

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: Geography/Economics IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Fall 1993

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Geography 111  
SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE

Human Impact on the Environment  
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

3  
UCFV CREDITS

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the study of people in their physical surroundings. The central themes of the course focus on humans as agents of environmental change, and as users of the earth's resources. Emphasis will also be placed on examination of fundamental concepts, methods and techniques used to study human/environment systems.

RATIONALE:

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE COREQUISITES: None

HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT	Lecture	30	hrs	Student Directed	
	Laboratory		hrs	Learning	hrs
	Seminar	12	hrs	Other - specify:	
	Field Experience	10	hrs	_____	hrs
				TOTAL	HRS

MAXIMUM ENROLMENT: 35

Is transfer credit requested? : Yes **9** No

**AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:**

Course Designer(s): S. Vanderburgh Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_  
Curriculum Committee

Department Head: J. Belec Dean: J.D. Tunstall

PAC: Approval in Principle \_\_\_\_\_ PAC: Final Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Date)

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**SYNONYMOUS COURSES:**(a) replaces     N/A      
(course #)(b) cannot take     N/A     for further credit  
(course #)**SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:****TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)**Goudie, A. 1990. The Human Impact on the Natural Environment. Basil Blackwell Ltd., UK.**OBJECTIVES:**

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to the scope and structure of contemporary geography. The course focuses on the human-environment theme although other major approaches and themes will be alluded to when and where appropriate. Special attention will be directed towards establishing those concepts and techniques which can be regarded as of essential importance to the field of geography. The lecture component will emphasize conceptual and theoretical issues whereas the seminars and field trips will focus on techniques and concrete examples of concepts introduced during lectures.

**METHODS:**

The format of the course includes lectures, assigned readings, class assignments, discussion groups, oral presentations, field trips, and whenever possible, guest speakers. Particular emphasis is placed on student participation in seminars and group presentations and attendance on field trips. The field trips are intended to provide an informal learning experience during which students will be required to make accurate field observations for the purpose of producing a field report. Throughout the course audio-visual techniques and materials will be used to support lecture material.

**STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:**

Assignments and Projects	30%
Field Report	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%

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**COURSE CONTENT**

Lecture Topics

1. Historical background to environmental concern.
2. Framework for analysing human-environment relationships.
3. Resources and resource use, perception of resources.
4. Vegetation; ecosystems and biogeographical principles, deforestation and desertification.
5. Human impact on animals; attitude towards animals, common resources.
6. Soils; pedogenic regimes, salinity and soil erosion.
7. Hydrological cycle, hydro projects, irrigation schemes, groundwater use and contamination.
8. Humans as geomorphological agents.
9. Natural hazards; earthquakes, floods, geomorphic hazards.
10. Humans and climatic change, climate change, urban climates, human impact and future climates.
11. Predicting the future of human impact, forecasting techniques, case studies in prediction.
12. Applications of concepts presented in this course to the local region, British Columbia, and Canada.