



Governance, Leadership and Ethics

Environmental Stewardship

1. Basic Course Information

Course Number	GLE 2004G
Course Name	Environmental Stewardship
Course Pre/Anti-requisites	- -
Instructor	Luis Patricio, M.A. in Urban Management
E-mail	lbritopa@uwo.ca
Scheduled class times	Monday-12:30-2:30pm and Wednesday-1:30-2:30pm
Office Hours	By appointment only

2. Course Description

Environmental stewardship is defined as:

“Local environmental stewardship is the actions taken by individuals, groups or networks of actors, with various motivations and levels of capacity, to protect, care for or responsibly use the environment in pursuit of environmental and/or social outcomes in diverse social-ecological contexts.”

Bennett et al. 2018

In this course, we will approach Environmental Stewardship in relationship with social and economic aspects using additional frameworks including Critical Pedagogy of Place, Urban Literacy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will look particularly in the most common human habitat (cities) that is responsible for the majority of the impact we have on our planet, with a focus on a scale that is the most conducive to generate action (local) since it holds the strongest social ties and deepest knowledge of our challenges.

The course will be delivered through lectures, case studies, class discussions, personal reflections and group activities. Students will be encouraged to contribute to course content and delivery.

3. Course Learning Objectives

The overarching goal of this course is to better prepare students for the sustainability challenges in their professional careers and the future in general based on the eight Sustainability Key Competencies (SKC) and the Inner Development Goals (IDGs).

By the end of the term, every committed student will be able to:

- Identify relationships among social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.
- Provide multiple examples of people and initiatives from different sectors that act as environmental stewards and identify how they impact (positively or negatively) social and economic issues.
- Describe how cities play a significant role in environmental stewardship and the interplay between global and local action.
- Identify the six aspects to integrate sustainability into Canadian Universities and provide examples.
- Apply tools to cultivate skills such as collaboration and self-awareness

4. Description of Class Methods

The course will consist of one two-hour class on Mondays and a one-hour class on Wednesdays. Classes will follow a diverse format including lectures, seminars and other active learning strategies both in small and large group settings.

The synchronous lectures and discussions will be complemented by independent work such as reading and report writing.

5. Textbooks and other required resources

There is no textbook. All readings will be made available via OWL's weekly checklist.

Course website

Please access course content through OWL: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. Please follow the lesson plans and announcements on OWL on a regular basis. Lecture notes and other additional material will be placed on OWL in a timely fashion, available for downloading. You are encouraged to communicate with your peers through OWL "forums" and with your instructor via OWL messaging.

6. Evaluation Methods

This course will strive to use **renewable assignments** ([Seraphin et al., 2019](#)) as much as possible. Renewable assignments have a life after being marked and add value to the world. Assignments will include two individual tasks, two group projects and a few in-class activities.

Clear instructions will be provided for each one of the assignments and students will be evaluated based on how well they follow them. All late assignments will receive a late penalty of 5% per day, including weekends. Please note that in-class assignments and work completed after the last day of class are considered missed

assignments. Approved accommodations for missed assignments will automatically come in the form of a redistribution of evaluation to other assignments.

Personal Environmental Assessment (10%)

To have firsthand experience with the natural environment is a basic requirement to be an environmental steward. This is an individual assignment where students will choose an [environmentally significant area](#) to visit and write a short report (800-1000 words) reflecting about their experience.

Environmental Article (25%)

Students are asked to write an (1000-1500 words) on a relevant environmental issue, preferably to London. Describing the issue, its relevance, long-term impacts, what is currently being done, and what else can be proposed. The article should clearly address the impacts on other environmental issues as well as social and economic implications. Each student will have to choose their own specific topic. Additional information will be provided during class. Your final article might be published as a blog post at www.sdgcities.ca.

Participation & Social Simulations (15%)

Participation is a fundamental part of the learning environment. Students are expected to be present at all in-person classes. Please read or watch the relevant class material ahead of time and prepare questions or comments. An individual participation grade will be awarded based on your participation during class, particularly the social simulations activities.

Knowledge Translation (25%)

There is a lot of relevant information about environmental issues that are not easily accessible or understandable. Students working in small groups will summarize a scientific article, a piece of legislation or other document considered relevant by environmental groups. The summary will consist of a 1-3 page document with simple language containing the main information of the original document.

Huron Environmental Stewardship Report (25%)

Working in groups, students will research environmental stewardship examples in Canadian Universities and analyze current and potential opportunities at Huron University. The project will consider the six different aspects for integrating sustainability at Huron (education, research, outreach, facilities, corporate finance and governance). The final report will be published and shared with the Huron community.

7. Class Schedule

For this schedule, **due dates are firm**. The schedule of lecture material and class activities may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. The instructor reserves the right to change topics or introduce new topics if significant environmental issues should arise during the term or add articles to study. All posted articles can be found on OWL.

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignment
1	Jan 9, 11	Introduction to course and key concepts: Environmental Stewardship and UN SDGs	
2	Jan 16, 18	Complementary frameworks: Critical Pedagogy of Place & Urban Literacy	
3	Jan 23, 25	Applications of the Frameworks: We Care About What We Measure	
4	Jan 30, Feb 1	Environmental Stewardship in Higher Education	- Personal Environmental Assessment
5	Feb 6, 8	The Role of Cities: Local Governments & Networks	
6	Feb 13, 15	Article presentation and feedback	- Environmental Article
7		READING WEEK	
8	Feb 27, Mar 1	Social Sector	
9	Mar 6, 8	Business Sustainability and Sustainable Business	
10	Mar 13, 15	Indigenous Environmental Stewardship	- Presentation: Knowledge Translation (preliminary)
11	Mar 20, 22	ES around the world and International Environmental Stewardship	
12	Mar 27, 29	Climate Change, adaptation and mitigation	- Presentation: Huron E.S. Report (preliminary)
13	Apr 3, 5	Inner Development Goals	- Huron E.S. final report - Knowledge Translation Final

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022-2023

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean 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.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

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 website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) **Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade:
Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any

further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website,

<https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit

<https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

