








Environmental Studies (ENVS) 200

Introduction to Environmental Studies (Revision 4)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online  with eText 
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Social Science
Prerequisites:	None
Precluded:	ENVS 252 (ENVS 200 cannot be taken for credit if credit has already been obtained for ENVS 252.)
Challenge:	ENVS 200 has a challenge for credit option.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

ENVS 200 introduces students to the field of environmental studies and provides them with basic information about a variety of environmental issues, concepts, debates, events, and actors or thinkers. This survey course presents an overview of key concepts related to environmental analysis, such as resilience, carrying capacity, and environmental justice, as well as a range of topics related to contemporary environmental issues such as water, biodiversity, and ecological design. In particular, the course explores the principles of sustainable development and sustainability. Students are introduced to some of the complexity and debate regarding these concepts and are required to critically engage in applying the concepts. In this course, students are also introduced to critical interdisciplinary analysis and social innovation, and provided opportunities to develop and refine their skills in these areas.

Outline



- Unit 1: Critically Examining Change
- Unit 2: The Ecosphere
- Unit 3: Managing and Protecting Natural Resources and Biodiversity
- Unit 4: The Land, Water, and Forests
- Unit 5: The Atmosphere, Climate Change, and Energy
- Unit 6: Impacts and Risks of Pollution and Waste
- Unit 7: Future Developments

Objectives

1. Provide a broad overview of the current state of the planet.
2. Describe and utilize the key concepts/scientific principles related to environmental studies.
3. Undertake a basic level of social/political/cultural/economic/philosophical analysis to highlight some of the many dimensions of environmental issues.

4. Articulate and demonstrate how to undertake critical interdisciplinary analysis of environmental issues.
5. Identify and explore your own and other people's environmental understandings and behaviours.
6. Articulate some of the challenges to living sustainably and possibilities for social innovation on environmental issues.

Evaluation

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


Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Personal Reflection on Nature and Humanity	15%
Assignment 2: Summary and Analysis of an Environmental Issue	10%
Assignment 3: Decoding Visual Media—Representations of Nature in Popular Culture	15%
Assignment 4: Profiling a Social Innovation (Part A: Framing the Issue)	15%
Assignment 4: Profiling a Social Innovation (Part B: Detailing the Innovation)	15%
Final Exam	30%
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

Draper, D., & Zimmerman, A. (2017). *Our environment: A Canadian perspective* (5th ed.). Toronto, ON: 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.

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 ENVS 200 challenge registration, you must achieve an overall grade of at least **D (50 percent)**.

Activity	Weight
Assignment	60%
Exam	40%
Total	100%



[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.

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View [previous revision](#) 
