

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
ENST 2001 (*Sustainable Futures: Environmental Challenges and Solutions*)
Course Syllabus / Winter Term 2017

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Lecture: Tuesdays, 2:35 – 5:25 p.m.
Location: 4499 Mackenzie Building

ENST 2001 [0.5 credit] – *Sustainable Futures*

Calendar description: Individual and collective responses to pressing environmental problems. Innovative ways in which the environment can be protected and restored, taking into consideration socio-economic, political and cultural factors. Topics include environmental lifestyles, sustainable communities, food systems, environmental design, and political activism.

Pre-requisite: Second-year standing in the Environmental Studies program or permission of environmental studies.

Format: Lectures, seminars and field work three hours a week.

ENST 2001 – *Sustainable Futures: Environmental Challenges and Solutions* is one of two second-year, core requirements for the environmental studies program. Students bring a comprehensive foundation in environmental studies, enabling a more explicit exploration of individual and collective responses to some of our most pressing environmental problems. The course is both *interdisciplinary* and *integrative*, combining a biophysical understanding of environmental issues with socio-economic, political and cultural insights. Broadly, this course examines the ways in which individuals and societies create, modify and interact with environments with the aim of envisioning a healthier, more sustainable relationship to both the earth and non-human species.

Core Objectives

- ❖ To identify solutions to some of our most pressing environmental and social challenges;
- ❖ To reflect on the multitude of ways in which the concept of sustainability is constructed;
- ❖ To learn about innovative ways in which individuals and societies can create healthier, more sustainable futures;
- ❖ To further develop a myriad of skills: research, writing, oral presentation and critical thinking skills;
- ❖ To actively seek out critical perspectives from reputable alternative and mainstream sources in order to develop strategies for lifelong learning; and,
- ❖ To design and build a final project that will be useful for Canadians making environmental decisions.

Readings

Required readings for ENST 2001 (*Sustainable Futures: Environmental Challenges and Solutions*) have been compiled in an Electronic Course Pack – provided on cuLearn as .pdf files (where copyright permits) and/or as active URL links to online resources. Ideally, this will not only save you money, but will also reduce overall consumption. Whenever possible, please consider reading online, or, at the very least, print double-sided. Students will also be directed to reputable alternative environmental news sources at the beginning of the term.

Course Calendar

A detailed course outline, including due dates for all assignments and tests, will be provided at the start of the term. Scheduled classes will occur:

- January 9, 16, 23, 30
- February 6, 13, 27
- March 6, 13, 17, 20, 27
- April 3

Distribution of Grades:

Evaluation:	Value:
Participation:	10%
Assignments:	30%
Major Project	30%
Final Exam:	30%
Total:	100%

Your confidential grades will be posted on cuLearn as soon as they are available. Please notify the instructor of any omissions and/or inaccuracies.

Participation

Representing 10% of your total grade, your participation will be evaluated by the instructor, and will be calculated as follows:

- Participation is a qualitative assessment of your contribution to class: come prepared, raise questions, actively engage in discussions, bring in relevant materials to share with your peers, complete voluntary activities when requested

Assignments and Major Project

Three assignments will account for a total of 30% of your grade: A1: *Environmental Heroes* (10%); A2: *Subvertisement Challenge* (10%); and A3: *World Changing Idea* (10%)

The major project is 30% of your grade. This project will involve a collaborative class effort to build an information tool (app or website) based on your research. This tool will be able to give advice and information to people living across Canada about the best environmental choices for their locality. For example, will the purchase of an electric car have a more beneficial impact in Toronto or Calgary based on sources of electricity? If a person only has enough money for one home improvement right now, should he/she put money toward solar panels or geothermal energy in their home? You may work in a group or as an individual and each individual or group will be responsible for a piece of this larger project. More information and guidance will be given during the term.

Several criteria can't help but influence the quality of your assignments. Therefore, before handing in your assignments, ask yourself the following questions:

- ✓ Have you researched your answer?
- ✓ Have you included relevant quotes and/or statistics to substantiate your position?
- ✓ Have you cited all sources in a standardized bibliographic format? (See APA 6th Edition Style Guide: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)
- ✓ Have you answered the question(s) in a thorough and systematic way?
- ✓ Have you followed the instructions?
- ✓ Have you checked your answer for spelling mistakes and grammatical errors?
- ✓ Have you attempted to improve your style and polish your prose?

Students are urged to adhere to the maximum word and/or page limit. Your bibliography/reference list is not included in the page limit. All assignments must be submitted in a standardized 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman or Arial), double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.

NB please do not submit an extra cover page. Include your name, student number, date, and descriptive title somewhere in the header of your document.

Assignments will generally be issued and received during class. Late assignments will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a doctor's note. Otherwise, if you are late for a due date, hand the assignment in the following week for partial marks. You will be penalized for late submissions, but it is still worth submitting.

While you are encouraged to work cooperatively with your peers, identical assignments will be considered grounds for an allegation of Instructional Offense. Work submitted must be in your own words. Any reference to the work of others should be carefully acknowledged with full credit given to the source.

Final Exam

Representing 30% of your total grade, a final exam, to be held during the official exam period, will be composed of multiple choice, definitions, short answer, and short essay-type questions. The exam will cover material presented in class (including videos and student presentations) as well as covered in the assigned readings. A set of detailed learning objectives will be distributed prior to the exam.

Deferred final exams must be identical in format and coverage with the final exam they replace. N.B. Deferred finals, which must be applied for at the Registrar's Office, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Deferred Assignments

Only official deferrals petitioned through the Office of the Registrar will be honored. Students who are unable to complete an assignment or write the in-class exam because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances, may apply within five working days to the Registrarial Services Office for permission to extend a deadline or to write a deferred examination. Permission can be granted only if the request is fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documents. NB: The last day to withdraw from a Winter Term 2015 course is January 31, 2015.

Grades

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 56-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Deferred

FND = Failed, no Deferred

(Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam)

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, but subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the PMC at (613) 520-6608 or by e-mail at: pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled end-of-term exam.

Academic Standing and Conduct

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct in the 2014-2015 *Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar*. This document can be accessed online at: <http://www.carleton.ca/cuuc/>

Retain Copies of Work Submitted

Students are strongly advised to retain a hard copy (and electronic backup) of all assignments and final projects in the event of loss for whatever reason.

University Regulations Regarding Cheating and Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

For more information, see the university's Academic Integrity Policy when it comes to definitions, potential penalties and the like. The policy can be found at:
<http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>