

**CONS452: Global Perspectives Capstone (12 credits)**  
**Course Syllabus**

**UBC Faculty of Forestry**  
**Winter 2019**

**Time & Place:** M/T/W/Th 11:00-2:00 (FSC 1003 and 1404/1406 - computer labs)

**Teaching Team:**

**Instructors:**

*Coordinator:* Jeanine Rhemtulla ([jeanine.rhemtulla@ubc.ca](mailto:jeanine.rhemtulla@ubc.ca))

Sarah Gergel ([sarah.gergel@ubc.ca](mailto:sarah.gergel@ubc.ca))

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Susan Hunt ([susan.hunt@ubc.ca](mailto:susan.hunt@ubc.ca))

**Teaching Assistants:**

*Senior TA:* Jenny Huang ([jiaying.huang@ubc.ca](mailto:jiaying.huang@ubc.ca))

Geomatics: Kevin Yang ([kevin.yang@ubc.ca](mailto:kevin.yang@ubc.ca))

Geomatics: Matthew Grohovsky ([mlgro89@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:mlgro89@mail.ubc.ca))

Socio-economics: Vikas Menghwani ([vikas.m@ires.ubc.ca](mailto:vikas.m@ires.ubc.ca))

**1. COURSE OVERVIEW**

Navigating the transition to a sustainable world is humanity's current challenge. This will require fostering resilient interacting systems of people and ecosystems (resilient social-ecological systems). In this course, students will utilize a suite of tools and ideas useful in managing ecosystem services in a sustainable way. Each week we focus on a different theme related to sustainability and resilience, and work in small teams to apply these ideas to a set of diverse landscapes throughout the world.

Many of the lab exercises and group projects involve "hands-on" spatial analysis of land cover change using GIS and remote sensing. We also assess socio-economic data to examine issues such as energy poverty. These quantitative approaches help us move beyond arm-waving about sustainability to making some tough choices, using the best available scientific information.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of the course, you should be able to:**

- Understand and apply the concepts of socio-ecological systems, multifunctional landscapes, and ecosystem services to issues in global conservation
- Use open-access data and software to quantify land-cover change and impacts on ecosystem services, analyse socio-economic data, and assess landscape-scale patterns; convey and account for the strengths and limitations of these approaches

- Pose, frame, and answer compelling questions that helps us to understand and manage socio-ecological systems
- Communicate more clearly and convincingly in both written work and oral presentations
- More confidently plan your future career goals and steps to get there

**Approach:**

In the first part of the semester, you will explore a series of important concepts, tools, and approaches to analyse socio-ecological systems. In teams, you will also choose a case study area, research conservation issues in the region, brainstorm good questions and begin to look for data to address them. Following spring break, most of our time will be devoted to team projects. Throughout the semester, we will also hone our writing skills and discuss and plan future career trajectories.

Generally speaking, most weeks will be scheduled as follows:

- Mondays – Writing & Professional Development / Overview Lecture for the Week
- Tuesdays – Lab
- Wednesday – Team Work Period (TAs available the last hour to answer questions & brainstorm)
- Thursday – Lab

**Required Textbooks (available at the bookstore):**

*Writing Science in Plain English* by Anne E. Greene

*Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life* by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans

**2. COURSE ASSESSMENT**

The course includes numerous assignments over the semester; a detailed list is provided in a separate document on Canvas. The approximate overall breakdown of the coursework is as follows:

Lab Assignments:	35%
Project Work:	45%
Writing & Prof. Dev:	10%
Participation:	10%
 Total:	 100%

***A Note on Participation:*** This class moves quickly, includes a lot of team work, and is driven in large part by your interests and choices. When you miss a class, it impacts the progress your team is making and forces them to make decisions on your project without your input. We thus take punctual attendance seriously (as will your future employers). Your participation grade includes three equally weighted components: your punctual arrival and attendance in class, peer reviews from your team members, and our observations of your contributions to class discussion and projects. If you must miss

class for medical or other extenuating reasons, please contact Jeanine to discuss, and we would be happy to help you make up missed material.

### 3. COURSE POLICIES

**Use of Canvas:** We use Canvas (<https://canvas.ubc.ca>) for everything – to post course material, communicate with you, submit/return assignments, post grades, etc. Please make sure that you can access Canvas and that you are receiving our messages.

**Use of Technology in Class:** Use of technology not directly related to class activities (including but not limited to email, texting, social media, online surfing and shopping, etc) is not allowed in class. Not only does it distract you, but worse, it distracts everyone around you. Please try hard to stay focused and step outside if you need to take a call.

**Late assignments:** Please submit assignments on time, as it makes our job grading them easier. When exceptional circumstances will prevent you from completing an assignment on time, you may request an extension (contact Jeanine) and it will be granted where possible and appropriate. In the absence of a granted extension, grades will be reduced by 10% per day. Late assignments will not be accepted once graded assignments have been returned to other students.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** We are committed to making our class accessible to everyone and are happy to provide accommodations for students with physical/learning disabilities, ongoing medical or mental health conditions. If you are registered with the UBC Center for Accessibility and require academic accommodations, please inform Jeanine by e-mail during the first two weeks of class if possible. You do not need to discuss the details of your condition with us, and we promise to keep all discussions confidential.

**Your Well-Being:** We understand that family emergencies, physical or mental illness, personal crises, childcare issues, etc. occasionally occur and can significantly impact your academic performance, ability to meet deadlines, etc. If academic or personal issues are severely affecting your ability to engage in this course, don't hesitate to talk to us and we'll work on a fair resolution. We don't need all the details of your situation, and you may also speak to someone in student services who will work with us to determine adequate accommodations without revealing sensitive information to us. You are welcome to contact any member of the teaching team. Further resources are available at:

<https://students.ubc.ca/health-wellness/wellness-centre>

<https://wellbeing.ubc.ca>

**Academic Integrity:** The Faculty of Forestry, UBC, and the scholarly community at large share an understanding of the ethical ways that we use and produce knowledge. A core practice of this shared value of academic integrity is that we acknowledge the contributions of others to our own work, but it also means we produce our own contributions that add to the scholarly conversation: we don't buy or copy assignments or put our names on work that we have not meaningfully contributed to. We also

don't falsify data or sources or hand in the same work in more than one course. Please review the UBC policies on Academic Honesty and Standards (see below) for more information.

**Basic Needs Security:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact Student Development and Services or your academic advisor for support. Furthermore, please talk to one of us if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that we may possess.

#### **4. UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES**

Academic Honesty and Standards:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0>

Academic Freedom:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0,>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,34,0,0>

Freedom from Harassment and Discrimination:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,87,0>

Prevention of sexual violence and support for survivors:

<https://svpro.ubc.ca/>

Religious Observances:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>

Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct:

<https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy131.pdf>