

ENV221H1F 2020 – Multidisciplinary Assignment

Last updated: Sept 23, 2020

Value: 15% of final grade

Due: Monday Oct 5, 2020

Length: maximum 1000 words, approximately 3 pages

Imagine you have a friend who is a great admirer of people such as Anthony Fauci (American doctor and immunologist leading the US response to the Covid pandemic) and David Suzuki (Canadian environmental activist and scientist), and is frustrated with the lack of progress on many important environmental issues. Your friend is convinced the world would be in a better state if scientists were put in charge.

Prepare a short response (no more than a 1000 words) to support or dispute this position with your friend, incorporating as many relevant lines of arguments as appropriate from the disciplinary lectures and readings. You are not expected to do any additional research, but are free to do so if you wish. The main goal of this assignment is to encourage you to reflect and summarize some of the key contributions and challenges that a variety of disciplines bring to the study of the environment.

We are not looking for a specific right answer. But we are looking for a demonstration that you have engaged and reflected on the lectures and reading materials, an ability to integrate this material into an analysis, and the development of your own original thoughts.

Please keep in mind that this paper is a *short* assignment – we expect you to stick within the set length limits, and will penalize papers that are too long. Keeping it short is challenging, but those of you who are able to cover all of the relevant points and be concise will show real mastery of the issues.

Formatting

Your paper should have:

- A representative assignment title, the course title and number, your TA's name, your name and student number;
- page numbers;
- use 12 point font, 1 inch margins, single or double spaced
- A final word count of the body of the paper on the last page at the bottom right. Not to exceed 1000 words.

Documentation of Sources

When writing an assignment or academic paper such as this one, you *must* acknowledge the sources from which you took information or ideas, specific facts which you use as evidence in your argument, and the authors of distinctive or authoritative ideas. This allows your reader to look to those sources for further information, or to confirm your information.

You may cite your lecture notes or instructor within this assignment, but it is preferred whenever possible to cite the appropriate readings or other documented sources to support your statements.

If you have questions about when and why you should be using citations, please see the handout How Not to Plagiarize from the University of Toronto Writing Centre (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>).

In this assignment, the preference is for the **APA formatting style** which consists of an in-text citation method that consists of the surname(s) of the author(s) and the year of publication. For more information review the handout Standard Documentation Formats (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/documentation>), which includes instructions on documenting online and digital sources.

Keep in mind, you must document *all* of your sources, including

- Course Readings
- Additional articles
- Digital and Online Sources

This is not a group project. You are required to work independently on this assignment, and to submit your own original work. We check vigilantly for plagiarism; for assistance with any writing issues, we encourage you to use the resources of the writing centres: www.writing.utoronto.ca.

Administrative Details

Submission of assignments:

We will be using Turnitin.com within the course Quercus online assignment function. With Turnitin.com normally “students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site”.

If a student does not wish to participate in Turnitin, the student **MUST** advise the head TA (Susan Frye; s.frye@mail.utoronto.ca) immediately as alternate arrangements for screening the assignment must be arranged.

To avoid late penalties the essay assignment must be submitted to Quercus before **midnight of Oct 5th, 2020**.

Submitting your Assignment on Quercus

When submitting your assignment on Quercus, the file should be saved in a single Word file, with an extension of .doc or .docx. **Do not submit pdf files.** The title of your file should follow the format: “LastnameFirstname.doc”. Please ensure that the file name reflects the name as registered on ACORN, and not a nickname or shorten version of your official ACORN name.

Late penalties

The late penalty will be **2.5 percent of the assignment grade per day** late, including each day of the weekend, and will only be waived with a completed Absence Declaration on ACORN.

Please note that the declaration must cover the period of time you missed, e.g. the week before the assignment/essay is due.

Assignments will NOT be accepted one week past the due date even with a completed Absence Declaration unless prior approval has been obtained. All such requests should be directed to the head TA: Susan Frye (s.frye@mail.utoronto.ca).

Academic Integrity

The following is taken directly from the Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Integrity website (<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students>):

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work,
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.

- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.

See also the handout "How Not to Plagiarize," Margaret Proctor, 2009, available online at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Evaluation criteria

The primary criteria used in evaluating written work are the following.

Form:

Defined as freedom from spelling and grammatical errors. Students are expected to include thorough, accurate and consistent references in any academic referencing style that includes page numbering which is included in the document "Standard Documentation Formats" available at: www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html

Writing style:

Defined as clarity, succinctness, appropriate diction and tone.

Structure:

Defined as coherence of the organization of the paper. The logic of the structure is determined by the purpose, which is to test a hypothesis, answer a research question or defend a thesis statement.

Precision and accuracy:

Precision means saying exactly and specifically what you mean, avoiding vague generalities. Accuracy refers to absence of major factual errors.

Analysis:

Student essays are expected to include critical distance, reflection and originality of thought. The written assignments will be evaluated on the defensibility of their analysis in terms of their use of evidence and logical coherence.