

Environmental Science 1021G
Environmental Science and Sustainability
Winter 2025

ENVIRSCI 1021G is an essay course. An essay is defined by the university as:

The term "essay" is to be understood broadly to include many of the reports, reviews, summaries, critiques, and some laboratory reports that are currently assigned, as well as essays in the strictest sense. The essential point is that the assignments involve assembling information and argument and presenting it in connected prose.

to more of a conversational tone and tried to be succinct and concise.

Expense - If I thought not having a textbook would hamper your ability to learn about environmental issues, we would have one. But I think that this is a more flexible and adaptable format that also comes with the bonus that it is free!

Updates - Things in the environmental sector change rapidly. Printed textbooks are inherently behind before they even sell their first copy. As much as we can, we will be dealing with issues as they emerge and having a set of online course notes allows us to do that.

Course notes will be released at the beginning of every week; however, you can see the line-up for the entire semester in the course timetable below.

Course Readings

In addition to reading the weekly interactive course notes, you have a set of weekly course readings as well. The course readings are aligned to weekly lecture topics and are selected to (1) demonstrate a variety of scientific writing styles (scientific articles, informal articles, media articles, blogs, etc.), (2) further your knowledge about environmental issues, and (3) help prepare you for your examinations. Your course readings are mostly drawn from the scientific literature, but they may also include shorter, more informal articles as well.

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The course is assessed via a diverse range of methods that are designed to help you learn the material and develop your practical skills.

Environmental knowledge and awareness (60% of overall mark)

- 10% Online quizzes (weekly)
- 15% Midterm
- 35% Final exam (date to be determined by the Registrar's office)

Scientific literacy and communication skills (40% of overall mark)

- 10% Annotated bibliography
- 20% Mini review
- 10% Response to reviewers

Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)

Every deadline for any assignment **has an automatic grace period of 48 hours** (you do not need to contact the instructor to ask for this grace period, it is automatically given)

Late assignments will receive a penalty of 10% per day without approved academic accommodation (see below)

More information on: Environmental knowledge and awareness (60%)

Online Quizzes and Homework Activities (10%)

To encourage your active participation and improve learning, you will be given quiz questions associated with each week that will test material from the course notes and readings. All quizzes are **open-book** and have no time limit (outside of submitting before the deadline). The quizzes are meant to encourage

you to review and practice material for the midterm and final exam. The quizzes will be released each week with the course notes and then will be due the following week at 6:30pm (the deadlines for each quiz are also available from the quizzes page). The quizzes are not designed to replicate exam style questions, but rather to help you stay on track with the course and help you review for exams.

The idea behind the quiz schedule is that it keeps you on track and working your way through the course in a timely manner so that it doesn't pile up on you around the midterms and finals.

Midterm (15%)

The midterm is scheduled for **February 12** and is worth 15% of your final mark. The test will draw on material up to and

synthesize the current state of knowledge and identify key information gaps;
use figures, tables and illustrations to supplement written text and display data.

Response to Reviewer (10%)

Scientific literature is created through a process of peer-review where colleagues and peers review work to suggest and make changes. One of the most important aspects of effective feedback is that it “feeds forward” on to further assignments. In this case, you will be using the feedback from your TA to update and improve your mini-review. In the scientific literature, reviewers write a summary about their thoughts on an article (“The reviewer’s comments”) and based on those comments you are asked to revise your article and resubmit it for review. You will have an opportunity to then respond to the reviewer comments by writing short responses to the reviewer and updating the text of your document. You will be allowed to expand the text of your mini-review by 300 words to accommodate your updates and changes (1500 words total). Importantly, this gives you an opportunity to reflect upon and respond to feedback you’ve been given on your assignment and improve the final copy. Your Response to Reviewer assignment will be graded on how well you respond to the feedback and update your Mini-review so your initial mark on your mini-review will not have an impact on your Response to reviewer mark.

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General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs*

When conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request an accommodation for their absence in writing to the course instructor and/or the Academic Advising office of their Faculty of Registration. This notice should be made as early as possible but not later than two weeks prior to the writing or the examination (or one week prior to the writing of the test).

Please visit the Diversity Calendars posted on our university's EDID website for the recognized religious holidays:

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

All assignments in this course must be completed independently without the assistance of artificial intelligence

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For this schedule, **test dates and due dates are firm**. The schedule of lecture material is tentative. 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.