University of Toronto at Scarborough

"INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE"

(EES A01H3F, Fall 2010)

Professor: Dr. C.P.J. Mitchell **Phone:** 416 208 2744 **Office:** SY-362
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and by appointment.

Teaching Assistants: TBA

Course Web Site: Everything on Blackboard (https://portal.utoronto.ca)

Lecture Time: Mondays, 9-11 am; AA-112
Additionally: Web Option through the Blackboard portal
If you are "Web Option", do NOT physically come to the first lecture; view it only on the web.

Practical Times: **NOTE: Tutorials start the week of September 20, NOT the first week of school. Please go only to the tutorial slot assigned to you by the Registrar's Office. Contact Prof. Mitchell is there is a conflict.**
Note that tutorial rooms sometimes change in the first few weeks of class. Also, additional tutorial sections may be added. You will be advised in lecture and through Blackboard.

Monday,	11H00 - 13H00; HW-309
Monday,	13H00 - 15H00; SW-319
Monday,	15H00 - 17H00; AA-209
Tuesday,	16H00 - 18H00; HW-214
Wednesday,	13H00 - 15H00; HW-408
Thursday,	09H00 - 11H00; HW-214
Thursday,	09H00 - 11H00; BV-516
Thursday,	11H00 - 13H00; BV-516
Thursday,	12H00 - 14H00; BV-340
Thursday,	15H00 - 17H00; BV-264

Grading:

Open-Book Tutorial Quizzes (5 @ 6% each):	30%
Mid-term Examination:	25%
Final Examination:	45%

Text: "Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, Canadian Edition" [Authors: Jay Withgott, Scott Brennan, and Barbara Murck; Publisher: Pearson Canada, 753pp.]

INTENT OF THE COURSE

This course will introduce students to the science behind processes occurring on the earth and within its atmosphere. The course will look at relationships between environmental degradation and human activity in terms of the physical and biological processes operating at or near the earth's surface. The environmental costs and consequences of human activity are examined in an attempt to define balances between human living conditions and environmental integrity.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Access*Ability* Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and Access*Ability* Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC Access*Ability* Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

LECTURE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

DATE	LECTURE CONTENT
Sept. 13	Introduction, Ground Rules, Expectations, Course Structure, and Environmental "Science".
Sept. 20	Humans, Population, and the Environment.
Sept. 27	Earth Systems and Ecology
Oct. 4	Global Energy Flows and the Global Water Cycle
Oct. 11	**THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS**
Oct. 18	Water Resource Issues
Oct. 25	Soils and Soil Degradation
Nov. 1	Genetic Depletion and Biodiversity
Nov. 8	Atmospheric Science and Global Climate Change
Nov. 15	Energy Extraction and Impacts
Nov. 22	Resource Utilization and Alternatives
Nov. 29	Economic Gain, Environmental Loss
Dec. 6	Last Class: Challenges and Lessons Learned; Summary and Conclusions

I will follow this schedule as closely as possible, but things being what they are, some of these topics may "overflow" over into other time slots.

TUTORIAL AND QUIZ OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

With a couple of exceptions (e.g. don't come during the first week of class;see below) you will essentially have tutorials every week during the term, but all tutorials will not last the full two hours given in your timetable. **Note that WebOption students MUST also attend tutorials and do the tutorial-based quizzes.** WebOption is an extra learning option, not a correspondence course. **Attendance at all tutorials listed in the schedule below is mandatory for everyone**. In general, during one week of your tutorial, TAs will teach you some new skill (these mainly focus around problem solving and numerical skills) and will go through a multitude of examples. During tutorial the week following, you will be given a quiz that is directly applicable to the material learned the week before. The quizzes will be "open book" for everyone, but you will be required to complete the quizzes entirely independently (i.e., you may not discuss with your friend) and your completion of the quizzes will be under the strict guidelines of the student conduct policy (i.e., cheating will be dealt with harshly). **Please bring a calculator, pencil, pen, and ruler to every quiz.** Given the in-tutorial quiz setup, there is no later due

date on anything in this course. You will hand your quiz directly to your TA when you finish. **If you miss your quiz, there are no make-ups and you will not be permitted to write the quiz at some later time. If you fail to write a particular quiz, you will be given a mark of zero.** Keep in mind that tutorials are worth 6% each, for a total of 30% of your final grade. More details on the tutorials will be circulated during the term in lecture and via Blackboard. We will strive for as short a turnaround in marking quizzes as is possible so that you know where you stand by the time you must write your subsequent quiz. **If you have not been assigned to a tutorial by the end of the first lecture, please contact Professor Mitchell and he will ensure that you are able to attend a tutorial and write the quiz by the time the first tutorial/quiz rolls around. Note again that there are no tutorials or quizzes during the first week of classes!**

Tutorial and Quiz Schedule for Fall 2010:

Tutorial/Quiz #	Tutorial Week of:	Quiz on Tutorial Material Week of:
1	Sept. 20	Sept. 27
2	Oct. 4	Oct. 18
3	Oct. 25	Nov. 1
4	Nov. 8	Nov. 15
5	Nov. 22	Nov. 29

IMPORTANT MID-TERM POLICIES

The 2-hour mid-term examination will be held during the mid-term period, exact time, date and rooms to be announced in class when this information becomes available. The mid-term exam will be entirely multiple choice and will be worth 25% of your final grade. **Make-ups will not be given for the mid-term examination.** If you miss the examination for a verifiable reason (i.e. you have a Doctor's note), the weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of your final exam. This puts a very heavy weight on your success in the final exam and I highly DO NOT recommend this. If you simply "miss" the mid-term, you will receive a mark of zero. Note that Professor Mitchell will assess the validity of your having missed the mid-term. Do not leave your marks to something subjective!

INTERACTION WITH THE PROFESSOR AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

I (Professor Mitchell) very much enjoy speaking with students, especially about Environmental Science and you are welcome to discuss all facets of the course material with me during my office hours or by appointment. I am very friendly, so please do not be afraid to come to see me in person. Your TAs also have office hours and you should take advantage of these for questions pertaining to your laboratory assignments or if you are somehow intimidated about speaking face-to-face with me. Note that the TAs, however, are not required to be intimately familiar with lecture material. If you attend all lectures and all tutorials in an attentive manner, you should have little problem in completing excellent quizzes and performing well on examinations.

Each and every student is expected to attend EVERY lecture and/or review every lecture via the WebOption. I will not re-teach an entire class to someone because they missed it. Please rely on your fellow colleagues in the class for missing notes or re-review the lecture via the WebOption. Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard, but little of what I may "say" will actually be on those slides so **it is important to note that the following is fair game for examination material: what is on lecture slides, what is in your readings, EVERYTHING that I say in lecture**. I duly understand that this sounds like a lot, but this is the level of academic commitment that is expected of you. Lecture slides are posted to facilitate your learning DURING lecture and for you to avoid having to, for example, copy large diagrams while you should be taking notes or listening. All lecture notes will be posted on Blackboard prior to each scheduled lecture.

Email policy: For questions pertaining to the course and assignments, students should directly ask the Professor or your TA or preferably, post the question on the Blackboard "Discussion Board". Short emails will usually be answered with appropriate, short responses. Long, drawn out questions and/or questions pertaining to very general subjects, which are likely to be of interest to the entire class, should be posted on the Blackboard (Discussion Board module) so that the entire class may benefit from the answer. All students should check the Discussion Board module of Blackboard at least weekly. All emails should be sent via a ".utsc.utoronto.ca" or ".utoronto.ca" email address to ensure a response. **Please note that due to the extremely large number of students I teach during the fall term (>500), I will only respond to emails from students in this course on Mondays and Thursdays between 4 and 5 pm. Note alternatively that I will have at least one TA check**

the Blackboard Discussion Board daily during weekdays throughout the term.

BLACKBOARD INFORMATION

Logging in to your Blackboard Course Website
Like many other courses, EESA01 uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the EESA01 website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you'll find the link to the EESA01 course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

Activating your UTORid and Password
If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca. Under the "First Time Users" area, click on "activate your UTORid" (if you are new to the university) or "create your UTORid" (if you are a returning student), then follow the instructions. New students who use the link to "activate your UTORid" will find reference to a "Secret Activation Key". This was originally issued to you when you picked up your Tcard at the library. If you have lost your Secret Activation Key you can call 416-978-HELP or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons on the ground floor of Robarts Library to be issued a new one. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can also answer any other questions you may have about your UTORid and password.

Email Communication with the Course Instructor
At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system. You can do that by using the following instructions:

To submit the information to activate your UTORid and password (see above), you will need to click the "Validate" button. Follow the instructions on the subsequent screens to receive your utoronto.ca address. Once you have your UofT email address, go to the ROSI system (www.rosi.utoronto.ca), log in and update the system with your new UofT email address.

You can check your UofT email account from
1. The UofT home page http://www.utoronto.ca: From the Quick Links menu on the top right, choose "my.utoronto.ca". Enter your UTORid and password, and when the Welcome page opens, click "WEBMAIL".
2. Email software installed on your computer, for example Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird. Visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons or call 416-978-HELP for help with the set up.

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

You are responsible for:

1. Ensuring you have a valid UofT email address that is properly entered in the ROSI system
2. Checking your UofT email account on a regular basis.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Please arrive promptly for lecture and do not forget to turn off cell phones and laptops. You are fully expected to abide by the Code of Student Conduct as set out by The Governing Council at the University of Toronto (http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/studentc.html). This document defines the standards by which students are to conduct themselves within class and within the University community at large. Please be advised that misconduct of any form will not be tolerated in this class. This includes plagiarism on tests, quizzes, and exams, which will be strictly enforced and is easily detected. If you have further questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism or other academic offences, feel free to speak with Prof. Mitchell or your

TA.

SOME FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE

This course is only moderately technically demanding (some of you may not agree entirely!), but there are plenty of things that will be unfamiliar. It is difficult to "crash and burn" because of the large number of elements in the course. It is, however (and for the same reason), a considerable task to maintain a high standard. You cannot do really well if you do very poorly on any element, so be vigilant: a really bad mid-term, for example, can make a difference of at least a letter grade to your final mark.

Given the size of this class, I ask that we all conduct ourselves professionally and with respect. There are 300+ students in this lecture hall at the same time and given our limited time with each other (only 24 hours for the entire term), it is important that 1) you put your best effort forward in paying attention in class, and 2) you do nothing that might disturb your fellow students or myself (cellphones must be shut off, do not arrive late, do not discuss yesterday's TV episode with you friend, do not check email, tweet, or update your Facebook page while I lecture). You and all the other students have paid a lot of money to be here, and what I have to say is extremely important to your education in Environmental Science, so following these rules will provide an enriching learning experience for everyone.