

# HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (EESA10H3Y LEC99)

**Instructor:** Dr Ariola Visha

**Lecture:** Asynchronous; pre-recorded  
**Office hours:** Friday 4-5 pm (in Bb collaborate)  
**Email:** a.visha@utoronto.ca

**TA:** Brian Pentz (Lecture 3-7)

**Email:** brian.pentz@mail.utoronto.ca

**TA:** Xiaoqing Shao (Lectures 8-12)

**Email:** xiaoqing.shao@mail.utoronto.ca

## **The intent of the course**

This course explores the relationship between disease in human populations and environmental pollution. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the fate and transport of pollutants, how they are taken up by humans and their long-term effects on health; the role of naturally-occurring carcinogens will also be examined. The course will include a view of risk assessment and toxicology using case studies. No prior knowledge of environmental or medical science is required.

## **Course Delivery:**

This course will be delivered online, through the university's management system Quercus. The Quercus website can be accessed through the University of Toronto's portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca>. Students can log in using their UTORid and password.

This course is Online Asynchronous, which means **NO LIVE LECTURES**. The lecture videos will be posted weekly, **every Tuesday at 9 am on Quercus** and will remain posted until the end of the semester.

Lectures can be accessible in 3 places: 1) under the modules tab labeled "Week # Lecture Slides & Videos" and as a backup in case of technical issues in the 2) Media Gallery tab and in Bb Collaborate under the "Recordings" tab.

A portion of the lecture slides will include content from the course when it was delivered by Dr. Silvija Stefanovic. To acknowledge credit to Dr. Silvija Stefanovic these slides will also include her name alongside mine. I would also like to acknowledge that the syllabus structure has also been adapted from Dr. Silvija Stefanovic's course structure and outline.

The lecture slides will be posted in \*.pdf format on Quercus. You will require Adobe Reader to open the files (available free of charge at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)).

## **Privacy and Use of Course Materials**

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other source depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use only, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor

## **Student recording of class content**

Students creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures are in strict violation of the course instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Such actions will require disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. Although students are permitted to download session videos and materials for their own academic use, they may not create additional audio or video recordings without written permission from the instructor. Students requiring recordings for accommodation needs and purposes can contact the course instructor.

**Grading:**

Discussion  
 Midterm  
 Final Exam

20% **Ongoing, see Supplemental Material and Discussion Board due dates**  
 40% **Online during the mid-term period, time and date TBA**  
 40% **Online during the final exam period, time and date TBA**

**Supplemental Material and Discussion Board** (required for the exams):

The discussions supplementary material will be posted by TAs on Tuesday at 9am on a weekly basis. TAs will regularly monitor the Discussion Board linked to the posted material. The discussion will cover the same topic discussed in the lecture and it is strongly advised you watch the lectures before you participate in your discussion assignment.

You will be divided into ten groups alphabetically based on last name. Every week people in one particular group will be required to answer the questions on the discussion board to get their mark. **For the mark, you need to participate in discussion only ONCE for the whole term.**

Below are the lecture/week numbers and dates when each group should participate in discussions.

Group #	Lecture #	Week #	Last Names	Start Date: Tuesday @ 9:00 am	Due Date: Friday @ 11:59 pm
Group 1	Lecture 3	Week 3	A - C	May 25th	May 28th
Group 2	Lecture 4	Week 4	D - F	June 1st	June 4th
Group 3	Lecture 5	Week 5	G - H	June 8th	June 11th
Group 4	Lecture 6	Week 6	I - K	June 15th	June 18th
Group 5	Lecture 7	Week 7	L	June 29th	July 2nd
Group 6	Lecture 8	Week 8	M - N	July 6th	July 9th
Group 7	Lecture 9	Week 9	P - R	July 13th	July 16th
Group 8	Lecture 10	Week 10	S	July 20th	July 23rd
Group 9	Lecture 11	Week 11	T - W	July 27th	July 30th
Group 10	Lecture 12	Week 12	X - Z	August 3rd	August 6th

You can post only your opinion on the question asked for 4 days (**until Friday at 11:59 pm**) after the supplementary material is posted. Please make sure you post the specific answer and not your notes in the response (no copying and pasting straight from lecture). You have to submit your discussion first and then you will be able to see what other students wrote. You will not be able to delete or edit your comments once they are submitted but you can feel free to enter more NEW points (copying and pasting opinions of others or being repetitive will not be considered as a substantial contribution) if you like before the due date on Saturdays at 11:59 pm. **However, only the first submission will be marked.**

You will be credited only for the week when it was mandatory for you to take part in the discussion. For example, people in a Group 1 will not receive their mark if they miss answering during the week of Group 1 and then request accommodation to answer during the week of Group 2. **Accommodations for missing your assigned group will only be granted only if the proper documentation is provided within 5 business days of the missed assignment due date. Failing to follow these instructions will result in a mark of 0 for discussion.**

After the due date, everyone enrolled in the class will have access to posted resources and discussion responses. All students are responsible to watch ALL supplementary videos or reading material from lecture 3-12, as they will be testable for your midterm and final exam.

### **Online Midterm:**

The 2-hours midterm exam will be held during the mid-term period, time and date TBA. The midterm will be online. The exam will consist of 80 Fill in the Blanks, Matching, MCQs, Multiple Dropdowns and True/False questions (60 questions from the lecture material and 20 questions from the supplemental material). The midterm will be worth 40% of the final grade.

The midterm will draw from lectures 1-6 and includes lecture notes and supplemental material posted on Quercus (videos, articles). **The midterm questions and answers will not be available for students to review after the exam.**

The midterm is closed book. In order to uphold the integrity of this course during this time, we will request that you each complete a Midterm Exam Take-Home Honor Pledge Question. The completion of the pledge is mandatory and not completing will be considered as an Academic Integrity Violation issue and students' names will be sent to the Departmental Chair (DPES) for assessment. More details about the pledge submission will follow.

### **Online Final Exam:**

The 2-hours final examination is worth 40% of the final grade for the course. The exam will consist of 80 Fill in the Blanks, Matching, MCQs, Multiple Dropdowns and True/False questions (60 questions from the lecture material and 20 questions from the supplemental material). **The final exam is NOT cumulative.**

The final exam will draw from lectures 7-12 and includes lecture notes and supplemental material posted on Quercus (videos, articles).

The final exam is closed book. In order to uphold the integrity of this course during this time, we will request that you each complete a Final Exam Take-Home Honour Pledge Question. The completion of the pledge is mandatory and not completing will be considered as an Academic Integrity Violation issue and students' names will be sent to the Departmental Chair (DPES) for assessment.

### **Missed Term Work Procedure, Summer 2021**

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- Missed Final Exams are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService: <http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office: <https://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>

### **Accommodations for Illness or Emergency, Religious Conflicts**

For missed work due to ILLNESS, EMERGENCY, or RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for [Missed Term Work Form](#)**
2. **Declare your absence** on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

**Deadline:** You must complete the above form **within 5 business days** of the missed work.

### **Accommodations for Academic Conflicts, Time Zone Conflicts**

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (i.e. two quizzes or tests scheduled at the same time), please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for [Missed Term Work Form](#)** choosing “Other” as your reason for missed work and explaining the conflict in the space provided.

**Deadline:** You should report the conflict **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

*Note: Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Accommodations may only be possible in the case of quizzes and tests that are both scheduled during the same discrete period. Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts.*

*Note: Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who choose to register in two synchronous courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules may not necessarily be accommodated.*

### **After submitting your documentation:**

**You are responsible for checking your Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.**

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

Completion of this form does not guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

### **Missed Accommodations**

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form

### **Accommodations for Students Registered with AccessAbility Services:**

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- Contact the [AccessAbility office](#)

### **Communications Policy:**

Students are encouraged to avail of the posted virtual office hour(s). Note that virtual office hour visits will not be recorded. Correspondence by email or requesting a meeting outside of the scheduled office hour(s) is also acceptable. I will endeavour to respond to email within two workdays. In all email correspondence regarding this course, please note the following:

1. Always use your University of Toronto email address (...@mail.utoronto.ca) for all course-related communications.
2. Include the course code (e.g., ENV100Y5Y) as part of your subject line, and include your full name and student number in the body of the email
3. Check the course Quercus site before emailing a question, to make sure that it has not already been answered

### **Accessibility Statement:**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations at (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

### **Other Course Policies:**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Each student is expected to submit **individual work** for grading. It is an academic offence to plagiarize and those who do will be subjected to University procedures (see the University calendar).

### **Lecture Topics and Video Availability Dates**

1. Lecture/Week 1. Introduction, ground rules, course structure. Understanding the Health Effects of Environmental Hazards ..... May 11<sup>th</sup>
2. Lecture/Week 2. Airborne Hazards and Human Health ..... May 18<sup>th</sup>
3. Lecture/Week 3. Waterborne Hazards and Human Health ..... May 25<sup>th</sup>
4. Lecture/Week 4. Chemical Hazards and Human Health ..... June 1<sup>st</sup>
5. Lecture/Week 5. Heavy Metals and Human Health..... June 8<sup>th</sup>
6. Lecture/Week 6. Radiation and Electromagnetic Hazards and Human Health ..... June 15<sup>th</sup>
- READING WEEK June 22<sup>nd</sup> –June 26<sup>th</sup>**
7. Lecture/Week 7. Biological Hazards and Human Health ..... June 29<sup>th</sup>
8. Lecture/Week 8. Foodborne Hazards and Human Health ..... July 6<sup>th</sup>

9. Lecture/Week 9. Toxicology ..... July 13<sup>th</sup>
10. Lecture/Week 10. The Science of Risk Assessment ..... July 20<sup>th</sup>
11. Lecture/Week 11. Environmental Hazards to Specific Populations ..... July 27<sup>th</sup>
12. Lecture/Week 12. Climate change; Ozone depletion; Species Loss and Ecosystem Disruption ..... August 3<sup>rd</sup>

