

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 2400A/B Course Outline

### 1. Course Information

#### Course Information

EnviroSci 2400A/B: Environmental Science in the Field

#### Details

1 lecture hour per week; 7 half-day field trips

#### List of Prerequisites

Enrollment in any Environmental Science module, Honours Specialization in Integrated Science, or permission of the Department

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean's Designate (Earth Sciences Instructor/Undergraduate Chair and Science Academic Counselling) to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### 2. Instructor Information

Instructors:

Jeremiah Shuster, Assistant Professor; [jshuste3@uwo.ca](mailto:jshuste3@uwo.ca)

Patricia Corcoran, Professor; [pcorcor@uwo.ca](mailto:pcorcor@uwo.ca)

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

Office hours: contact instructor by email; meetings may be held in person or online.

### 3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

A foundational field and in-class course exposing students to the interdisciplinary aspects of environmental science by studying various off-campus sites throughout the term. Students will gain hands-on and team-based learning skills by investigating the problems, processes, and results of humankind's impacts on natural systems.

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain how natural and anthropogenic elements interconnect to cause environmental issues, such as climate change, pollutants, habitat destruction, and soil degradation.

- Understand the natural processes operating in Earth’s ecosystems through direct immersion in the environment.
- Apply hands-on, interdisciplinary and collaborative practices to identify and monitor current environmental problems and solutions.
- Critically evaluate local environmental issues and applications using data analysis.
- Collaborate effectively with stakeholders, including companies, government officials, not-for-profit organizations, First Nations communities, and the general public, to motivate change.

### Field Trip Topics

The following trips are examples of what may be offered each year; these are subject to change.

- Investigating waste separation, diversion, re-use, and burial
- From fossil fuels to plastics: Petrolia and Sarnia's chemical valley
- Tour of wastewater treatment facility
- Upper Thames Conservation Authority threatened species and river water quality
- Indigenous views of the environment and implemented programs
- Sustainable tomato growing
- Pelee Island Winery sustainable practices and terroir
- Pinery Park biodiversity, deposits, protection, and erosion

### Classes (One session = 1 hour)

Advanced preparation for, and group discussions following field trips; environmental threats not covered in field trips.

## 4. Course Materials

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

### Technical Requirements

Field equipment provided by the department.

## 5. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Quizzes (posted on OWL)	20%
Assignments	35%
Participation	15%
Presentation	30%

## 6. Student Absences

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

### **Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:**

For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, the instructor may grant an extension.

### **Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:**

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

Once valid medical or supporting documentation is submitted, the absence may be handled by the instructor by granting an extension.

## 7. Accommodation and Accessibility

### **Religious Accommodation**

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### **Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## 8. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. No electronic devices are permitted for use during the final exam.

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

## 9. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca). Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.