

# GEOG 7610/7620

## Graduate Seminar in Environment and Geography

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND GEOGRAPHY  
Winter 2025,  
Fridays 9:30-11:30, Klaus Hochheim Theatre (5<sup>th</sup> Floor Wallace)

Instructor: C.J. Mundy, Associate Department Head (Graduate)  
Office: 582 Wallace  
Contact: [cj.mundy@umanitoba.ca](mailto:cj.mundy@umanitoba.ca)

### Course Description

This course is an opportunity for students to develop research and communication skills required to be successful in the graduate program. It will also provide them with a greater understanding of the research happening within the fields of geography, environmental science and environmental studies. The course is organized around seminar presentations given by the students on their area of expertise; The course is graded pass/fail.

### 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 present their thesis research to their fellow students, Department members, and the broader community and to receive feedback on their work
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. In order to obtain a pass in the course, students must complete the following requirements with a level of competency appropriate to a graduate program.

1. Learn the basics of oral presentations and present one seminar.
2. Attend, participate, and provide feedback on seminars by other students.
3. Attend and contribute to professional development seminars by faculty members.

### Missed Classes

You must notify the Course Coordinator by e-mail when it is necessary to miss a class, indicating the reason. Medical situations and direct conflicts with courses, conferences, or field-work are acceptable reasons for missing classes. However, if more than 3 classes are missed, the student will not be able to fulfil the requirements of the course. Working on your own research or being busy meeting deadlines is not an acceptable reason.

### Assignments:

*Seminar Presentations:* Each student will present one seminar presentation as scheduled by the instructor. The presentation will be 18-20 minutes long with a 3-5 minute question period. The presentation will be on the student's thesis

proposal. The content will, however, need to be targeted to a broad audience, as the rest of the students may not be familiar with the area. It may be necessary to add additional introductory and explanatory material so that all in the room can obtain a good understanding of the presented material. Students should take some time to discuss their presentation topic with their supervisor. Further details will be provided in class.

Students need to submit a 150-250 word abstract, title, and a brief personal biography to the course coordinator by February 13.

*Seminar Chair:* Students in 7620 and 7630 (Phd Students) will also act as the chair for the seminar presentations. Chairs will have to introduce the presenters, field questions, and ensure the timing of the session is followed.

*Seminar Feedback:* Students will provide feedback on other students' seminar presentations at least twice throughout the term.

## **Schedule and Topics**

### **January 16**

#### Introduction (10:00 – 11:30 am)

- A. Library Resources
  - a. Corser du Pont, Faculty Librarian
- B. Introduction to Course
- C. Graduate student orientation
  - a. CJ Mundy and Celia Mellinger

### **January 23**

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

Title: AI for Research: Tools of a New Era (Paulo)

#### Student Development Workshop (10:30 – 11:30 am)

Title: Surviving and Thriving in Graduate School: Balancing Academics and Personal Life (Tanjina)

### **January 30**

#### Professional Development Panel (10:00 – 11:30 am)

Title: Writing a thesis proposal

Chair: C.J.

Panel Speakers:

Dr. Mark Hanson (Dean)

Dr. Jonathan Peyton (Associate Dean Academic)

### **February 6**

#### Undergraduate honours poster evaluations (9:30 – 10:30 am)

## **February 13**

### Professional Development Panel (9:30 – 10:30 am)

Title: Converting your thesis to a published work

Chair: Mahdi

Panel Speakers:

Dr. Brock Edwards

Dr. Warren Bernauer

### Student Development Workshop (10:30 – 11:30 am)

Title: On the application of bibliographic software: Zotero (Mahdi)

## **February 20 and 27 – no class**

## **March 6**

### Professional Development Panel (10:00 – 11:30 am)

Title: Communicating Science with Community Partners and the General Public

Chair: Tanjina and Paulo

Panel Speakers:

Dr. Stephane McLachlan

Dr. Eric Collins

Dr. Franck Ghomsi

## **March 13 – Seminar**

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

## **March 20 – Seminar**

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

## **March 27 – Seminar**

Seminar (9:30 – 11:30 am)

## **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/](http://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](https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html)

### *Student Discipline*

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

### *Withdrawal from class*

[http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/leave\\_return/695.html](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.

