

Mount Allison University
Department of Geography & Environment
GENV 4101: Seminar in Environmental Issues

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Lowitt	Class time: Wednesdays 9:30am – 12:20 pm
Office: Avarad Dixon 311	Class room: Bennett Building G03
Phone: 506-939-2190	Office hours: Wednesdays 12:30 – 3:30pm or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the context of intensifying human impacts on nature, conventional notions of ‘natural resources’ and ‘management’ are becoming increasingly problematic. This course seeks to provide students with the theoretical background to undertake critical analysis of environmental and resource management issues. It will offer an overview of the changing theory and practice of resource management and consider the different types of knowledge that are important to understanding environmental problems.

This is a seminar-style course based in discussion and analysis of readings and applied in-class activities. Regular attendance and completing the readings in advance of class is very important to doing well.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are two required texts for this class:

Bavington, D. (2010). *Managed Annihilation: An unnatural history of the Newfoundland cod collapse*. UBC Press.

Lutz, J. & Neis, B. (2008). *Making and Moving Knowledge: Interdisciplinary and community-based research in a world on the edge*. McGill-Queen’s University Press.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date and Topic	Readings
January 10: Introduction	Syllabus
January 17: Reconceptualizing natural resources and management	Berkes, F (2010). Shifting perspectives on resource management: Resilience and the reconceptualization of ‘natural resources’ and ‘management.’ MAST 9(1) 13-40. Available online: http://www.marecentre.nl/mast/documents/Mastvol9no1_Berkes.pdf Bavington Chapters 1 & 2
January 24: Management histories and strategies	Bavington Chapters 3, 4, & 5

January 31: Management histories and strategies continued	Bavington Chapters 6 & 7
February 7: Towards management alternatives	Bavington Chapter 8 Natcher, D., Hickey, C. & Davis, S. (2004). The political ecology of Yukon forestry: managing the forest as if people mattered. <i>International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology</i> , 11(4).
February 14: Knowledge, uncertainty and wisdom	Lutz & Neis Chapters 1 & 2
February 21: Study Break – no class	
February 28: In-class mid-term examination	
March 7: Traditional and local ecological knowledge	Lutz & Neis Chapters 3, 4 & 6
March 14: Knowledge flows and blockages	Lutz & Neis Chapters 8, 9 & 10
March 21: Knowledge flows and blockages continued	Lutz & Neis Chapters 11, 12, & 14
March 28: Research proposal presentations	Student presentations
April 4: Research proposal presentations	Student presentations

EVALUATION

Reading Discussant Presentations & In-class Assignments	Students are responsible for being reading discussants <u>two</u> times throughout the term (7.5% x 2= 15%). Being a reading discussant entails giving an approximately 10-minute presentation on your reading and preparing a set of 2-3 discussion questions for the class. Short, in-class assignments, completed at various times during the course, will comprise the remaining 10% of this evaluation component.	25%
Media Analysis	Students will present an annotated overview of popular media framings of a selected environmental or resource issue. Due February 14.	20%
Midterm	In-class mid-term examination. February 28.	25%

Project Proposal	<p>Students will prepare a proposal for a research project related to environmental and resource management that they would be interested in pursuing.</p> <p>The written proposal is worth 20% and a presentation of the research proposal to the class is worth 10%. The written proposal is due April 4, 2018. Presentations will take place during the last 2 weeks of the course.</p>	30%
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Note: Students will receive 20% of their grade by Friday, March 2.

<p>COURSE POLICIES</p> <p>Submitting work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All written course work is due via Moodle to the Course Instructor by the due dates outlined above. • Late submissions will be deducted 10%/day. Assignments submitted more than 10 days late may not be accepted. • Missed reading discussant presentations will result in a grade of zero for that presentation.
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Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please approach me and/or the Meighen Centre for Learning Assistance and Research (62 York Street, 506-364-2527) as soon as possible. I will work with you and the Meighen Centre to ensure you can meet your learning goals.

Grade Conversion Table

The University operates an evaluation system that is based on letter grades (A, B, C, etc.) and a Grade Point Average System (GPA). All grades during the term will be marked on a percentage basis and only the final grade will be converted to a letter grade. For this course, the breakdown of final letter grades will be as follows:

Percentage Letter Grade

90-100 A+

85-89 A

80-84 A-

77-79 B+

73-76 B

70-72 B-

67-69 C+

63-66 C

60-62 C-

57-59 D+

53-56 D
50-52 D-
0-49 F

Withdrawal Date

The final date for withdrawal from this course is Friday, February 2. Beyond this date, a “w” will appear on your academic record up until the start of the exam period.