

IES*2010 - Land-Based Teachings for Environmental Science and Practice

Fall 2024 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

Through Lands-based and experiential educational practices, appropriate to the patterns of the late summer cycle, students will further develop their knowledge, motivation, and skills toward facilitating the transmission of an Indigenous environmental consciousness in the field of environmental science and practice. In this course, students will examine the role of language and worldviews in thinking and communicating about relationships to the Land. They will practice the skills necessary to cultivate relationships and enact reciprocity with Indigenous peoples and communities and within Indigenous Lands. The course includes a seven-day overnight field trip the last week before Labour Day. There is no cost to students for the field trip. Students must be registered in the course before the field trip commences.

Prerequisite(s): IES*1020

Restriction(s): Restricted to students in BIESP, BIESPC.

Department(s): School of Environmental Sciences

Course Description

Students will explore the cultural, ecological and spiritual dimensions of Indigenous ways of knowing through field trips and activities appropriate to the late summer season. Interactions with Elder(s) and environmental practitioners will deepen and broaden student understanding of Indigenous ways of being in nature and their implications for environmental science and practice.

A central focus of the course will be the consequences of widening the scope of moral consideration to encompass non-human persons for environmental practice. Students will develop a foundation for informed, respectful, reciprocal and meaningful engagement with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners. The course will include monthly meetings throughout the fall semester as well as a one-week field trip on the Lands of north-central Ontario where students will visit several First Nation communities where they will be immersed in environmental practice.

Course Fit Within Program/Curriculum

In the process we will address a number of the University's Learning Objectives (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/vpacademic/avpa/outcomes/pdfs/Undergraduate%20Learning%20Outcomes.pdf>) especially;

- Global Understanding - sense of historical development, civic knowledge and engagement, intercultural competence
- Communicating - oral, written, reading
- Professional and Ethical Behaviour - teamwork, ethical, leadership

Lecture Schedule

Mon 8:30am-11:20am in TBA (9/5 to 12/13)

Lab / Seminar Schedule

Field Camp - August 25 to August 3.

We will also meet together as a class in person on September 23rd at 8:30am to mount plant specimens in Rm 3202 of the Bovey Building and November 4th at 8:30 am to share presentations and hand-in plant collections at the Arboretum Boardroom.

Instructor Information

Jesse Popp

Email: poppj@uoguelph.ca

Learning Resources

Recommended Readings

Geniusz, M.S. 2015. *Plants Have So Much to Give Us, All We Have to Do is Ask*. University of Manitoba Press.

Johnston, B.H. 2003. *Honour Earth Mother*. Kegeponce Press.

Reynolds, G. 2019. *Presentation Zen: Simple Ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery*.

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 Level Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to;

1. Appreciate and respect the role of language and worldviews in thinking and communicating about ways of being in nature.
2. Identify key factors that must be considered in the application of Indigenous knowledge to environmental science and practice.
3. Recognize and explore intersections between knowledge systems and the impact on environmental science and practice outcomes.
4. Develop strategies to communicate across different knowledge systems.
5. Employ appropriate and practical approaches to cultivate relationships and enact reciprocity with Indigenous peoples through visits to First Nations communities.
6. Communicate in a respectful and meaningful way with someone who holds a different perspective.
7. Identify key similarities and differences between Indigenous and Western science knowledge systems with respect to underlying premises and methodologies and explore approaches to bridge these differences.
8. Reflect upon and describe their own relationship to the natural world in the context of Indigenous and Western scientific worldviews.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Topics

1. Review of the key elements and attributes of Indigenous ways of coming to know and being in nature.
2. Indigenous ecological knowledge and health
 - Individual physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being
2. How language shapes relationships to the Lands
 - The importance of language as a vehicle for reflecting upon and expressing worldviews
 - The role of language in thinking and communicating about worldviews and values and how language can present significant obstacles for Indigenous environmental science and practice and addressing resource and planning issues.
3. Learning about the Lands
 - Walking with Elders and Knowledge Holders.
 - Lands-based teachings.
 - Being on the Land
 - Widening the scope of moral consideration to encompass non-human persons in environmental practice.

3. Engagement between multiple knowledge systems:

- Building bridges and understanding
- Approaches central to Indigenous ways of knowing the natural world and Western scientific approaches to data collection and analysis.

Field Trip

In addition to monthly meetings throughout the fall semester, a one-week field trip will provide an opportunity for students to explore their relationship to the Land through observation, analysis, discussion and reflection.

The field trip will include interactions with Elders, Knowledge Holders, and environmental practitioners on the Land and independent observation and study of selected plants and animals. Students will explore plants and animals from a variety of perspectives including as teachers, relationship, Indigenous uses, spirituality, and conservation.

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Engagement	10%	August 25 - 31
Our relations: Our teachers	20%	September 23
Tracking Diary	20%	September 23
Plant Collection	30%	November 4
Scavenger Hunt	10%	August 30
Final Presentation	10%	November 4

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2024 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: November 29

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.

Course Grading Policies

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be deducted 25% per day (including weekends) with a mark of zero being assigned after 2 days late.

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/>)