

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### BIOL111 “Ecology and the Environment” Winter 2022

#### Teaching Team:

<b>Instructor:</b>  Dr. Diane Orihel Department of Biology School of Environmental Studies	<b>Teaching Assistants:</b>  Natasha Neves (head TA) Aaron Dain Department of Biology
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#### Correspondence:

<p>The Instructor’s primary means of communication to students is through <b>OnQ Announcements</b>.</p>
<p>Please kindly ask general questions about the course content and assignments in the “<b>Ask the Teaching Team</b>” <b>OnQ Discussion Forum</b>. This is the most efficient and equitable way of disseminating information about the course to all students (150 students).</p>
<p><b>All email correspondence about this course must be sent to <a href="mailto:bio111@queensu.ca">bio111@queensu.ca</a></b>          This email account is accessible only to the teaching team.          Emails are monitored by head TA once daily between 8 am – 5 pm (weekdays only).</p>

#### Technology:

<p><b>Course Management: <u>OnQ Learning Management System</u>.</b>          The site for this course should be visible to enrolled students on OnQ which is accessed via <a href="#">MyQueensU</a>.</p>
<p><b>Synchronous Classes: <u>Zoom Video Conferencing</u></b></p> <p>Classes are live (not recorded) on <b>Tuesdays 11:30 am to 1:00 pm &amp; Fridays 1:00 to 2:30 pm</b>  <b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b> Meeting ID: 946 8604 9889, Passcode: 383902  <a href="https://queensu.zoom.us/j/94686049889?pwd=dFY0SjhGUXphZ2paY2d5MzNrYXoxdz09">https://queensu.zoom.us/j/94686049889?pwd=dFY0SjhGUXphZ2paY2d5MzNrYXoxdz09</a></p>

#### Virtual Office Hours:

<p><b>Teaching Assistant – Natasha Neves (Head TA)</b></p> <p><b>Virtual Office Hours:</b> Tuesdays 4 - 5 pm (drop-in)          Please use same Zoom meeting as for classes.          Email <a href="mailto:bio111@queensu.ca">bio111@queensu.ca</a> if you need to set up an alternative time for a meeting.</p>
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## Required Books:

**Environmental Change & Challenge, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition** by Philip Dearden and Bruce Mitchell.

**Braiding Sweetgrass**, By Robin Kimmerer.

Books are available from the Campus Bookstore and Queen's Library (Course Reserves).

### 1. *Intended Student Learning Outcomes*

The learning outcomes of BIOL111 set by the Queen's Biology department are to: *"describe the basic principles of community ecology and population ecology; identify the main biomes on Earth and explain the factors that influence them; analyse the factors controlling human population growth in developed and developing countries; describe the earth's renewable and non-renewable resources, their current status, the factors that influence them and explain how humans can use them in more sustainable ways; and predict most likely future trends of current environmental problems and formulate potential solutions"*.

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

1. describe the principal processes that sustain the planetary life support system;
2. discuss how human activities have caused unprecedented environmental degradation;
3. explain and give examples of how scientists apply ecological principles to understand contemporary environmental problems;
4. practice the professional skills of reading, critiquing, and discussing ecological research and environmental issues with more confidence; and
5. appreciate the diversity of career options available to applied ecologists.

### 2. *Assessment of Learning Outcomes*

**Learning outcomes** for this course will be assessed through three different types of evaluations:

- (i) Quizzes on textbook lectures and assigned textbook readings.
- (ii) Reflections on Spotlight lectures/videos.
- (iii) Term Essay on "Braiding Sweetgrass" book.

Detailed instructions for graded components and deadlines are communicated on the course OnQ site.

### 3. *Course Materials*

Materials for each class are listed on the course OnQ site.

- Required readings to accompany Instructor's lectures are from the textbook **Environmental Change & Challenge, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition** by Philip Dearden and Bruce Mitchell.
- Scientific papers to read for Journal Clubs will be provided on OnQ
- For the Term Essay, you will read **Braiding Sweetgrass**, by Robin Kimmerer.
- Both required texts are available from the Campus Bookstore and via Queen's Library (Course Reserves). You can also read **Braiding Sweetgrass** online here:

[https://ocul-qu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL\\_QU/r9dor2/alma9952362903605158](https://ocul-qu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_QU/r9dor2/alma9952362903605158)

## BIOL111 W22 Syllabus

**4. Course Structure and Timeline**

The **structure of the course** involves four different components:

- Textbook Lectures by Instructor (highlighted BLUE below)
- In-Class Quizzes about the textbook lectures/readings (highlighted YELLOW below)
- Spotlight Series of Guest Speakers and Films (highlighted ORANGE below)
- Term Essay (highlighted PURPLE below)

The weekly **timeline of the course** is:

**Class Schedule:**

Week	Class	Date	Class Description	Reading	Assignment	Due Date
1	1	Tuesday, January 11, 2022	Course Overview			
	2	Friday, January 14, 2022	Spotlight 1		Reflection 1	14-Jan
2	3	Tuesday, January 18, 2022	Lecture 1: Introduction	Ch 1-2		
	4	Friday, January 21, 2022	Braiding Sweetgrass		Term Essay	29-Mar
3	5	Tuesday, January 25, 2022	Lecture 2: Ecosphere I	Ch 3-5		
	6	Friday, January 28, 2022	Journal Club 1	Paper 1	Discussion 1	In-Class
4	7	Tuesday, February 1, 2022	Lecture 3: Ecosphere II	Ch 3-5		
	8	Friday, February 4, 2022	Spotlight 2		Reflection 2	04-Feb
5	9	Tuesday, February 8, 2022	In-Class Quiz 1 (on Lectures 1-3)		Quiz 1	In-Class
	10	Friday, February 11, 2022	Journal Club 2	Paper 2	Discussion 2	In-Class
6	11	Tuesday, February 15, 2022	Lecture 4: Climate Change	Ch 8		
	12	Friday, February 18, 2022	Spotlight 3		Reflection 3	18-Feb
		Tuesday, February 22, 2022	NO CLASSES - MIDTERM READING BREAK			
		Friday, February 25, 2022				
7	13	Tuesday, March 1, 2022	Lecture 5: Oceans and Fisheries	Ch 9		In-Class
	14	Friday, March 4, 2022	Spotlight 4		Reflection 4	04-Mar
8	15	Tuesday, March 8, 2022	Lecture 6: Agriculture	Ch 11		
	16	Friday, March 11, 2022	Journal Club 3	Paper 3	Discussion 3	In-Class
9	17	Tuesday, March 15, 2022	In-Class Quiz 2 (on Lectures 4-6)		Quiz 2	In-Class
	18	Friday, March 18, 2022	Spotlight 5		Reflection 5	18-Mar
10	19	Tuesday, March 22, 2022	Lecture 7: Water	Ch 12		
	20	Friday, March 25, 2022	Journal Club 4	Paper 4	Discussion 4	In-Class
11	21	Tuesday, March 29, 2022	Lecture 8: Minerals & Energy	Ch 13		
	22	Friday, April 1, 2022	Spotlight 6		Reflection 6	01-Apr
12	23	Tuesday, April 5, 2022	Lecture 9: End Species & Protected Areas	Ch 15		
	24	Friday, April 8, 2022	In-Class Quiz 3 (on Lectures 7-9)		Quiz 3	In-Class

## 5. Grading Scheme and Grading Method

### Grading Scheme

The table below shows the mark allocation:

Category	Graded Item	Mark	Category Subtotal
Quizzes	Quiz 1	15	45
	Quiz 2	15	
	Quiz 3	15	
Spotlights (drop lowest mark)	Reflection 1	3	15
	Reflection 2	3	
	Reflection 3	3	
	Reflection 4	3	
	Reflection 5	3	
	Reflection 6	3	
Journal Clubs (drop lowest mark)	Discussion 1	5	15
	Discussion 2	5	
	Discussion 3	5	
	Discussion 4	5	
Braiding Sweetgrass	Essay	25	25
<b>Total</b>			<b>100</b>

\* Lowest mark for Spotlights and Journal Clubs will automatically be removed from the calculation.

### Grading Method

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

## 6. Timing of Final Examinations

There are no exams for this course.

## 7. Universal Design, Essential Requirements, and Late/Missing Assignments

To make the course universally flexible for students:

- An automatic **48-hr grace period** for every assignment (*academic consideration not required*);
- The **lowest mark** for one journal club and one spotlight reflection will automatically be removed from the calculation of your final mark (*academic consideration not required*).

### To pass this course, you must:

- **Attend at least 75% (18/24) of classes**
- **Complete and pass (> 50%) at least 2 of 3 quizzes**
- **Achieve a final mark of 50% or greater**

All assignments are due to OnQ on their due date (i.e., the deadline posted on the OnQ Calendar). An automatic grace period of 48-hr will automatically be granted (without asking for permission). Penalties of 5% per day will be given for late assignments. Missed assignments will be assigned a mark of zero (or dropped, if an academic consideration is approved).

Please note:

- If you miss (more than 1) **Spotlight** for a valid reason (*academic consideration required*), the assignment will be removed from the calculation of your final mark;
- If you miss (more than 1) **Journal Club** for a valid reason (*academic consideration required*), the assignment will be removed from the calculation of your final mark; and
- If you miss any **Quiz** for a valid reason (*academic consideration required*), contact the Instructor to arrange a make-up quiz.

## 8. Statement on Academic Integrity

Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity; honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the [Senate Report on Principles and Priorities](#)). Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and their behavior conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see [Academic Regulation 1](#)), on an Arts and Science [website page on academic integrity](#), and from the instructors of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

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**Plagiarism.** Regardless of how and where you retrieve information, the principles of academic integrity apply. Please visit these helpful websites to help you make sure that you are able to write things in your own words:

<https://www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity/students/avoiding-plagiarismcheating>

<https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/academic-writing/avoiding-plagiarism-paraphrasing>

[http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA\\_paraphrase.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_paraphrase.html)

## 9. Technology

This course uses Queen's OnQ Learning Management System for course management and Zoom Video Conferencing for synchronous (live) classes:

<p><b>OnQ Learning Management System</b> The site for this course should be visible to enrolled students through Queen's OnQ.</p>	<p><b>Zoom Video Conferencing</b> <b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b> Meeting ID: 946 8604 9889, Passcode: 383902 <a href="https://queensu.zoom.us/j/94686049889?pwd=dFY0SjhGUXphZ2paY2d5MzNrYXoxdz09">https://queensu.zoom.us/j/94686049889?pwd=dFY0SjhGUXphZ2paY2d5MzNrYXoxdz09</a></p>
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**Web Browsers.** OnQ performs best when using the most recent version of the web browsers, Chrome or Firefox. Safari and Edge are strongly discouraged as they are known to cause issues with OnQ.

**Internet Speed.** While wired internet connection is encouraged, we recognize that students may be relying on a wireless connection. A minimum download speed of 10 Mbps and up to 20 Mbps for multimedia is recommended. To test your internet speed: <https://www.speedtest.net/>

For technology support ranging from setting up your device, issues with OnQ to installing software, contact ITS Support Centre: <https://www.queensu.ca/its/itsc>

## 10. Turnitin Statement

This course uses Turnitin, a third-party application that helps maintain standards of excellence in academic integrity. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments through OnQ to Turnitin. In doing so, students' work will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database, where they will be used solely to detect plagiarism.

Turnitin is a suite of tools that provide instructors with information about the authenticity of submitted work and facilitates the process of grading. Turnitin compares submitted files against its extensive database of content and produces a similarity report and a similarity score for each assignment. A similarity score is the percentage of a document that is similar to content held within the database. Turnitin does not determine if an instance of plagiarism has occurred. Instead, it gives instructors the information they need to select the authenticity of work as a part of a larger process.

Please read [Turnitin's Privacy Pledge, Privacy Policy, and Terms of Service](#), which govern users' relationship with Turnitin. Also, please note that Turnitin uses cookies and other tracking technologies; however, in its service contract with Queen's, Turnitin has agreed that neither Turnitin nor its third-party partners will use data collected through cookies or other tracking technologies for marketing or advertising purposes. For further information about how you can exercise control over cookies, see [Turnitin's Privacy Policy](#)

### **11. Copyright of Course Materials**

Course materials created by the course instructors, including all slides, presentations, handouts, assignments, and other course materials, are the intellectual property of the instructors. It is a departure from academic integrity to distribute, publicly post, sell or otherwise disseminate an instructor's course materials or to provide an instructor's course materials to anyone else for distribution, posting, sale or other means of dissemination, without the instructors' express consent. A student who engages in such conduct may be subject to penalty for a departure from academic integrity and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

### **12. Privacy Statement for Instructors Who Use External Software in Their Course**

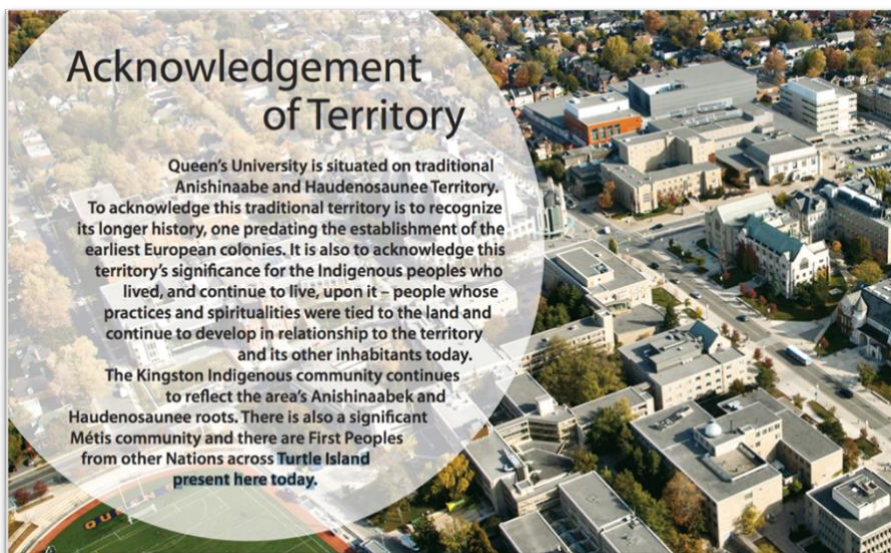
This course makes use of Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) for synchronous online learning. Be aware that by logging into the site, you will be leaving OnQ, and accessing Zoom's video conferencing. Your independent use of that site, *beyond what is required for the course*, is subject to Zoom terms of use and privacy policy. Before using the site, you are encouraged to learn about Zoom's privacy and security: <https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/privacy-and-security.html>

### **13. Recording Synchronous Classes**

Classes are not recorded. Students are expected to attend synchronous classes as if they were in-person.

### **14. Acknowledgement of Territory**

Let us acknowledge that Queen's is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory. We are grateful to be able to be live, learn and play on these lands. It is from these lands we will find strength, inspiration, and knowledge to do the important work we must do to achieve a just and sustainable society.



Credit: Queen's University [Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre](#)



### **15. Accommodations for Disabilities**

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for people with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. The [Senate Policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#) was approved at Senate in November 2016. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need academic accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the [QSAS website](#).

***If you have an approved academic accommodation, please upload your approved accommodations form to the course OnQ site.***

### **16. Academic Consideration for Students with Extenuating Circumstances**

Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and are interfering with their ability to complete academic requirements related to a course for a short period of time. The University has a [Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances](#). Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. The Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the portal where a request can be submitted is: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/accommodations>.

### **17. Discussion Guidelines**

University is a place to share, question and challenge ideas. Each student brings a different lived experience from which to draw upon. To help one another learn the most we can from this experience please consider the following guidelines:

- Make a personal commitment to learn about, understand, and support your peers.
- Assume the best of others and expect the best of them.
- Acknowledge the impact of oppression on the lives of other people and make sure your writing is respectful and inclusive.
- Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings.
- Pay close attention to what your peers write before you respond. Think through and re-read your writings before you post or send them to others.
- It's ok to disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
- Be open to being challenged or confronted on your ideas and to challenging others with the intent of facilitating growth. Do not demean or embarrass others.
- Encourage others to develop and share their ideas.