ENVIRSC/EARTHSC 3B03
GLOBAL CHANGE, ECOSYSTEMS AND THE EARTH SYSTEM
(January, 2017)

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Overview:
An examination of how soil, water, vegetation, ecosystem and climate processes occur and interact at landscape, regional and global scales, and of the consequences of climate change on terrestrial ecosystem form and function. Feedbacks between ecological systems and global change will be examined with an emphasis on carbon cycling.

Big Questions:
How is the global earth system changing? How are global ecosystems changing? How are ecosystems and the global earth system linked?

Text:
None. Several readings will be posted to A2L throughout the term.

Lectures:
Lectures are on Monday and Thursday (9:30-10:20, DSB AB102). NOTE: Not all presentation slides will be available on Avenue to Learn. It is the student’s responsibility to attend lectures.

Tutorials/Labs:
Monday  12:30 - 14:20  BSB B154  Lab Slot #1
Tuesday 11:30 - 13:20  BSB 117  Lab Slot #4
Wednesday 08:30 - 10:20  BSB B154  Lab Slot #3
Wednesday 12:30 - 14:20  BSB B154  Lab Slot #2
Thursday 11:30 - 13:20  BSB 105  Lab Slot #5

Grading:
Tests    30%    [3 @ 10%]
Assignments  20%    [4 @ 5%]
Project 15%    [Op-Ed 10%, Presentations 5%]
Final exam  35%
Missed Assignments and Tests
The tests and assignments are optional. The final marks calculation \textbf{WILL} include the \textbf{FINAL EXAM} and \textbf{PROJECT} and any additional work completed. The calculation of all completed work that leads to the highest final mark will be used. Thus, it is \textbf{TO YOUR ADVANTAGE} to do all tests and assignments because they will not negatively affect your final mark. There is, therefore, no need to complete the McMaster Student Absence Form. No make-up dates for tests will be allowed and late assignments will be graded a zero.

\textbf{Academic Dishonesty}
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at: \url{www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity}

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2. Improper collaboration in group work. 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we will be using A2L. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

\textit{The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.}