

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT, EARTH, AND RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY

**ENVR 2270 ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM SOLVING AND SCIENTIFIC THINKING**

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**Office Hours:** 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Wednesday or preferably by appointment

**DESCRIPTION**

Too often, students do not know how to question or evaluate what they are told: either in class or in the media, or the personal beliefs they hold, whether scientific or social. The first part of this course is designed to aid students in the development of a skeptical, scientific approach to thinking about environmental and geographical problems and issues. This class will attempt to engage students to think critically about what they are taught and hear around science and other matters, and to use rationale, science-based reasoning to evaluate claims that have either implicit or explicit scientific underpinnings. Students are encouraged to question the instructors and each other, while remembering that the key to a successful discussion is always grounded in a respect and courtesy for those whose beliefs you are attempting to sway. The second part of this course will focus on applying that skepticism and critical thinking to develop well-balanced research hypotheses and data collection methods, free of preconceived conscious and unconscious bias. The way a question is structured in a survey or interview can affect the answer the respondent provides. Minimizing bias and increasing accuracy in the method used to collect the information is a critical step in evaluating and fostering critical thinking of environmental and geographical issues.

**LECTURES**

2:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 221 Wallace Building

**TEXT**

Required: Montello, D.R. and P.C. Sutton. 2013. *An Introduction to Scientific Research Methods in Geography and Environmental Studies (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*, Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781446200759

**PREREQUISITES**

A grade of C or better in a minimum of three credit hours from ENVR 1000 or GEOG 1290 or GEOG 1280 or GEOG 1700 or GPE 1700 or permission of department head.

**GRADING SCHEME:**

Assignments:	30%
Term paper outline:	5%
Term paper:	30%
Take home exam:	35%

**FINAL GRADE ALLOCATION**

A+	90% or above	C+	65% - 69%
A	80% - 89%	C	60% - 64%
B+	75% - 79%	D	50% - 59%
B	70% - 74%	F	49% or below

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative schedule and order of material to be covered in the class. Dates and material may change.

**Weeks 1:** How to think skeptically and critically, why you need to be comfortable changing your mind, and what happens when you don't.

**Weeks 2-3:** How your perceptions can lead you astray, and what this means when you are trying to be a rational and logical thinker.

**Week 4-5:** Scientific paradigms, theories and hypotheses.

**Week 6:** A critical review of the history, process and outcomes of the scientific review process.

**Week 7:** Logical fallacies. What they are and how to avoid them when creating a science-based argument.

**Week 8:** Research bias, accuracy, and precision in science.

**Weeks 9-10:** Getting the 'right' information: A. Surveys and interviews

**Week 11:** Getting the 'right' information: B. Observations in scientific context

**Week 12:** Ethics in scientific research: How to (not) lie and cheat your way to the top.

**Week 13:** Looking back and looking forward: Can you change your mind?.

## EVALUATION SCHEDULE: DUE DATES

Assignment 1	October 4, 2017
Term paper outline	October 11, 2017
Assignment 2	October 25, 2017
Assignment 3	November 15, 2017
Term paper	November 29, 2017
Take home exams released	November 29, 2017
Take home exams due	December 13, 2017

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions during the lectures.
- ***Cell phones and portable music players must be turned off during lectures. Students are also required to remove earphones. NO TEXTING DURING CLASS.***
- Students are required to attend all lectures and take notes. Students are expected to be punctual for classes. Not all material presented in the lectures is covered in the text. *If you miss a lecture, make arrangements to get notes from a fellow student, not from instructor!* Lecture slides will not be provided on UMLearn (the learning management tool).
- The individual student is required to read the assigned chapters of the textbook *prior to class*. Not all the textbook will be covered in the lectures but may be covered on the quiz or exam.
- Students are required to complete the necessary assignments individually and on time, unless otherwise stated.

## VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL DATE

The voluntary withdrawal date is the last date for withdrawing from this course without academic penalty. The voluntary withdrawal date for this course is November 17, 2017. Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to this date.

## **FINAL EXAM**

You will have at least one week from handout date to complete the take home exam. A mark of zero will be given to any exam that is handed in late unless permission is granted prior to the deadline. Please see list below for acceptable and unacceptable reasons for rewriting the term tests.

*Reasons for granting an extension (term test):* a death in your immediate family, an illness in either yourself or in a dependent (requires written note from a doctor dated BEFORE the assignment is due), and required to travel for work. The Instructor will not accept a note dated AFTER the due date.

*Reasons for not granting an extension:* having another assignment due at a similar time/day, being away from the university for a personal reason (i.e. holiday or personal vacation), being too busy with other course work (i.e. having a midterm that same day or week), not attending the lectures due to personal or compassionate reasons (or other reasons), car broke down and could not submit assignment on time, computer is not working properly and you lost the assignment, or any other reason deemed inappropriate by the instructor. This is not an exhaustive list. Please don't ask for an extension if any of these or similar reasons apply. If you know that you will be away, you MUST submit the assignment before the due date.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND TERM PAPER**

Assignments and term paper must be submitted as paper copies. Documents **MUST** be labelled with the student name, student number and assignment number. Emailed assignments **WILL NOT** be accepted at any time for any reason and therefore will not be graded. Assignment grades will be posted on UMLearn.

Assignments must be handed in on time – by 2:30 pm on due date. **A penalty of 10% per day** will be given to any late assignment unless the student has obtained Instructor approval in advance of the deadline.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

Audio/Video Recording: Mark Hanson, John Iacozza and the University of Manitoba hold copyright over the course materials, presentations and lectures which form part of this course. No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without permission by John Iacozza or Mark Hanson. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research.

Feedback: formative (i.e. comments) and summative (i.e. grade) feedback will be provided to the student within two weeks of the assignment deadline (or as soon as possible). This feedback will be provided through UMLearn.

Questions/Concerns: If you are having a problem and want to discuss something, please feel free to see me before/after class, during my office hours or make an appointment at a more convenient time. I can be reached through phone or email (preferred method).

Emails: Ensure that the course name and number are included in the subject line for all emails. Please make sure emails are written in a professional manner, including complete sentences and do not use text language (I am not fluent in shorthand). Please address the email to John/Mark or Dr. Iacozza or Dr. Hanson (not Buddy or any similar terms). Emails must be sent from University of Manitoba email accounts; emails from other accounts (such as gmail) will not be responded to. Emails will typically be responded to during regular office hours. You should not expect a response on weekends or in the evenings (i.e. after 4 pm).

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) is a very serious matter in any academic institution and is dealt with severely at the University of Manitoba.

*Plagiarism* or any other form of cheating in examinations, term tests or academic work is subject to serious academic penalty (e.g. suspension or expulsion from the faculty or university). Cheating in examinations or tests may take the form of copying from another student or bringing unauthorized materials into the exam room (e.g., crib notes, pagers or cell phones). Exam cheating can also include exam personation (see below). A student found guilty of contributing to cheating in examinations or term assignments is also subject to serious academic penalty, including a grade of zero on the assignment/exam, a final grade of F in the course or expulsion from the University (based on severity of offense).

To plagiarize is to take ideas or words of another person and pass them off as one's own. In short, it is stealing something intangible rather than an object. Plagiarism applies to any written work, in traditional or electronic format, as well as orally or verbally presented work. Obviously it is not necessary to state the source of well-known or easily verifiable facts, but students are expected to appropriately acknowledge the sources of ideas and expressions they use in their written work, whether quoted directly or paraphrased. This applies to diagrams, statistical tables and the like, as well as to written material, and materials or information from Internet sources. Students must use either APA or Chicago styles to properly reference work. Students will be penalized 20% if another style or footnotes are used in the assignment. Information on the acceptable styles is available through the UM Libraries at: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/c.php?g=298394>

To provide adequate and correct documentation is not only an indication of academic honesty but is also a courtesy, which enables the reader to consult these sources with ease. Failure to provide appropriate citations constitutes plagiarism. It will also be considered plagiarism and/or cheating if a student submits a term paper written in whole or in part by someone other than him/herself, or copies the answer or answers of another student in any test, examination, or take-home assignment.

Working with other students on assignments, laboratory work, take-home tests, or on-line tests, when the instructor does not permit this, can constitute Inappropriate Collaboration and may be subject to penalty under the Student Discipline By-Law.

An assignment that is prepared and submitted for one course should not be used for a different course. This is called "duplicate submission" and represents a form of cheating because course requirements are expected to be fulfilled through original work for each course.

Please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic dishonesty found on the following website:

[http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/cheating\\_plagiarism\\_fraud.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html).

When in doubt about any practice, ask your professor or instructor.

*Examinations Personations* is when a student who arranges for another individual to undertake or write any nature of examination for and on his/her behalf, as well as the individual who undertakes or writes the examination, will be subject to discipline under the university's Student Discipline Bylaw, which could lead to suspension or expulsion from the university. In addition, the Canadian Criminal Code treats the personation of a candidate at a competitive or qualifying examination held at a university as an offence punishable by summary conviction. Section 362 of the code provides:

#### Personation at Examination

362. Everyone who falsely, with intent to gain advantage for him/herself or some other person, personates a candidate at a competitive or qualifying examination held under the authority of law or in connection with a university, college or school or who knowingly

avails him/herself of the results of such personation is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction. 1953- 54,c.51, s.347.

Both the personator and the individual who avails him/herself of the personation could be found guilty. Summary conviction could result in a fine being levied or up to two years of imprisonment.

A complete copy of the Final Examination Procedures is available at:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/academic/final\\_examinations\\_procedures.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/academic/final_examinations_procedures.html)

Students are encouraged to review the University policy on Responsibilities of Academic Staff with Regards to Students (ROASS):

[umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/students/278.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/278.html)

### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

Students with disability-related needs or are experiencing difficulty should discuss issues with a councilor in one of the following Student Affairs offices as soon as possible. You can also discuss any issues with your instructor, who can direct you to appropriate institutional resources.

- Student Accessibility Services: 155 University Center, 204-474-6213, 204-474-9790 (TTY)
- Learning Assistance Center: 201 Tier Building, 204-480-1481
- Student Counselling and Career Centre: 474 University Center, 204-474-8592

### **USING COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL**

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. I have ensured that the content I use is appropriately acknowledged and is copied in accordance with copyright laws and University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (such as UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact [um\\_copyright@umanitoba.ca](mailto:um_copyright@umanitoba.ca).

### **UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

A list of academic supports available to Students:

#### Writing and Learning Support

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you throughout your academic program. Through the ALC, you can meet with a learning specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, learning strategies, and test-taking strategies. The ALC also offers peer supported study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In these study groups, students have opportunities to ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

You can also meet one-to-one with a writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. If you are interested in meeting with a writing tutor, reserve your appointment two to three days in advance of the time you would like to meet. Also, plan to meet with a writing tutor a few days before your paper is due so that you have time to work with the tutor's feedback.

These Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>

You can also contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or by visiting 201 Tier Building.

#### University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)

As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, and will address any other concerns you may have, regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you in-person. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject: <http://bit.ly/WcEbA1> or name: <http://bit.ly/1tJ0bB4>. In addition, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: <http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA>. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries' homepage: [www.umanitoba.ca/libraries](http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries).

#### Referral information for mental health resources and support:

For 24/7 mental health support, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781. You may also find the following resources helpful:

##### *Student Counselling Centre*

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counselling. Student Counselling Centre:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

474 University Centre or S207 Medical Services

(204) 474-8592

##### *Student Support Case Management*

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

Student Support Intake Assistant <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

520 University Centre

(204) 474-7423

##### *University Health Service*

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation.

University Health Service <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus

(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

##### *Health and Wellness*

Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, and sexual assault.

Health and Wellness Educator <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome.html>

[Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca)

469 University Centre

(204) 295-9032

##### *Live Well @ UofM*

For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html>

### Your Rights and Responsibilities

As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The Academic Calendar <http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is one important source of information. View the sections University Policies and Procedures and General Academic Regulations.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final grade appeals. Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the Academic Integrity regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the Student Academic Misconduct procedure for more information.

### Respectful Work and Learning Environment

The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected to conduct yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior include the:

#### *Respectful Work and Learning Environment*

Please refer to the document:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html)

#### *Student Discipline*

Please refer to the document:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/students/student\\_discipline.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html)

#### *Violent or Threatening Behaviour*

Please refer to the document:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/669.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html)

#### *Sexual Assault*

If you experience Sexual Assault or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The Sexual Assault policy may be found at: [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html) More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>

#### *Intellectual Property*

For information about rights and responsibilities regarding Intellectual Property view the policy [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual\\_Property\\_Policy\\_-\\_2013\\_10\\_01.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy_-_2013_10_01.pdf)

For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school web site <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>

Contact an Academic Advisor within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

#### Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

[student\\_advocacy@umanitoba.ca](mailto:student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca)