

EAS 208 – Introduction to Global Change*3 credits, 2 hours lecture, 1 hour seminar***Prerequisites:** None**Academic Calendar:**

Natural and anthropogenic causes of global scale environmental change; the role of the atmosphere, oceans, biosphere, and cryosphere in the processes of environmental change; relationships between levels of technology and development and the character of environmental change associated with human activity.

Course Background:

Natural and anthropogenic activities are continuously altering the planet on which we live through the increased consumption of resources, growth of the population, disturbance of natural systems, and the advancement of technology. These processes change the global climate and environment on varied temporal and spatial scales in a manner that's unique over the history of the Earth but are these changes to support life on Earth sustainable is perhaps the biggest question for society in the 21st century.

This course, Global Change, investigates the evolution and interaction of physical, chemical, and biological processes, how the past changes on Earth help to predict the future, and how fundamental scientific principles establish the sustainability of human activities on Earth. This course will provide an introductory understanding to global change through concepts such geological time; energy balance; proxy indicators of past global change; feedback mechanisms; greenhouse gases; climate models; biogeochemical cycles; global change in policy and the media; global change in geological time; indicators of contemporary global change.

Instructor

Instructor Tamar Richards-Thomas
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Office Hours

Tuesday 13:00 – 13:50 (or by appointment)
Mon, Wed, *Fri 09:00 – 09:50

Hours of Instruction

Thursday 09:00 – 11:00 (Lecture + Seminar)

Required Resources:

There are no required textbooks for this course. However, the following learning resources are highly recommended:

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment report (www.ipcc.ch/) (pdf provided)
2. Coward, H. and Weaver, A.J. eds., 2006. *Hard choices: Climate change in Canada*. Wilfrid Laurier Univ. Press.
3. Houghton, J., 2009. Fourth Edition *Global warming: the complete briefing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (pdf provided)
4. Foer, J.S., 2019. *We are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York.
5. Dessler, A., 2016. *Introduction to Modern Climate Change*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1-1074-8067-4. (pdf older version provided)
6. Burch, S.L. and S.E. Harris, 2014. *Understanding Climate Change: Science, Policy and Practice*. University of Toronto Press, ISBN: 978-1-4426-1445-1.

Other supplies and requirements

1. Hard copy of completed, signed plagiarism course certificate. No graded submission will be accepted until this requirement is met.
2. Moodle (<http://ilearn.keyano.ca>). The course outline, lecture notes, and other resources will be made available on Moodle.
3. Use your Keyano College email address to communicate with your instructor. I will not correspond with students using their personal email addresses for a plethora of liability, security, and confidentiality reasons.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Understand the importance of global change over long periods, especially within high latitude cold climate regions
- Understand and discuss the observed and predicted impacts of climate change at local, regional, and global scales, inclusive of the North.
- Apply course concepts to real-world environmental problems such to critically analyze media articles and various web content related to relevant global change and environmental issues.
- Think creatively, innovatively, and critically about the complexity of critical issues in natural resources and sustainability, environmental policy and society as a whole
- Discern science supported by evidence from biased claims and develop a strong foundation to make informed decisions about science and sustainability in their own lives.
- Research and communicate their knowledge of global change and environmental issues through quantitative data analysis, seminars, oral presentations, written assignments, and exams.

Evaluation

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Course Introduction | 0.5% |
| Midterms (x 2) | 20% |
| Quizzes (x 10) | 9.5% |
| Assignments (x 4) | 25% |
| Presentations (x 2) | 25% |
| Research Proposal | 20% |
| Total | 100% |

Grading System

| Descriptor | Alpha Grade | 4.0 Scale | Percent | Rubric for Letter Grades |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Excellent | A+ | 4.0 | 95 – 100 | Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format. |
| | A | 4.0 | 85 – 94.9 | |
| | A- | 3.7 | 80 – 84.9 | |
| Good | B+ | 3.3 | 77 – 79.9 | Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format. |
| | B | 3.0 | 73 – 76.9 | |
| | B- | 2.7 | 70 – 72.9 | |
| Satisfactory | C+ | 2.3 | 67 – 69.9 | Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting. |
| | C | 2.0 | 63 – 66.9 | |
| | Progression | C- | 60 – 62.9 | |
| Poor | D+ | 1.3 | 55 – 59.9 | Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format. |
| Minimum Pass | D | 1.0 | 50 – 54.9 | |
| Failure | F | 0.0 | < 50 | Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete. |

A grade of C- or better is required for progression or transfer.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

| Date | Topics | Assignments and Others |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Jan. 6 | Introduction to Global Change | |
| Jan. 13 | Timescale of Global Climate Change | |
| Jan. 20 | Climate Change and Variability | Critical Thinking and Quiz 1 |
| Jan. 27 | Climate Change and Variability | Quiz 2 |
| Feb. 3 | Composition of the Atmosphere and Air Pollution | Climate Variability and Quiz 3 |
| Feb. 10 | Earth's Energy Balance | Quiz 4 |
| Feb. 17 | Climate and Feedback Loop | Mid-Term #1 |
| Feb. 21 - 24 | **Family Day and Reading Break | |
| Mar. 3 | Climate Models and the Future | Quiz 5 |
| Mar. 10 | CO ₂ in the Atmosphere and Ocean | Energy Balance and Quiz 6 |
| Mar. 17 | IPCC and Climate Change Scenarios; Tools to Assess Climate Change | Quiz 7 |
| Mar. 24 | Climate Change Impact: Precipitation and Temperature | El Nino and La Nina and Quiz 8 |
| Mar. 31 | Climate Change Impact: Extreme Events and Food Security | Research Proposal and Quiz 9 |
| Apr. 7 | Climate Change Impact: Biodiversity and Ecosystem | Oral Presentation Mid-Term #2 |
| Apr. 14 | Climate Change, Adaptation, and Mitigation | Oral Presentation Quiz 10 |

Please Note: Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change

Performance Requirements and Student Services

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the [Keyano College credit calendar](#). The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own;
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating);
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work;
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications;
- The willful distortion of results or data;
- Substitution in an examination by another person;
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment; and
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work may not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Services Department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There are a variety of student supports available at Keyano. Due to the continuing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the offered support services will be implemented through a model to respond to the restrictions in force at the time. In-person and virtual services will be offered. All Alberta Health Services guidelines will be followed for in-person appointments—wear a mask, maintain two meters of physical distance, use hand sanitizer, and stay home if you are unwell.

All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8h30-16h30. The College is closed for statutory holidays. If you require support outside of regular business hours, please inform the support service team, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Accessibility Services: provides accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with a Learning Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact us to request them for the semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact us as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility supports and to book an appointment, please contact accessibility.services@keyano.ca.

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students, as well as technology training and supports to enhance learning. Meet with a Learning Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies for online classes. Schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing accessibility.services@keyano.ca

Wellness Services: offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. Students may access services virtually and in-person.

Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing topics including mindfulness and test anxiety.

Individual appointments can be made by emailing wellness.services@keyano.ca.

Library Services: provides students with research and information supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to support you both online and in-person throughout the semester. For a detailed list of library supports and services, go to www.keyano.ca/library. For all inquiries, please email askthelibrary@keyano.ca or chat with us online.

Begin your research with the [Library's FIND page](#). Search for information and sources for your assignments using the OneSearch, the Library's Catalogue, or by searching in a specific database selected from the [A-Z Database List](#).

Individual support with us is available. For support with citations, research and other information needs, appointments can be booked using the online [Book A Librarian Calendar](#). For support with

Moodle, educational tools for assignments, Microsoft Office, Zoom, Teams and more, book an appointment using the online [Educational Technology Support Calendar](#).

Research and subject guides are helpful resources when beginning your research, assignment, using new educational technology, or addressing other information needs. To view a subject or course-specific guide, check out the complete listing of online [Subject Guides](#).

To access additional research resources, including Citation Guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), go to the [Research Help Library page](#).

The Loanable Technology collection is available to support students in their learning pursuits, whether online, in person or both. Items available for borrowing include mobile projectors, webcams, noise-cancelling headphones, Chromebooks, and laptops. For an up-to-date list of technology available for borrowing as well as support available, go to the Library's [Loanable Technology webpage](#).

Academic Success Centre: The Academic Success Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus (CC-119) at Keyano College. Students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects, get new perspectives on learning from our Academic Content Specialists, or use the Centre's educational resources. The Academic Success Centre provides academic support services to students registered in credit programs at Keyano College in the form of individual tutoring, writing support groups, facilitated study groups, workshops, and study space. Services are **free** to Keyano students.

Academic Content Specialists are available in the areas of Math, Science, Human Services, and English/Humanities. This covers all courses offered at Keyano. The Academic Success Coach can also be found in the Academic Success Centre.

For the most up to date information on how to book a session, please view [the Keyano Academic Success Centre homepage](#).

Academic Integrity: The goal of the Academic Success Centre is to foster a student's ability to learn effectively and independently. Students registered at Keyano College are welcome to drop by the Centre to visit with any of our Academic Content Specialists to discuss their academic concerns.

Availability: Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Flexible times may be available upon request. Virtual and in-person sessions, please email to get in contact with our Academic Content Specialists. For the most up to date information on how to book a session, please view the [Academic Success Centre homepage](#).

Academic Success Coach: offers you support and access to resources for your academic success to help you to find the Keys to your Success. The Academic Success Coach will work with you to develop an academic success plan, develop your study and time management skills, and connect you with the right resources here at Keyano. Academic.success@keyano.ca is the best way to access resources during blended service delivery. The Academic Success Coach is located in the Skill Centre in CC-119 at the Clearwater Campus.

E-Learning

Technology and internet will impact your online learning experience. It's important that you can watch an online video and other course materials, take online quizzes and participate in a live class with your instructor and other students. Live/virtual classes will be hosted in Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

For all course delivery types, you will access your course resources on Keyano's learning management system, **Moodle (iLearn)**. Login in using your Keyano username and password.

Keyano College operates in a Windows based environment, and having the correct tools for online learning is important. Here's a list of recommended system requirements.

Internet Speed

Minimum Internet speeds of 10 Mbps.

Recommended Internet speeds of 25 Mbps (especially if you are sharing your internet at home).

Check your internet speed with [Fast.com](https://www.fast.com/).

System requirements:

| Microsoft Windows | Apple |
|---|--|
| <p>Minimum Requirements:</p> <p>A Windows 10 computer/laptop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Minimum 4GB of RAM. · 10GB+ available hard drive storage. · Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). <u>Microsoft Office</u> software is free to all Keyano students and employees. · Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended. · System updates must be regularly installed. · Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software | <p>Minimum Requirements:</p> <p>A Macintosh (V10.14 and above) computer/laptop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Minimum 4GB of RAM. · 10GB+ available hard drive storage. · Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). <u>Microsoft Office</u> software is free to all Keyano students and employees. · Microphone, webcam and speakers. A headset with a microphone is recommended. · System updates must be regularly installed. · Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software. |
| <p>Recommended Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 8GB of RAM · A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free | <p>Recommended Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 8GB of RAM · A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free. |
| <p>Chromebooks are not recommended as they are not compatible with testing lockdown browsers.</p> <p>A Microsoft Surface or iPad or iPad Pro may be possible alternatives in some program areas.</p> | |

Specific Department Requirements:

Business and OA programs require Windows 10.
 Other programs may utilize Windows based tools as well.

Computer Software

Students will be able to get access to Microsoft Office 365 for free using Keyano credentials by [clicking here](#).

Recording of Lectures and Intellectual Property

Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or by Accessibility Services. Even if students have permission to record a lecture or lecture materials, students may not share, distribute, or publish any of the lectures or course materials, this includes any recordings, slides, instructor notes, etc. on any platform. Thus, no student is allowed to share, distribute, publish or sell course related content (instructor, or students) without permission. It is important to recognize that the Canadian Copyright Act contains provisions for intellectual property. The [Academic Integrity Policy](#) provides additional information on Keyano College's expectations from students as members of the intellectual community.

ITS Helpdesk

If you are having issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing its.helpdesk@keyano.ca or calling 780-791-4965.