UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE (page 1)

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2013
COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: May 2014
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: May 2020
(six years after UEC approval) *(month, year)*

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.
Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor

GEOG 257	Geography	3
COURSE NAME/NUMBER	FACULTY/DEPARTMENT	UFV CREDITS

Environment: Science and Communications
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Environmental science and communications, while different fields, are both essential for addressing contemporary environmental problems. This course, team-taught by faculty in Geography and Communications, introduces the student to the methods of scientific inquiry, and the principles of effective communication in environmental science. Application of the scientific method to case studies of environmental issues will highlight challenges and possible solutions at local, regional, and national scales, while exploring the interface between science, politics, and popular perceptions. Specific consideration will be given to developing strategies for communicating with various audiences, including stakeholder groups, other scientists, policy makers, and the general public. A field trip outside of class time may be required. Please refer to the Department of Geography website for scheduling information.

Note: Students with credit for GEOG 211 may not take GEOG 257/CMNS 257 for further credit.

PREREQUISITES: One of: CMNS 125, CMNS 155, CMNS 175, or ENGL 105; plus GEOG 103 or any first-year lab science course.
COREQUISITES:
PRE or COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces:
(b) Cross-listed with: **CMNS 257**
(c) Cannot take: **GEOG 211 or CMNS 257** for further credit.

SERVICE COURSE TO: *(department/program)*

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: **45**
STRUCTURE OF HOURS:

Lectures:	**21**	Hrs
Seminar:	**21**	Hrs
Laboratory:		Hrs
Field experience:	**3**	Hrs
Student directed learning:		Hrs
Other (specify):		Hrs

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course:
Hours per day:

OTHER:
Maximum enrolment: **36**
Expected frequency of course offerings: Twice each year
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)	☒ Yes	☐ No
WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)	☐ Yes	☒ No
TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:	☒ Yes	☐ No

Course designer(s):	**Michelle Riedlinger; Michelle Rhodes; David Thomson; Lionel Pandolfo**		
Department Head:	**Michelle Rhodes/ Geography**	Date approved:	**October 3, 2013**
Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC)		Date of meeting:	**October 11, 2013**
Curriculum Committee chair:	**David Fenske**	Date approved:	**October 18, 2013**
Dean/Associate VP:	**Lucy Lee**	Date approved:	**October 18, 2013**
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting:	**November 22, 2013**

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the science that underlies local, regional, and global environmental issues and challenges.
- Work collaboratively to identify the possible solutions to environmental problems, and the barriers to their implementation.
- Identify principles and practices of effective visual, oral, and written communication of scientific data and ideas for different audiences.
- Interpret and critique the use of quantitative data and cartographic representations in environmental science.
- Work collaboratively to devise strategies for addressing and communicating environmental challenges.
- Produce written materials and deliver presentations to inform generalist and expert audiences on specific issues.

METHODS: *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Course format will include lectures delivered by instructors from Geography and Communications, discussion groups, student presentations, and field study. Case studies will support student-directed learning and teaching. There may be a mandatory local field trip that will support one or more case studies.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

☒ Examination(s) ☒ Portfolio assessment ☐ Interview(s)

☐ Other (specify):

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS: *[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts might be:]*

Hay, Iaian, and Giles, Philip. 2011. Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences. Oxford University Press.

Berg, Linda, and Hager, Mary. 2007. Visualizing Environmental Science. Wiley. (Check for latest edition)

Supplemental text may include:
Northey, Margot, David B. Knight, and Diane Draper, 2012. Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences. A Student's Guide to Research and Writing, Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

A field-trip fee may be required.

STUDENT EVALUATION: *[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]*

Writing assignment	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Annotated bibliography	15%
Research poster	20%
Oral presentation	10%
Final project	25%

COURSE CONTENT: *[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]*

Each week will match a chapter in an introductory environmental science text, with the approaches and issues associated with communicating those issues. The following is a sample outline.

1. Introduction to course and themes in environmental science and environmental communications
2. Science as a way of knowing; environmental history, economics, sustainability and human values
3. Risk analysis and environmental hazards
4. Decision-makers, media, stakeholders, and the science community
5. Ecosystems—functions and evolution
6. Human population change and the environment
7. Energy
8. Air and air pollution; global atmospheric changes
9. Water, water pollution, and freshwater resources
10. The ocean and global fisheries
11. Soils, minerals, and land resources
12. Agriculture and food resources
13. Solid and hazardous wastes; course conclusion