

## **GLOBAL CHALLENGES GEOG 5120**

- **Academic Session:** 2020-21
- **School:** School of Geographical and Earth Sciences
- **Credits:** 40
- **Level:** Level 5 (SCQF level 11)
- **Typically Offered:** Semesters 1 & 2

### **Short Description**

Environments and communities across the world are under stress in our changing climate, with new ecological, social and political vulnerabilities emerging in diverse spaces.

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to global challenges, incorporating research-led teaching in geography and earth sciences. It is problem-led and uses interdisciplinary teaching teams to deliver case study examples of contemporary environmental and social issues.

Students will benefit from learning across the human and environmental sciences, gaining technical knowledge of geophysical and environmental processes underpinned by critical philosophies and ethics to enact meaningful change for healthier, more sustainable Earth futures.

### **Timetable**

Two hours staff-led lecture and seminar mix per week; one hour student designed seminar.

### **Requirements of Entry**

None

### **Excluded Courses**

None

### **Co-requisites**

None

### **Assessment**

Four assessments across the year based on global challenges, each contributing 25% of the mark. Assessments reflect tasks students are likely to encounter in their professional life (media and science communication; fundraising; strategy planning).

### **Course Aims**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to critical interdisciplinary knowledges, approaches and techniques to address global social and environmental challenges in the Anthropocene. This includes a critical understanding of the philosophies underpinning environmental science and sustainable development; how resources are managed, governed and exploited; the geopolitical effects of resource extraction, distribution and circulation; the politics of global mobility, borders and security; scientific approaches and understandings of environmental problems; and ethical approaches to transformative action for sustainable earth futures.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes of Course**

After taking this course, students should be able to...

- Analyse and interpret scientific data on the environment
- Critically discuss and explain how scientific knowledges about the Anthropocene (nature and environment) are produced and mobilised by different actors, with consideration of the role of alternative/indigenous knowledges in earth futures
- Produce sustained arguments in written and oral form about how particular resources (organic and inorganic) are managed, governed and exploited
- Produce a reflective account that articulates the connection between social and environmental challenges and inequality or injustice
- Evaluate transformative approaches to environmental change and climate justice

### **Minimum Requirements**

Students must submit at least 75% by weight of the components (including examinations) of the course's summative assessment.