GGR 101H1S
Ancient Civilizations and their Environments

A. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
Instructor: Carlos Avendano
Office Location: SS 5060
Office hour(s): Thursday 12:00 - 2:00pm
Contact details: 2020ggr101@gmail.com (official course email) Primary Contact carlos.avendano@utoronto.ca (Instructor email)

B. COURSE INFORMATION:
Location: PB B150
Time: Thursday 10am - 12pm
Distribution Requirement Status: This is a Science course
Breadth Requirement: Living Things and Their Environment (4)

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course focuses on historical examples of how earliest societies interacted and adapted to changing climatic and environmental scenarios. The timing and tempo of climatic change are often credited with the dramatic cultural changes seen with the onset of the current Interglacial, the geological epoch known as the Holocene. During the current Interglacial, is when multiple critical events occur, such as the origins of agriculture, the rise of world civilizations, and the formation of the world as we know it. This course will focus on the processes that drive environmental change and how past societies have responded to the constraints that these could impose. The emphasis is on the current interglacial, the Holocene, and how increasing population, consumption levels and technology have affected human-environment interactions.

D. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Summarize a general understanding of the history of climatic change on our planet, with particular emphasis on the past 12,000 years.
2. Articulate a general understanding of the various methods researchers use to reconstruct environmental conditions in the past.
3. Describe the research program of Historical Ecology.

E. COURSE EVALUATION:
Students will submit the following assignments for evaluation:

1. Exams: 55%
   a. Mid-Term Exam 20% February 13th, 2020
   b. Final Exam (not cumulative) 35% Scheduled by Registrar

2. Assignments: 45%
   a. Outline and Bibliography 15% Due: February 6th, 2020
   c. Final Paper 30% Due: March 19th, 2020
GGR 101H1S  
SPRING 2020

1. **Exams**: The mid-term will be in class and cover the first five weeks of lectures. The Registrar will schedule the final during the Spring 2020 Exam period. The Final Exam is NOT cumulative. For students who miss the regularly scheduled mid-term on February 13th, 2020, the instructor must be notified within 48 hours and complete the University of Toronto Medical Certificate paperwork within a week before any special consideration (such as a deferred midterm) will be considered.

2. **Assignments**: Students will choose from a list of topics their focal theme. An Outline and Annotated Bibliography will be handed in previously to the completion of their Final Paper. Detailed instructions will be posted in Quercus, and related information will be provided during lectures. The three assignments will be handed in through Quercus by the end of the day (11:59 pm) of the due date.

About the Assignments

a) **Plagiarism and Writing**: Students must familiarize themselves with the University policy concerning Plagiarism and Academic Honesty. More information is available at http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize. Penalties for plagiarism are severe. To learn more about on academic writing consult: https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/ and https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/english-language-learning.

b) **Lateness**: Late assignments will be accepted up to one week late but at a penalty of 5% a day. Valid reasons for late submission will require proper original (i.e., physical or hard copy) documentation (i.e., medical note, police report) according to University regulations. Students with approved accommodations (i.e., Letter from Accommodations’ Office) will receive a one week extension past the original due date. Please submit letters to the instructor by the third lecture (January 23, 2020).

c) **Grading**: Graded work will be returned within two weeks after the submission date. Challenge to assignment grade must be accompanied within three calendar days of the official release with a detailed written statement. Re-grading will be carried out at the sole discretion of the instructor.

d) **Email policy and communication**: Email communication will happen during regular “business hours” (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday) from the official course email address (see above). Only University of Toronto email addresses will be acknowledged. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response. Please include the course code (e.g., GGR101) as part of your subject line, and include your **full name** and **student number** in the body of the e-mail. Please read the course handouts and check the course online site before e-mailing a question, to make sure that it has not already been answered. Questions that can be answered by reading information in Quercus will not be addressed. You are encouraged to ask questions in class and during office hours. If you would like to discuss class material further, please come to office hours. To learn more about how to communicate with professors consult: https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hello/your-profs.

F. READINGS AND COURSE SCHEDULE

1. **Readings**:  
Primary readings are indicated in the lecture schedule, which can be acquired through the UofT Library online catalogue. The book indicated below is complimentary for this course and can be acquired through the UofT Library online catalogue.

## 2020 Class Schedule at a Glance.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>In Class Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<td>Outline and Bibliography due</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 17-21</td>
<td>READING WEEK – NO CLASSES</td>
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<tr>
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