



RENR 260 / ENVS 200

HISTORY AND FUNDAMENTALS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION / ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

In Fall 2016, 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
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DAYS & TIMES: Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 pm, Sept. 7 - Dec. 20, 2016

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.

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.

EQUIVALENCY/TRANSFERABILITY:

ENVS 200 transfers as:

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 2xx (3)	UFV	Geog 1XX (3)
TWU	Geog 200 lev (3)	TRU-OL	Phil 2XX1 (3)
KPU	Envi (3)		

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

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.

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.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the

College.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr.

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 College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

COURSE FORMAT

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 **October 5**. 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 16.

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 9 and 16 and 23 for these seminars

EVALUATION

Marks will be distributed as follows:

Environmental Autobiography	15
Mid-term Exam	15
Term Paper	30
Seminar	15
Final Exam	25
Total	100%

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.

LORENE ROBERTSON WRITING CENTRE

All students are encouraged to make the Lorene Robertson Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Lorene Robertson 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 take home Mid-term Exam and a take home Final Exam.

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.



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COURSE SCHEDULE

1	Date	Topic
2	September 7	Course Introduction Environmental Philosophy Nature, Culture, Person

Is Humanity Disconnected from Nature? - An Exploration

3	September 14	The Nature and Scope of Disconnection: A Look Around the Earth
4	September 21	FIELD TRIP
5	September 28	The History and Roots of Disconnection Original Trauma
6	October 5	The Business and Politics of Disconnection
8	October 11	Science and Technology as Disconnects Film "Play Again"

An Exploration of Possibilities for Reconnection

9	October 19	Indigenous Worldviews Possible Sweat Lodge with Randall Tetlich
10	October 26	Ecological Identity
12	November 2	Ecopsychology
13	November 9	Ecological Intelligence/ Student Seminars
14	November 16	Sustainability, Voluntary Simplicity and other Sustainable Lifestyles Student Seminars

Course Wrap Up and Review

15	November 23	Student Seminars
16	November 30	Course Wrap-Up & Review

**** November 14-20 Haines Bald Eagle Festival**

