

GEOG 7630
Graduate Seminar in Environment and Geography
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY
Winter 2025
Fridays 9:00-11:30, 5th Floor Wallace Theatre

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Course Description

This course is an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills within the graduate program and aid other students to develop research and communication skills required to be successful in the graduate program. The course is organized around professional development workshops and seminar presentations given by the students on their area of expertise.

Objectives

The objectives of the Graduate Seminar in Environment and Geography are:

1. To develop communication, organizing, and story-telling skills among graduate students
2. To provide an opportunity for graduate students to take a leadership role in the graduate program by organizing workshops for the class on skills required to be successful in the graduate program.
3. To broaden graduate students' environmental and geographical knowledge beyond their own study area through attending presentations on a broad range of graduate student and faculty research topics as well as professional development seminars on academic skills
4. To promote academic community and a collegial research environment within the Department of Environment and Geography.

Course Requirements

This course is a pass/fail course. To obtain a pass in the course, students must complete the following requirements with a level of competency appropriate to a graduate program.

1. Propose and Plan a Professional Development Panel
 2. Propose a topic for Student Development Workshop
 3. Present either at a Student Development Workshop or a Seminar presentation
 4. Organize the student seminars or run a Professional Development Panel
1. *Professional Development Panel:* There are 4 professional development slots in the course. Working alone or in pairs, students must propose (by 1 December 2024) a Professional Development Panel for the course. These panels are 1 hr long and generally consist of inviting 2-3 faculty members from the university to speak on an area of professional (not research) expertise that will be relevant to students in the Graduate Seminar. For the proposal, you will submit a 1-page (max) description of the topic (including how it is relevant to students in the seminar), a list of potential questions/areas that you wish the panellists to address, and a list of 3-4 potential presenters. Ensure that the presenters can speak (collectively) to a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds.
2. *Student Development Workshop:* Alongside the professional development workshops, there will be a 50-minute

student development workshop that will focus on practical skill development for success in a graduate program. Working alone or in pairs, students must propose (by 1 December 2024), a topic for a student development panel. This 1-page proposal will cover the topic, how is it relevant to the wide range of students within the course (including students from the natural sciences and social sciences), and what potential hands-on practical activities could be done during the workshop. After the proposal has been reviewed, students also have the option of working with the instructor to facilitate this workshop (see #3 below).

3. *Presentation:* Presentation skills are a central focus to the Graduate Seminar Course. In this section of the course, students have the option of either presenting a) A Student Development Workshop, or b) A traditional Graduate Seminar Presentation.
4. *Organizing:* Both the panels and graduate student seminars will need to be organized. For the panels, organizers will be responsible for contacting the panellists, coordinating their participation, introducing the topic, and chairing discussion following the panellist presentations. For the graduate student seminars, schedules will need to be organized and the students and talk titles respectively introduced during class.

Class Communication

The University requires all students to activate an official University email account. For full details of the Electronic Communication with Students please visit: https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2021-06/Electronic%20Communication%20with%20Students%20Policy%20-%202013_09_01%20RF.pdf

January 10

Introduction (10:00 – 11:30 am)

- A. Library Resources
 - a. Grace O’Hanlon, Faculty Librarian
- B. Introduction to Course
 - a. Introduction of people, the work that you do here,
 - b. Smaller group introductions, make sure some science, some social science.
 - c. Cover important details of the course (syllabus)
- C. Graduate student orientation
 - a. CJ Mundy and Celia Mellinger

January 17 – no class

January 24

Student Development Workshop (9:00 – 10:00 am)

Title: An introduction to some useful writing tools/applications for graduate students (Mehran and Mathilde)

Professional Development Panel (10:00 – 11:00 am)

Title: Unlocking Success: How to Thrive in Your Environment and Geography Graduate Program and Future Career
Chairs: Mehran and Mathilde

Panel Speakers:

Dr. Warren Bernauer

Dr. Dustin Isleifson

January 31

Student Development Workshop (9:30 – 10:30 am)

Title: Three Minute Elevator Speech (Grant and Bright)

February 7

Undergraduate honours poster evaluations (9:30 – 11:00 am)

February 14 – teaching professional development and research and indigenous communities student development (Henok and Minket)

Student Development Workshop (9:30 – 10:30 am)

Title: Research and Indigenous communities (Minket and Henok)

Professional Development Panel (Tentative 10:30 – 11:30 am)

Title: Teaching and knowledge transfer skills

Chairs: Henok and Minket

Panel Speakers:

Dr. Karen Alley

Dr. Bruce Erickson

February 28

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

Chair: Yuhua

March 7

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

Chair: Bright

March 14

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

Chair: Grant

March 21

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

Chair: TBD

March 28 – Seminar

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

Chair: TBD

Student Support and Conduct

Writing and Study Skills Support

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you as you fulfill the requirements for this course. Through the ALC, you may meet with a study skills specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, reading and note-taking strategies, and test-taking strategies. You may also meet one-on-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. Writing tutors can also give you feedback if you submit a draft of

your paper online. (Please note that the online tutors require 48 hours, from Mondays to Fridays, to return your paper with comments.)

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

You can also talk to a member of the Academic Learning staff by calling 480-1481 or by dropping in at 201 Tier Building.

[Student Accessibility Services](#)

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) provides support and advocacy for students with disabilities of all kinds: hearing, learning, injury-related, mental health, medical, physical or visual. Students with temporary disabilities such as sprains and breaks are also eligible to use our services. SAS acts as a liaison between students and the faculty and staff of the University of Manitoba as well as support agencies within the province of Manitoba. Please phone: 474-6213 (voice) or 474-9690 (TTY) for service.

[Student Counselling Centre](#)

Student Counselling Centre (SCC) offers individual, couple or family counselling in individual and groups formats. Please phone: 474-8592 or visit SCC at 474 University Centre.

Policy on Respectful Work and Learning Environment

https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html

Student Discipline

https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html

Accessibility Policy for Student with Disabilities

https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/accessibility.html

Withdrawal from class

http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/leave_return/695.html

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, Cheating and Examination Impersonation

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). 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.

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 this is not permitted by the instructor, can constitute Inappropriate Collaboration and may be subject to penalty under the [Student Discipline By-Law](#).

An assignment which 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.

When in doubt about any practice, ask your professor or instructor. For more information, consult the [Academic Integrity](#) webpage of the University of Manitoba.

The [Student Advocacy Office](#), 519 University Centre, 474-7423, is a resource available to students dealing with Academic Integrity matters.