



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA



REN260 / ENVS 200

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

In Fall 2015, ENVS 200, *Environmental Perspectives*, is being offered at Yukon College 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 ENVS 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 College students must be aware of, and adhere to, Yukon College's Academic Regulations, also referenced in the outline.

INSTRUCTOR: Larry Gray

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: A2303

TELEPHONE/E-MAIL: (867) 668-8770, Administrative Assistant, School of Liberal Arts,
Yukon College/lgray@yukoncollege.yk.ca

FAX: 668-8805, Liberal Arts office

DAYS & TIMES: Wednesday, 6:00-9:00 pm, A2103

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the nexus of Nature, culture, and person. It includes an examination of a number of themes and dilemmas expressed in contemporary environmental thinking. In order to develop an historical and cultural perspective on nature, attention will be given to the influence of western culture on the human/environment relationship. Northern and global perspectives will be examined, as will northern issues of current interest. The first part of the course explores humanity's disconnection from Nature; the second part is an exploration of the possibilities for reconnection.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of the 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 (3-0-0):

Classes will be conducted through a discussion/seminar format. The classes are, in essence, “*coherent conversations*”, rather than lectures. The instructor may assign individual and/or group activities during class. Informed participation in all discussions and activities will be important for your learning. This course will include guest speakers, films and audio-visual presentations.

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND/OR CO-REQUISITES:

For students taking the course as ENVS 200: Second-year standing in the School of Liberal Arts.

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

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:

Readings will be provided by the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Plagiarism and Cheating

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students must be familiar with standards regarding academic honesty and uphold policies of the University. 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 in the 2014/2015 University Calendar. Students should familiarize themselves with the current version of the code and ensure they do not participate in any inappropriate behaviour as defined by it. Key components of the code specific to this course include the following statements:

- Plagiarism: 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.

- Cheating: no student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the student's own work.

The most recent version of the Code of Student Behaviour can be found on line on the University of Alberta web site.

Students should speak with the course instructor about any questions or concerns about the code. Students should be particularly aware of the code as it pertains to internet and library research, use of previous class notes, reclamation plans of former students and interviews or discussions with others.

YUKON COLLEGE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Yukon College students are expected to be familiar with academic standards and regulations as outlined in Yukon College's Academic Regulations, at http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/downloads/Academic_Regulations_2004.pdf.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves representing the words of someone else as your own, without citing the source from which the material is taken. If the words of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to standard procedures. The resubmission of a paper for which you have previously received credit is considered a form of plagiarism. Plagiarism is academic dishonesty, a serious academic offence, and will result in you receiving a mark of zero (F) on the assignment or the course. In certain cases, it can also result in dismissal from the College. Do not underestimate the impact such a situation will have on your reputation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance at, and participation in, class are required. All students will be expected to participate in seminar discussions and to carry out individual/group activities assigned by the instructor. Students are encouraged to raise questions about assigned readings and current events that relate to course content. Participation will contribute significantly to your final grade.

A student may be withdrawn from a course if more than 10% of the scheduled contact hours are missed in any one course. Withdrawal from a course may result in loss of full-time status and loss of sponsorship funding. If you anticipate a problem, please contact the instructor.

Assignments

Completion of all assignments is required in order to receive a passing grade.

1. Environmental Autobiography (15%)

This assignment challenges you to describe your personal environmental history and how it has contributed to your current values and choices regarding the natural world. Allow adequate time to carefully reflect upon the significant experiences, including childhood incidents, which have shaped your environmental consciousness and relationships. These autobiographies are due on **September 30**. Later in the course, we will make time to share these with the whole class.

2. Term Paper (30%)

Students will write a term paper of approximately 2000 words on a topic of their choice. Students will examine a current environmental issue from diverse perspectives, including their own personal perspective. The scope of the topic should be either **northern** or **global**. Term papers are due **November 18**.

3. Seminar (15%)

This assignment requires you present an in-class seminar based on one of the articles from Orion magazine (www.orionmagazine.org) or an approved academic article of the student's choice. Having presented the reading, you will then discuss the relevance of the reading to the North or to the whole planet. The seminar should include a **15-minute oral presentation**, followed by a **15-minute facilitated class discussion**.

The oral presentation should provide an overview of the issue, related perspectives and inherent assumptions behind those perspectives, possible responses/solutions to the issue, and the implications of those responses/solutions. The seminar should also allow for group discussion of these matters, particularly how it relates to the North.

A seminar can be given by a student at any time in the course schedule and students are encouraged to present earlier in the term rather than later. However, class time will be set aside on **November 18 and 25 and December 2** for completing any seminars that have not as yet been delivered.

Written Assignment Requirements:

Written assignments for this course must be word-processed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, in Times New Roman (or similar serif) 12-point font. Written assignments must fulfill the basic requirements for academic papers, including the use of APA referencing style. Late assignments will be penalized by **5% PER DAY**, to a maximum of 7 days late, unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the course instructor **in advance** of the assignment due date.

Writing Centre:

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/writingcentre.

Exams

There is a short Mid-term Exam (either take home or in-class) and a Final in-class examination.

Final examinations are held at the end of the semester in the designated examination period. Once a final examination date and time have been published, it cannot be changed. Students are expected to write their exams as scheduled unless there are serious extenuating circumstances beyond their control. *For students taking the course as ENV5 200*, an extension must be approved by the appropriate Yukon College Coordinator, Chair or Dean. To change an exam, arrangements must be made with the Chair or Coordinator.

Students taking the course as RENR 260 must ensure that they are familiar with the University of Alberta's Academic Regulations governing missed and deferred final exams:

- a. A student who has missed a final exam because of incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reason (including religious conviction) may apply for a deferred exam.
- b. To apply for a deferred exam, the student must complete a Faculty of ALES *Deferred Final Examination Request Form*, available for download from <http://www.ales.ualberta.ca/CurrentStudents/FormsPrograms.aspx>, as well as supporting documentation pertaining to the absence to their Faculty office. The request form and supporting documentation must be presented within two working days following the scheduled date of the exam missed, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.
 - i. Where the cause is incapacitating illness, the student must provide a University of Alberta *Medical Statement Form*, available for download from the Online Services section of www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca OR a *Statutory Declaration* form, available from a Commissioner of Oaths at the U of A Office of the Registrar.
 - ii. In other cases, including domestic affliction or religious conviction, adequate

documentation must be provided to substantiate the reason for an absence. In the case of the death of a family member, the student should provide, if possible, a copy of the death certificate, or supplementary documentation such as an obituary or funeral program.

- c. A deferred exam will not be approved if a student
 - i. has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or,
 - ii. excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work.
- d. Students with two or more deferred exams outstanding from a previous term may be required to reduce the number of courses in which they are registered.
- e. The student must seek the approval of the dean or designate of the student's Faculty on the application for a deferred final exam. If approved, students should refer to [Academic Regulations Section 23.5.6](#) for details on writing deferred exams.
- f. In the case of an approved application for deferred final exam, the student's Faculty will inform the Department responsible for the course of the approved deferred exam. The Department will then notify the instructor.

Evaluation

Marks will be distributed as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Environmental Autobiography | 15 |
| Mid-term Exam | 15 |
| Term Paper | 30 |
| Seminar | 15 |
| <u>Final Exam</u> | <u>25</u> |
| Total | 100% |

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC CONDITIONS:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability or chronic condition. It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student has a disability or chronic condition and may need accommodation to fully participate in this class, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

EQUIVALENCY/TRANSFERABILITY:

ENVS 200 transfers as:

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|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|
| UBC Phil 2nd yr (3) | UAF | NRM Elec (3) |
| SFU Geog 1XX (3) | UAS | Phys Geog Elec (3) |
| UVIC ES 200 lev (1.5) | UR | Phil 200L (3) |
| UNBC Envs 200L (3) | UFV | Geog 1XX (3) |
| TWU Geog 200 lev (3) | TRU-OL | Phil 2XX1 (3) |
| KWAN ENVI (3) | | |

For more information about transferability of ENVS 200, contact the Yukon College School of Liberal Arts

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COURSE SCHEDULE

| 1 | Date | Topic |
|---|-------------|--|
| 2 | September 9 | Course Introduction Environmental Philosophy Nature, Culture, Person |

Is Humanity Disconnected from Nature? – An Exploration

| | | |
|----------|---------------------|--|
| 3 | September 16 | The Nature and Scope of Disconnection: A Look Around the Earth |
| 4 | September 23 | The History and Roots of Disconnection Original Trauma |
| 5 | September 30 | NO CLASS in lieu of weekend FIELD TRIP |
| 6 | October 7 | The Business, Politics and Economics of Disconnection |
| 8 | October 14 | Science and Technology as Disconnects |

An Exploration of Possibilities for Reconnection

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|----|-------------|---|
| 9 | October 21 | Indigenous Worldviews Sweat Lodge with Randall Tetlich |
| 10 | October 28 | Ecological Identity |
| 12 | November 4 | Reconnecting with Nature Movement |
| 13 | November 11 | REMEMBRANCE DAY (NO CLASS) |
| 14 | November 18 | Ecological Intelligence Student Seminars |
| 15 | November 25 | Voluntary Simplicity and other Sustainable Lifestyles Student Seminars |

Course Wrap Up and Review

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|----|------------|---------------------------------|
| 16 | December 2 | Student Seminars/Course Wrap-Up |
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