



## **ENST-200 – Introduction to Environmental Sustainability**

**University Arts and Science**

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2026

**Course Outline Review Date:** 2031-04-01

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**Program Area:** Math and Sciences

**Description:**

This interdisciplinary course examines how human activities influence planetary health and ecosystems by integrating ecological science with diverse cultural perspectives and environmental ethics. Students will apply the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework to analyze sustainability challenges from local to global scales, while exploring how both scientific and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge offer approaches to environmental issues. Through case studies and collaborative problem-solving, students will examine how various interest groups shape environmental policy, governance, and sustainable practices, and will critically reflect on their own values and assumptions to develop effective approaches to contemporary sustainability challenges.

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**Program Information:**

This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several Business and University Arts and Science Programs. Refer to the College Program guide for additional information.

**Delivery Methods:** On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

**Credit Type:** College of the Rockies Credits

**Credits:** 3

**Course type/s:** Social Sciences

**Instructional Activity and Hours:**

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

**Course Requisites:**

None

**Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes**

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy [2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) or contact an education advisor for more information.

**Course Transfer Credit:**

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

**Textbook Resources:**

All required textbook readings, online resources, and articles will be provided at no cost to students.

## Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- use basic concepts of ecology to explain how human activity relates to and influences planetary health and ecosystems;
- apply principles of environmental sustainability and the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to evaluate real-world issues from local to global levels;
- explore how different worldviews, including scientific perspectives and Indigenous Peoples' traditional ecological knowledge, shape the ways we think about people, culture, the environment, and planetary health;
- reflect on personal values and ethics, and evaluate how questioning assumptions can reshape approaches to environmental issues;
- examine how worldviews and cultural perspectives shape decision-making related to natural resources, including how these factors contribute to collaboration and conflict in sustainable development;
- analyze how industries, governments, communities, agencies, and Indigenous Peoples' stewardship can shape policy and governance frameworks and sustainable practices at multiple spatial scales (for example, local, national, and global levels);
- discuss environmental ethics, including how place, relationship to land, and worldview shape different understandings of what is right or wrong; and
- practice collaborative approaches to sustainability challenges through case studies, simulations, or community engagement.

## Course Topics:

*See instructor syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*

- Environmental Sustainability
  - Sustainability Definitions
  - Worldview
  - Indigenous Acknowledgement and Reciprocity
  - Traditional Ecological and Western Knowledge Systems
  - Critical Thinking
  - Scientific Method
- Global Environment and Planetary Health
  - Climate Change
  - Biodiversity Loss and Human Health
  - Carrying Capacities

- Anthropocene
- Interdisciplinary Sustainability
  - Systems Thinking
  - Triple and Quadruple Bottom Line
  - Reciprocity and Relational Accountability
  - Global Frameworks – UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Worldviews and Environmental Perspectives
  - Ecocentric and Anthropocentric Orientations
  - Eco-philosophies
  - Ethics
  - Sense of Place
- Ecology and Ecology Concepts
  - Carrying Capacity
  - Biosphere Integrity
  - Ecosystem Services
  - Feedback Loops
  - Resilience
  - Earth Systems
- Natural Resources and Decision Making
  - Resource Extraction
  - Interest Groups
  - Tragedy of the Commons
  - Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Decision Making Approaches
- Local Economies and the Multiplier Effect
  - Development
  - Regenerative Economies
  - Globalization
  - Government Roles and Policy
  - Socioeconomic Impacts
  - Environmental Management Strategies
- Environmental Ethics, Justice, and Equity
  - Moral Responsibilities
  - Environmental Justice and Disproportionate Impacts
  - Indigenous Rights, Title, and Sovereignty
  - Equity in Decision Making
  - Models of Co-Management and Governance
- Sustainability Problem Solving, Innovations, and Futures
  - Communication and Literacy
  - Circular Economy
  - Models and Case Studies of Development
  - Resilience in Systems
  - Reconciliation and Partnership in Practice
  - Sustainability Innovations

## Evaluation and Assessments

### Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Project	30%
Assignments	20%
Class Activities (including reflection and participation)	10%
Unit Exams	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

### Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

**No pass requirements available.**

**Evaluation Notes:** A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

#### Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

#### Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

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## **Equivalent Course(s) and Course Code Changes**

Equivalent Course: Students who have received COTR credit for ENST 200 may not receive additional credit for ATBO 207 or TOUR 237.

Prior Course Code: TRMP 237

## **Course Changes:**

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.