



Environmental Science (ENSC) 200

Introductory Environmental Science (Revision 3)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing ↗ for the current revision ✕
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online ↗ with eText ↗
Credits:	3
Area of study:	Science
Prerequisites:	None
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	ENSC 200 is not available for challenge.
Faculty:	Faculty of Science and Technology ↗

Overview

ENSC 200 is a junior-level three-credit science course designed to introduce you to the basic terminology, techniques, and concepts of environmental science, and to expose you to simple experiments that will allow you to apply fundamental concepts to real-world situations.

Outline

- Unit 1 Environmental Problems: An Introduction and Overview
- Unit 2 Environmental History: Learning from the Past
- Unit 3 Science, Systems, Matter, and Energy
- Unit 4 Ecosystems: What Are They and How Do They Work?
- Unit 5 Evolution and Biodiversity
- Unit 6 Climate and Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Unit 7 Aquatic Biodiversity
- Unit 8 Community Ecology
- Unit 9 Population Ecology
- Unit 10 Applying Population Ecology: The Human Population
- Unit 11 Sustaining Terrestrial Biodiversity: Managing and Protecting Ecosystems
- Unit 12 Sustaining Biodiversity: The Species Approach
- Unit 13 Sustaining Aquatic Biodiversity
- Unit 14 Food and Soil Resources
- Unit 15 Water Resources
- Unit 16 Geology and Nonrenewable Mineral Resources
- Unit 17 Nonrenewable Energy Resources
- Unit 18 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Unit 19 Risk, Toxicology, and Human Health
- Unit 20 Air Pollution
- Unit 21 Climate Change and Ozone Loss
- Unit 22 Water Pollution



- Unit 23 Pest Management
- Unit 24 Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Unit 25 Sustainable Cities

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to

- recognize and use the appropriate scientific vocabulary for describing and analyzing issues in environmental science.
- describe the connections among elements of an environmental system.
- assess basic scientific evidence about environmental issues and interpret data about the environmental impacts of human activities.
- quantitatively describe the effects of your personal activities on the environment, including your carbon footprint.
- observe your local environment as part of broader scientific studies, such as citizen science projects.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for ENSC 200, you must achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** , and a grade of at least 50 percent on the final examination. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Units 1-25, online quizzes (1% each)	25%
Experiments 1-4 (5% each)	20%
Citizen Science Assignment	15%
Final Examination	40%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

Materials

Miller, G.T., Hackett, D. (2013). *Living in the Environment* (3rd Canadian ed.).

Toronto: Nelson Education.  (eText)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on [electronic textbooks](#), please refer to our [eText Initiative site](#).

Other Resources

All other learning resources will be available online.

Special Instructional Feature

Home labs involve use of materials typically found around a home as well as information gathered from local and internet based sources.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the ENSC 200 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** [📄](#) on the examination. The challenge evaluation consists of a three-hour exam.



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 3, February 21, 2014

Updated February 26, 2024

View [previous revision](#) [↗](#)
