



RENr 260 / ENST 200

Fall 2025

10077 / 10295

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES / HISTORY AND FUNDAMENTALS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

In Fall 2024, ENST 200, *Environmental Perspectives*, is being offered at Yukon University concurrent with the University of Alberta's RENR 260, History and Fundamentals of Environmental Protection and Conservation, as part of the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences, B.Sc. Program. All students registered in ENST 200 or RENR 260 must adhere to requirements outlined in this course syllabus. University of Alberta students must also be aware of, and adhere to, the University's Code of Student Behaviour, referenced in the outline; Yukon University students must be aware of, and adhere to, Yukon U's Academic Regulations, also referenced in the outline.

INSTRUCTOR: Drew Lyness Ph.D.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: A2005 / Zoom

TELEPHONE: (604) 789 7765 – texting welcome!

E-MAIL: dlyness@yukonu.ca

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Weekly meetings **Mondays, 2:30-4:30pm** in A2204. **This course will also be blended online for distance students in the communities via Zoom connection as needed.** (see course Moodle page for Zoom link and details)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the nexus of nature, culture, society and person. Utilizing interdisciplinary approaches from the environmental humanities, we will examine tensions and dilemmas running through conservation discourses and contemporary environmental thinking. In order to give historical context to complex human perspectives on our environment, attention will be given to

the combined forces of western culture, colonialism, globalization as well as the ways in which contemporary economic order and the modern nation state shape the relationship between humans and the environment. Northern and global perspectives will be examined, as will northern issues of current interest.

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND/OR CO-REQUISITES:

For students taking the course as ENST 200: ENGL100 plus any ONE of the following Yukon First Nation core competency courses: ANTH 140, HIST140, FNGA 100

For students taking the course as RENR 260: Registration in Yukon University/University of Alberta BSc in Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree program.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>.

Students in the B.Sc. ENCS program should contact an ENCS advisor if they have questions about equivalency or transferability of this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and critically evaluate various perspectives on past and current environmental issues
2. Identify similarities and differences among particular human relationships with the environment
3. Explain their own impact on the environment and describe their personal environmental values
4. Demonstrate knowledge of key northern environmental issues
5. Communicate effectively in writing and oral presentations about environmental issues

COURSE FORMAT & DELIVERY

This course will be primarily in person, potentially with online options for students in Yukon communities outside of Whitehorse. Students may also be required to attend some Zoom sessions and to then complete synchronous and asynchronous online activities. There is no textbook. Material will be delivered online using a variety of media - videos, podcast, film - as well as readings, journal entries and discussion forums on our Moodle site. It is expected that this course will require around 3 hours of viewing / additional reading each week, although it is important to note that the time required will vary by individual.

EVALUATION

The course grade will be determined as follows: see Moodle for more details and due dates

Assignment	Percent
Environmental autobiography	30%
Ongoing weekly journal	20%
Environmental critique	20%
Final Project	30%
Total	100%

Attendance and Participation

As a blended in -person / online course students are expected to attend discussion meetings.

Assignments and exams

Assignments will comprise of a series of short written or recorded responses to course material, one longer autobiographical piece of writing and one review essay, as well as a final creative project. There will be no midterm or final examination in this course.

Due Dates and Late Assignments

Assignments with a due date must be submitted by 11pm on the day and are to be uploaded here. Be certain to click the submit button and accept the submission statement. After 11pm on the due date, the paper will be considered late and will be deducted 5% every day for a maximum of 3 days. After this point, assignments will no longer be accepted.

Assignment of grades

Students will receive a letter grade for this course, upon satisfactory completion of all assignments, according to the YU scale. The weekly journal responses will be graded **pass/fail** on a scale of 100/50/0 (see rubric on Moodle for specific details). All other assignments will be assigned a percentage which will correspond to a letter grade. The total numerical score will be converted to a grade on Yukon University's letter grading system.

It is important to note that humanities courses involve a certain amount of subjective evaluation. This may be quite different for students used to studying in the sciences where there tends to be a “right” or “wrong” answer and a higher degree of objectivity. In this course you will primarily be graded on the quality of your thought, your ability to communicate effectively, and your detailed engagement with specific course material. As instructor, it is not my job to tell you what to think. There is certainly no expectation that you agree with me on any topic that comes up in this course, and your individual perspectives will only be graded in as much as they are honestly and carefully argued. Furthermore, it’s quite likely that my own perspectives will also shift and grow as the course continues and I learn from you. This is a sign of a good mutual learning environment. What matters most is that we practice respectful discussion, open listening and civil disagreement!

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

The last day to withdraw from this course is November 4th. Please reach out if you have any concerns as this date approaches.

TEXTBOOKS AND LEARNING MATERIALS

There will be no textbook, all materials will be available on Moodle and will be released on weekly basis.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Yukon University Academic Standards and Regulations

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one’s own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to YukonU Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

University of Alberta Academic Integrity and Code of Student Behaviour

www.yukonu.ca

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students at the University of Alberta are subject to the Code of Student Behaviour, as outlined at:

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx> Please familiarize yourself with it and ensure that you do not participate in any inappropriate behavior as defined by the Code. Key components of the code include the following statements.

30.3.2(1) No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) c. No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work.

RECORDING OF LECTURES, LABS, ETC.

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Our weekly Zoom discussions will not be recorded in this course.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC):

www.yukonu.ca

Provisional Weekly Topic Outline (subject to alteration)

Week 1	Introductions, human temporality & perspective
Week 2	Age of Anthropocene
Week 3	Mass culture & nineteenth century environmental thought
Week 4	Indigeneity, colonialism & cultures
Week 5	Northern issues & Yukon First Nations environmental knowledge
Week 6	Anthropocentrism, post-humanism, ecocentrism, transhumanism
Week 7	Environmental activism past and present
Week 8	New perspectives, controversies, debates & environmental populism
Week 9	Spiritual ecology, political ecology, contemporary environmental thought
Week 10	Geopolitics, national security, energy and the environment
Week 11	Literary and artistic responses to climate crisis
Week 12	Final Projects
Week 13	Final Projects
Week 14	Final Projects