

ENST 1000 – INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CLIMATE CHANGE STUDIES (FALL 2025)



Image: Vigor Poodo

{Updated August 18, 2025}

Instructor: Dr. David Hugill, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, B448
Loeb Building, david.hugill@carleton.ca

Class Meetings: Mondays 17:35-19:25 (lecture), Location TBA

Teaching Assistants/Tutorial Leaders: Sondos Kataite + Sarah Lavallee

Professor Office Hours: Mondays 15:00-17:00 (Loeb B448) or by zoom appointment

Course Brightspace Page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/284107>

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PRECLUSIONS

ENST 1000 is designed to provide a critical introduction to the scholarly field of Environmental Studies. It is structured to help students grapple with key disciplinary concepts and learn how to deploy theoretical approaches to make sense of contemporary environmental issues.

ENST 1000 precludes additional credit for FYSM 1100 and ENST 1001.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

ENST 1000 has four objectives:

- i) to introduce foundational content in the field of Environmental Studies
- ii) to encourage engagement with ideas that challenge conventional thinking and received wisdom
- iii) to facilitate critical conversations about the relationships between human beings and the non-human world
- iv) to provide opportunities to strengthen analytical skills

3. REQUIRED TEXTS

There is one required book for ENST 1000.

Paul Robbins, John G. Hintz, and Sarah A. Moore (2022), **THIRD EDITION**, *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction* (Wiley Blackwell Press), approx. \$60 CAD.

Physical copies are available from the Carleton bookstore or at <https://carleton.bookware3000.ca>

You can also access the book through the MacOdrum Library <https://library.carleton.ca>

4. COURSE CALENDAR

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: Monday September 8, 2025	
Introduction and Discussion of Course Policies	Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Weil, "You Are Not a Parrot," <i>New York Magazine</i>, March 1, 2023.
Key words	Anthropocene
Week 2: Monday September 15, 2025	
Foundational Approach 1: Population and Scarcity	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Environment and Society</i> Chapter 2: Population and Scarcity, p. 11-27 Fred Pearce, "Is the Way We Think About Overpopulation Racist?," <i>The Guardian</i>, March 19, 2018. Liza Featherstone, "Don't Blame the Babies," <i>Jacobin</i>, April 15, 2019.
Key terms	Exponential Growth; Neo-Malthusianism; the Demographic Transition Model; the Great Acceleration; Carrying Capacity; the Green Revolution
Week 3: Saturday September 20 (SPECIAL EVENT)	
Climate March (off campus in-person attendance + A1 Field Note Exercise) <i>*There is no lecture on Monday September 22nd.</i>	No Required Readings
Week 4: Monday September 29, 2025	
Foundational Approach 2: Markets and Commodities DEADLINE: A1 Field Note (Sept 29)	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Environment and Society</i> Chapter 3: Markets and Commodities, p. 31-46 David Graeber, "The Myth of Barter," in <i>Debt: The First 5,000 Years</i>, p. 21-42

Key terms	Neoclassical Economics; Market Response Model; Market Fundamentalism; Cap and Trade; Greenwashing
Week 5: Monday October 6, 2025	
Foundational Approach 3: Institutions and the Commons	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Society Chapter 4: Institutions and the Commons, p. 51-66. Garett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons"
Key terms	Commons; Game Theory; Prisoner's Dilemma; Tragedy of the Commons; Institutions
Week 6: October 16, 17 (tutorials only)	
Interlude: Film and Discussion <i>*There is no lecture this week (*Carleton is closed on Monday October 13), but tutorial discussions will continue as normal.</i> <i>*Please be sure to screen the film in advance of your tutorial.</i>	Required Viewing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joel Bakkan and Jennifer Abbott, <i>The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel</i> [film]
*** Fall Break – October 20-24, 2025 ***	
Week 7: Monday October 27, 2025	
Foundational Approach 4: Environmental Ethics DEADLINE: A2 Ecological Footprint Exercise (October 27)	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment and Society Chapter 5: Environmental Ethics, p. 67-82 Higuita, Larocque, and McGushi, "Climate Change, Industrial Animal Agriculture, and the Role of Physicians – Time to Act," <i>The Journal of Climate Change and Health</i> 13 (2023)
Key terms	Dominion Thesis; Anthropocentrism; Ecology; Conservation; Preservation; Deep Ecology; Ecocentrism
Week 8: Monday November 3, 2025	
Midterm	<i>In-Class Test</i>
Week 9: Monday November 10, 2025	

Foundational Approach 5: Risks and Technology	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Society Chapter 6: Risks and Technology, p. 83-98 • Lois Beckett, “Mike Davis, California’s ‘prophet of doom’, on activism in a dying world: “Despair is useless”
Key terms	Risk; Hazard; Uncertainty; Risk Perception; Affect; Digital Colonialism
Week 10: Monday November 17, 2025	
Foundational Approach 6: Political Economy	Required Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Society Chapter 7: Political Economy, p. 98-117 • Karl Marx, “The Secret of Primitive Accumulation” • Green House Think Tank (UK), “Why Do Capitalist Economies Need to Grow?” (published by MR online)
Key terms	Commodity/Commodification; Means of Production; Commodity Fetishism; Surplus Value; Primitive Accumulation; Overaccumulation; First and Second Contradictions of Capitalism; Spatial Fix; Social Reproduction
Week 11: Monday November 24, 2025	
Foundational Approach 7: Social Construction of Nature	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Society Chapter 8: Social Construction of Nature, p. 118-135
Key terms	Nature; Social Construction; Race; Constructivist; Discourse; Relativism
Week 12: Monday December 1, 2025	
Foundational Approach 8: Racialized Environments <i>*No tutorials this week!</i>	Required Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Society Chapter 10: Racialized Environments, p.156-173
Key terms	Environmental Justice; Environmental Racism; Racial Capitalism; Redlining; Settler Colonialism
Week 13: Friday December 5, 2025	
Exam Preparation Session	<i>No required readings</i>

DEADLINE: A3 Object of Concern (December 5)	
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Tutorial Groups

Tutorial Group	Day/Time	Location	Tutorial Leader
A1	Thursdays, 13:35-14:25	Loeb A410	TBD
A2	Fridays, 10:35-11:25	Loeb A410	TBD
A3	Fridays, 8:35-9:25	Loeb A410	TBD
A4	Fridays, 9:35-10:25	Loeb A410	TBD

Tutorial/Quiz Schedule

Week	Topic of Discussion	Reading Quizzes
Week 1 (Sept 8-12)	Introductions	No Quiz
Week 2 (Sept 15-19)	Population and Scarcity	Quiz
Week 3 (Sept 22-26)	Climate March + Field Reflections	No Quiz
Week 4 (Sept 29-Oct 3)	Markets and Commodities	Quiz
Week 5 (Oct 6-10)	<i>The New Corporation</i>	No Quiz
Week 6 (13-17)	Institutions and the Commons	Quiz
Week 7 (27-31)	Environmental Ethics	Quiz
Week 8 (Nov 3-7)	No tutorials.	N/A
Week 9 (Nov 10-14)	Risks and Technology	Quiz
Week 10 (Nov 17-21)	Political Economy	Quiz
Week 11 (Nov 24-28)	Racialized Environments	No Quiz
Week 12/13 (Dec 1-5)	No tutorials	N/A

*** *Tutorials discussions and readings quizzes will be based on required readings* ***

5. EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Weight	Short Description
Lecture Attendance	10%	Lecture attendance
Tutorial Attendance and Participation	10%	Tutorial attendance and participation
Reading Quizzes	10%	Six in-class quizzes worth 2% each (lowest grade dropped)
A1: Field Note Exercise + Field Reflection (in tutorial)	5%	A short field note about your experience at the Ottawa Climate March, and an in-tutorial reflection on the experience

A2: Ecological Footprint Exercise	10%	A comparative reflection on the results of several ecological footprint analyses
A3: Object of Concern Project	20%	A mid length research exercise; details TBD.
Midterm	10%	An in-class mid-term test
Final Exam	25%	A summative final test, held during the exam period
TOTAL	100	

Additional Notes:

- Late assignments will be penalized by 3% per calendar day (to a maximum of 25% total); no assignments will be accepted after two weeks beyond the original deadline (unless an alternative arrangement has been made)
- All assignments must follow the style guidelines outlined in the Chicago Manual of Style (16th edition or later); citations can be formatted in either the “notes and bibliography” or “author-date” style, so long as one of these options is used consistently throughout the document; there is a quick Chicago-style citation guide available here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
- All assignments will be assessed on the overall quality of presentation, including citation formatting, spelling, grammar, coherence of argument, etc.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, 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.
- In case of illness or extraordinary circumstances, students can request an assignment extension of up to 7 days by completing the form at the following link and submit it to their tutorial leader prior to the assignment due date.
<https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>
- The teaching team will do their best to return all assignments within two weeks of submission. All grades will be posted on the course Brightspace page.
- Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension.

6. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI use in this course. Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions, including:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor)

Please note that is not permissible to use AI tools to generate **ANY AMOUNT** of text for your assignments, nor comprehensively edit your work (beyond the basic functions listed above).

This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout, and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without the support of AI

7. PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
2. using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
3. using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
4. submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
5. failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work
6. and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Please note that it is **NOT PERMISSIBLE** to employ any **generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT)** in the completion of any aspect of course work in ENST 1000, with the lone exception of the basic grammar and spell checking functions listed in section 6.

7. STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

8. REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline)