

# Resource and Environmental Geographies

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## **GEOG 2P13/TOUR 2P13 Resource and Environmental Geographies**

Thursdays 9:00-11:00am; GLA-164; Duration 3, Winter Term 2018-2019

**Instructor:** Dr. Dragos Simandan; Office: C327; [simandan@brocku.ca](mailto:simandan@brocku.ca)

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 1:00-2:00pm

**Teaching assistant:** Iris Yap – email: [iy13hk@brocku.ca](mailto:iy13hk@brocku.ca)

**Prerequisite:** one of [GEOG 1F90](#), [1F91](#), [ERSC 1P01](#) and [1P02](#) (1F01), (1F90), [INTC 1F90](#), [TOUR](#) (TMGT/[TREN](#)) [1P91](#) and 1P92 or permission of the instructor.

**Course Description:** Lectures, seminars, 3 hours per week.

*Analysis of the relation between resources, global environmental dynamics, and the management of uncertainty. Emphasis on the changing pattern of energy flows.*

This course will lead students to appreciate geographical knowledge in light of David Livingstone's observation that 'geography is a fascinating experiment in holding together culture and nature in a single explanatory framework'.

## **Goals & Learning Outcomes**

- to learn the habit of thinking beyond the society-nature dichotomy

- to develop the ability to critically evaluate competing resource and environmental discourses
- to become familiar with the most recent theories and data about the nature of environmental change
- to understand the relation between the “scientific” and “non-scientific”
- to become wiser (to fluidify solidified thinking)

**Transferable skills:** Written and verbal communication; Problem solving; Analytical and interpretative skills; Planning; Project management; Self assessment and decision-making skills; Critical thinking

### **Brock Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations**

It is your responsibility to be aware of them. Make sure you read them by accessing the pdf document available at: [http://www.brocku.ca/webfm\\_send/18118](http://www.brocku.ca/webfm_send/18118)

### **Textbook:**

You do not have to do any readings in preparation for the lecture, but you will have to read specific textbook chapters for the seminar following the lecture.

The textbook is the fifth edition of “**Our environment: a Canadian perspective**”, by Dianne Draper & Ann Zimmerman (Nelson Education). It is available for sale at the campus’ bookstore. Please note that it is NOT and will NOT be available in the library. It is impossible to do well in this course without buying the textbook. You are expected to bring your textbook with you at all seminars.

**Sakai:**

This course has a small Sakai component. Depending on changing university regulations pertaining to copyright policy, I might use it to upload a selection of the slides for the lectures, but this practice will be discontinued if lecture attendance is negatively affected.

**Seminars:**

You will have to attend all the **nine** one-hour seminars to review lectures and discuss the assigned textbook chapters. 18% of your final grade will reflect your participation in the seminars. There are three seminar groups, meeting as follows:

- 2p13-1 Tuesday 4:00pm - 5:00pm, Room **EA-101** (TA: Dragos Simandan)
- 2p13-3 Monday 4:00pm - 5:00pm, Room **MCC-401** (TA: Iris Yap)
- 2p13-4 Friday 2:00pm- 3:00pm, Room **MCC-400** (TA: Iris Yap)

You have to read the two textbook chapters attached to each lecture for the seminar following that lecture. The last lecture is on 21 March, and the last seminars on 22 March (2P13-4), 25 March (2P13-3) and 26 March (2P13-1).

<b>Lecture number (&amp;</b>	The textbook chapters covered in the lecture & that you must read for	Sem 1 <b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	Sem 3 <b><u>Monday</u></b>	Sem 4 <b><u>Friday</u></b>
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<b>date)</b>	the seminar <i>immediately following</i> that lecture	4-5pm (Dragos)	4-5pm (Iris)	2-3pm (Iris)
1 (17 Jan)	1 + 2	22 Jan	21 Jan	18 Jan
2 (24 Jan)	3 + 4	29 Jan	28 Jan	25 Jan
3 (31 Jan)	5 + 6	5 Feb	4 Feb	1 Feb
4 (7 Feb)	7 + 8	12 Feb	11 Feb	8 Feb
5 (14 Feb)	9 + 10	19 Feb	18 Feb	15 Feb
-	READING WEEK 18-22 FEB			
6 (28 Feb)	11 + 12	5 Mar	4 Mar	1 Mar
7 (7 Mar)	13 + 14	12 Mar	11 Mar	8 Mar
8 (14 Mar)	15 + 16	19 Mar	18 Mar	15 Mar
9 (21 Mar)	17 + 18	26 Mar	25 Mar	22 Mar

## **Policies**

1. ALL lectures and seminars must be attended. Please make every effort to be **on time**.
2. You need to keep up with the required readings on a WEEKLY basis. At the discretion of each TA, seminar quizzes may be used to check whether you read the assigned textbook chapters and are able to relate them to the lectures.
3. Late work will NOT be accepted (grade given is zero) unless you have a signed medical excuse or special circumstances.
4. PLAGIARISM POLICY

- A. “Because academic integrity is vital to the well-being of the university community, Brock University takes academic misconduct very seriously. Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, which involves presenting the words and ideas of another person as if they were your own, and other forms of cheating, such as using crib notes during a test or fabricating data for a lab assignment. The penalties for academic misconduct can be very severe. A grade of zero may be given for the assignment or even for the course, and a second offense may result in suspension from the University. Students are urged to read the section of the Brock University Graduate Calendar that pertains to academic misconduct (<http://www.brocku.ca/webcal/2018/undergrad/areg.html#sec68>). Students are also reminded that the Student Development Centre (Schmon Tower, Room 400) offers free workshops on writing and study skills and on avoiding plagiarism”.
- B. You **must** attach a signed statement of academic integrity to each assignment you submit. Here is the link:
- [http://brocku.ca/webfm\\_send/4713](http://brocku.ca/webfm_send/4713)
- C. I will not use plagiarism detection software in this course.

5. Accommodation:

“As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the University Community with disabilities. If you require accommodations related to a permanent disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact the Student Development Centre Services for Students with

Disabilities (4th Floor, Schmon Tower, ext. 3240) and also discuss these accommodation(s) with the professor”.

6. Lack of respect towards the participants in the course will NOT be tolerated.

## **Evaluation**

- **18%** seminar participation (9 seminars @ 2% each: please place a big name & surname tag in front of you at each seminar to get credit for your contributions)  
(Grading guidelines: A – excellent attendance and excellent participation; B – excellent attendance and competent participation OR good attendance and excellent participation; C – excellent attendance but weak participation OR satisfactory attendance but excellent participation; D – excellent attendance but no participation whatsoever OR satisfactory attendance but competent participation; F – unsatisfactory attendance).
- **22%** take-home mid-term exam (you will be given two essay-style questions, of which you will select one to answer: **4** pages font 11 Times New Roman double-spaced, plus a 5<sup>th</sup> page for references; you will have 7 days to write the exam).
- **30%** essay (you will be given two essay questions, of which you will select one to answer: **4** pages font 11 Times New Roman double-spaced plus a 5<sup>th</sup> page for references; you will have 14 days to write the essay).

- **30%** take-home final exam (you will be given two essay-style questions, of which you will select one to answer: **4** pages font 11 Times New Roman double-spaced plus a 5<sup>th</sup> page for references; you will have 14 days to write the exam).

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at lecture** You will be given the questions for the mid-term take-home exam (also available on Sakai)
- **Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> by 10:50am, at lecture** Deadline to hand in your mid-term take-home exam (Either at lecture OR use the **white box** next to geography's department administrative office/Virginia's office **MC C-322**)
- **Reading Week 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> February**
- **Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at lecture** You will be communicated 22% of your final grade (the mid-term)
- **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at lecture** You will be given the topics for your essay (also available from Sakai)

- **Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>** Last day to drop courses without academic penalty

- **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> by 10:50am, at last lecture**

- Deadline to hand in your essays (Either at lecture OR use the white box next to geography's department administrative office/Virginia's office **MC C-322; deadline 10:50am**)
- You will be given the take-home final exam questions (also available from Sakai from 10:50am onwards)

- **Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> by 12:00pm** Deadline to hand in your final take-home exam (use the white box next to geography's department administrative office/Virginia's office **MC C-322**)

- **From Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April onward** Communication of grades (the graded essays and final exams will be left with your respective TA – contact them, NOT the professor, if you need to see your graded papers or if you want the breakdown of your final mark).



## References

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- Simandan, D. (2017). “Demonic geographies”. *Area*. Volume 49, Issue (4), pages 503-509. <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12339>

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