, July 26 by 11:59 pm ET

## Unit 10: Applications: Forest, Agriculture, and Biodiversity

Week 12 – Monday, July 27 to Friday, July 31

### Readings

- Unit 10 course content

### Activities

- Watch all unit concept videos and engage with the content by doing the learning activities.

### Assessments

- **Method Piece** (submit to **Dropbox**)
  - Due: Friday, July 31 by 11:59 pm ET
- **Unit 10 – Test Your Knowledge Quiz** (accessed through the **Quizzes** tool)
  - Opens: Monday, July 27 at 12:01 am ET
  - Closes: Friday, July 31 by 11:59 pm ET

## Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Unit Test Your Knowledge Quizzes (1.5% x 10)	15%	Every Sunday (except week 5 and 9)
Online Discussions (5% x 3)	15%	Weeks 2 & 3, weeks 6 & 7, weeks 10 & 11
Future Projection Assignment	15%	Monday of week 6 (June 15, 2026)
Poster	15%	Wednesday of week 9 (July 8, 2026)
Method Piece	15%	Friday of week 12 (July 31, 2026)
Final exam	25%	TBD

## Assessment Details

### Quizzes

#### Unit Test Your Knowledge Quizzes

15

At the end of each unit, there is a Unit Test Your Knowledge quiz (see **Schedule** above for exact times and dates when they are due). For logistics reason, the quiz is split into two parts. Both parts **do not** have a time-limit.

Quiz A for the Unit Test Your Knowledge quiz consists of a mix of ten multiple-choice, select all, true-false questions. You get up to four attempts, with each attempt only including the questions previously answered incorrectly.

The second part of the Unit Test Your Knowledge quiz, Quiz B, consists of two questions requiring short written answers. These answers will be manually marked. You only have one attempt for this part.

Each Unit Test Your Knowledge quiz counts 1.5% towards your final grade. Of this 1.5% grade, 1% of that grade is allocated to the Multiple Choice part and 0.5% to the Written Answers part. The lowest grade for each quiz part will not count towards your final grade.

**Course Learning Outcomes Assessed:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5



## Discussion

### Online Discussions

15

There are three different discussions throughout the semester with each covering a two-week timespan. Each discussion covers a different topic and is (except one) based on assigned readings. For each of the three discussions, you are asked to contribute four separate posts (2 posts per week). To encourage continuous discussions, you need to post the first post per discussion week on or before Wednesdays for full marks.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 2, 3, 5

## Assignment

### Future Projection Assignment

15

You will use Excel to plot the future climate of an assigned Canadian region and show in your write-up that you understand the graph(s) and the underlying concepts.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 2

## Poster Presentation

### Poster

15

Based on your future climate projections, you will hypothesise how a species of your choice might be affected by climate change and prepare a scientific poster. The poster will have to stand by itself, as there is no oral poster presentation. The poster can be done alone or in groups of two (2).

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 4

## Research Paper

### Method Piece

15

You will design an experiment that can test your hypothesis developed for your poster. You will then use this experimental design and write a material and method part in the style of an actual peer-reviewed journal. If you did the poster in groups, you will split up and complete the method piece individually.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 5

## Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Summer 2026 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: July 31

After this date, 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.

## School of Continuing Studies - Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in this course must align with academic integrity principles. Students are expected to complete their work independently and showcase their problem-solving abilities. Undeclared and/or unauthorized use of AI tools to produce coursework is considered a form of academic misconduct. Any misuse of AI tools, including submitting AI-generated work, may be considered academic misconduct. For specific guidelines on acceptable AI use in your course, please check with your instructor.

Review the University of Guelph's Statement on Artificial Intelligence Systems, ChatGPT, and Academic Integrity (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2023/03/university-of-guelph-statement-on-artificial-intelligence-systems-chatgpt-academic-integrity/>) for more information.

## Course Grading Policies

### Submission of Assignments

The **Future Projection Assignment**, **Poster** and **Method Piece** should be submitted electronically via the online **Dropbox** tool. 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 recommend you save your assignments to a cloud-based file storage (e.g., Google Docs), 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.



It is your responsibility to submit your assignments on time as specified on the Schedule. Be sure to check the technical requirements and make sure you have the proper computer, that you have a supported browser, and that you have reliable Internet access. Remember that **technical difficulty is not an excuse not to turn in your assignment on time**. Don't wait until the last minute as you may get behind in your work.

If, for some reason, you have a technical difficulty when submitting your assignment electronically, please contact your instructor or CourseLink Support. (<https://support.opened.uoguelph.ca/contact>)

## Extension Requests/Late Assignment

If you choose to submit your individual assignments to the Dropbox tool late, the full allocated mark will be **reduced by 10% per day after the deadline for the submission of the assignment to a limit of seven days** at which time access to the Dropbox folder will be closed.

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. Barring exceptional circumstances, extensions will not be granted once the due date has passed. These rules are not designed to be arbitrary, nor are they inflexible. They are designed to keep you organized, to ensure that all students have the same amount of time to work on assignments, and to help to return marked materials to you in the shortest possible time.

## Obtaining Grades and Feedback

Unofficial assessment marks will be available in the Grades tool of the course website.

Your instructor will have grades posted online within 2 weeks of the submission deadline, if the assignment was submitted on time. Once your assignments are marked, you can view your grades on the course website by selecting Grades from the Tools dropdown menu on the navbar. Your course will remain open to you for seven days following the last day of the final exam period.

University of Guelph degree students can access their final grade by logging into WebAdvisor (<https://webadvisor.uoguelph.ca/>) (using your U of G central ID). Open Learning program students should log in to the OpenEd Student Portal (<https://courses.opened.uoguelph.ca/portal/logon.do?method=load>) to view their final grade (using the same username and password you have been using for your courses).

## Technology Requirements and Technical Support

### Courselink System Requirements

You are responsible for ensuring that your computer system meets the necessary system requirements. (<https://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/system-and-software-requirements>) Use the browser check (<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/d2l/systemCheck>) tool to ensure your browser settings are compatible and up to date. (Results will be displayed in a new browser window)

### Respondus LockDown Browser Requirements

Respondus LockDown Browser is a locked browser for taking exams in CourseLink. It prevents you from printing and copying; using other operating software; using search engines (e.g., going to another URL); communicating via instant messaging; and it blocks non-web-related software (e.g., Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word).

In order to use Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor, your computer system must meet the following system and software requirements (<https://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/system-and-software-requirements#Respondus-LockDown-Browser-and-Monitor>).

If you have any concerns about meeting system requirements, contact CourseLink Support (<https://support.opened.uoguelph.ca/contact>).

### Zoom Requirements

This course may use **Zoom** as a video communication tool. A Webcam, headphones/speakers may be needed. Review the Zoom information for students (uoguelph) (<https://support.opened.uoguelph.ca/students/courselink/tools/content/zoom>) to ensure that your computer meets the technical requirements.

### Technical Skills

As part of your online experience, you are expected to use a variety of technology as part of your learning:

- Manage files and folders on your computer (e.g., save, name, backup, rename, delete, and check properties);
- Install software, security, and virus protection;
- Use office applications (e.g., Word, PowerPoint, Excel, or similar) to create documents;
- Be comfortable uploading and downloading saved files;
- Communicate using email (e.g., create, receive, reply, print, send, download, and open attachments);
- Navigate the CourseLink learning environment and use the essential tools, such as **Dropbox, Quizzes, Discussions, and Grades** (the instructors for this are given in your course);



- Access, navigate, and search the internet using a web browser (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Safari, etc.);
- Perform online research using various search engines (e.g., Google) and library databases.

## Technical Support

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

### CourseLink Support

University of Guelph

Day Hall, Room 211

Email: [courselink@uoguelph.ca](mailto:courselink@uoguelph.ca) ([https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/syllabi/2026-summer/envs-3010-de01-envs\\_3010\\_de01/email](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/syllabi/2026-summer/envs-3010-de01-envs_3010_de01/email))  
to: [courselink@uoguelph.ca](mailto:courselink@uoguelph.ca))

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 56939

Toll-Free (CAN/USA): 1-866-275-1478

### Walk-In Hours (Eastern Time):

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 am-8:30pm

### Phone/Email Hours (Eastern Time):

Monday thru Friday: 8:30am-8:30pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday: 12:00pm - 6:00pm

## Standard Statements for Online Courses

### Acceptable Use

The University of Guelph has an Acceptable Use Policy (<https://ithelp.uoguelph.ca/policy/acceptable-use-policy>), which you are expected to adhere to.

### Communicating with Your Instructor

During the course, your instructor will interact with you on various course matters in the course website using the following ways of communication:

- **Announcements:** The instructor will use Announcements on the Course Home page to provide you with course reminders and updates. Please check this section frequently for course updates from your instructor.
- **Ask Your Instructor Discussion:** Use this discussion forum to ask questions of your instructor about the content or course-related issues with which you are unfamiliar. If you encounter difficulties, the instructor is here to help you. Please post general course-related questions to the discussion forum so that all students have an opportunity to review the response. To access this discussion forum, select **Discussions** from the **Tools** dropdown menu.
- **Email:** If you have a conflict that prevents you from completing course requirements or have a question concerning a personal matter, you can send your instructor a private message by email. The instructor will generally respond to your email within 48 to 72 hours.

### Netiquette Expectations

For distance education courses, the course website is considered the classroom and the same protections, expectations, guidelines, and regulations used in face-to-face settings apply, plus other policies and considerations that come into play specifically because these courses are online.

Inappropriate online behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include:

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students;
- Using obscene or offensive language online;
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own;
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references;
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments;
- Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites;
- Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student;
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions;
- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor online;
- Discriminating against fellow students, instructors, and/or TAs;
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services;
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system;



- Sharing your username and password; and
- Recording lectures without the permission of the instructor.

## Rights and Responsibilities When Learning Online

For distance education (DE) courses, the course website is considered the classroom and the same protections, expectations, guidelines, and regulations used in face-to-face settings apply, plus other policies and considerations that come into play specifically because these courses are online. For more information on your rights and responsibilities when learning in the online environment, visit Rights and Responsibilities (<http://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/rights-and-responsibilities>).

## Copyright Notice

Content within this course is copyright protected. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters and articles) have either been licensed for use in this course or have been copied under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. The fair dealing exemption in Canada's Copyright Act permits students to reproduce short excerpts from copyright-protected materials for purposes such as research, education, private study, criticism and review, with proper attribution. Any other copying, communicating, or distribution of any content provided in this course, except as permitted by law, may be an infringement of copyright if done without proper license or the consent of the copyright owner. Examples of infringing uses of copyrighted works would include uploading materials to a commercial third-party web site, or making paper or electronic reproductions of all, or a substantial part, of works such as textbooks for commercial purposes. Students who upload to CourseLink copyrighted materials such as book chapters, journal articles, or materials taken from the Internet, must ensure that they comply with Canadian Copyright law or with the terms of the University's electronic resource licenses. For more information about students' rights and obligations with respect to copyrighted works, review Copyright at the University of Guelph (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/scholarship-publishing/copyright-university-guelph/>).

## Turnitin and AI Usage

### Turnitin Originality Check

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 individual assignments submitted to the **Dropbox** tool 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.

In this course, you will not be able to screen your own assignments through Turnitin by default. However, if you wish to know your Turnitin score before the deadline of an assignment, submit the assignment to Dropbox at least 24 hours before the assignment deadline and send an e-mail to your instructor ([shaerri@uoguelph.ca](mailto:shaerri@uoguelph.ca)). She will then let you know your report and your score and help you understand the report.

### Use of AI tools

Please read the University of Guelph's statement on the use of AI (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2023/03/university-of-guelph-statement-on-artificial-intelligence-systems-chatgpt-academic-integrity/>), including ChatGPT and similar tools, and academic integrity. For this course, AI tools may be used in accordance with UoG's academic integrity policies. Misuse of AI, including using it to generate entire assignments or misrepresenting its contributions as your own, will be considered a violation of academic integrity policies.

AI tools may be used in this course to assist with generating ideas, creating draft outlines, and improving the clarity of your writing, provided that this use adheres to academic integrity standards. For a full list of acceptable AI use for this course, refer to the section "AI Use & Submission Requirements" under the Assessment section on our D2L course site.

You must include a declaration about the use of AI for the future projection assignment, the poster assignment and the method piece assignment, whether you used generative AI or not. Details about the declaration can be found in the section "AI Use & Submission Requirements" under the Assessment section on our D2L course site. Additionally, if you used scientific articles for the preparation of any of your assignments, submit the pdf of each article with your assignments.

A word of caution: You are responsible for verifying the accuracy of any content generated by AI tools. These tools can produce inaccurate, false, misleading, or biased information. It is your responsibility to critically evaluate any generated content. Additionally, be cautious when providing personal or sensitive data to any AI tool.

## Standard Statements for Open Learning Program Students

As a student at the University of Guelph, it is important to understand your rights and responsibilities and the academic rules and regulations that you must abide by.



**Open Learning program (OLp) students** are required to follow the same Senate-approved academic regulations as University of Guelph undergraduate students. For information on academic misconduct, academic accessibility accommodations, academic accommodation of religious obligations, and withdrawal procedures, consult Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/continuing-studies/academic-policies/>) and Withdrawals, Refunds, and Transfers (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/continuing-studies/withdrawals-refunds-transfers/>) on the School of Continuing Studies website. You may also contact the School of Continuing Studies' Learner Success Advisor ([scs-counsellor@uoguelph.ca](mailto:scs-counsellor@uoguelph.ca)) for assistance.

## 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 business days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). 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/navigation/>) 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/>)