

Resource Specialization Courses Overview

The purpose of these informational documents is to help GRS students choose courses that would be of interest for their resource specialization. This is an overview of current courses, although they may change in the future. The most updated information can be found on the UBC course website:

<https://courses.students.ubc.ca>

The UBC Sustainability website also offers good suggestions for courses for the sustainability specialization: <http://www.sustain.ubc.ca/teaching-learning/curriculum/courses>

For Forestry or Agriculture related courses, please see the “Environment” and “Sustainable Agriculture” resource specialization courses overviews.

** Undergraduate students are sometimes able to take graduate level courses with special permission. Please ask.

Sustainability and Planning Specialization

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Course Number	Course Name	Description
ANTH 100	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	Basic concepts and methods of anthropology; culture and race; comparative study of social systems, religion, symbolism, art, and other institutions. Examples are drawn from a variety of cultures.
ANTH 217	Culture and Communication	The study of communication; the relation between communication and its cultural context with emphasis on verbal and non-verbal communication, cross-cultural communication, and cultural differences in the use of oral, literate, and electronic media.
ANTH 312	Introduction to the Anthropology of Gender	Theoretical approaches to, and the ethnographic study of, gender in cross-cultural contexts.
ANTH 360	Introduction to Ecological Anthropology	Analysis of the relations between human societies and the ecological aspects of their environment (including technology, society, and ideology)

APBI 260	Food and Environment I	Introduction to the biophysical and socioeconomic factors affecting systems management and production in selected agroecosystems. A fee will be assessed each student to cover field trip costs.
APBI 265	Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems	Principles and practices necessary to understand practical concerns of sustainable food systems. Credit will be given for only one of APBI 265 or APBI 260.
APBI 402	Sustainable Soil Management	Application of fundamental, unifying, soil science principles in sustainable ecosystem management.
APBI 444	Agroforestry	An introduction to the application of knowledge and principles of agroecology and forest ecology to global agroforestry systems. The course includes a one-weekend field trip that requires a supplemental fee.
ASIC 200	Global Issues in the Arts and Sciences	Selected global issues explored through the methodologies and perspectives of both the physical and life sciences and the humanities and social sciences.
COEC 293	Financial Accounting	Construction and interpretation of financial reports prepared primarily for external use. Credit will be granted for only one of COEC 293 or COMM 293.
COEC 377	International Financial Markets and Institutions	Structure, nature and institutions of foreign exchange markets, including spot, forward, futures, options, and offshore currency markets. Factors affecting exchange rates are also discussed.
COMM 386	Topics in Business III - SOCIAL ENTRPRISE	
COMM 388	Design Methods for Business Innovation	Studio-based experience in thinking strategies and design processes applied to business innovation in the private, public, and social sectors. Emphasis on problem solving, co-creation, and innovation for external clients in a collaborative environment.
COMM 394	Government and Business	Roles of government and business in the Canadian economy including effects of public policy on the business environment. Ethical foundations of government, business and personal decision-making.

COMM 415	Quantitative Policy Analysis	Quantitative evaluation of public policies using statistical evaluation methods, cost benefit, and effectiveness analyses. Public policies affecting service provision and infrastructure investment in air, rail, marine, public transit, and pipelines evaluated on pricing, operating costs, productivity, safety, security, and the environment.
COMM 460	Social and Nonprofit Marketing	Examines the role, use, and application of marketing in government agencies and nonprofit institutions.
COMM 486	Special Topics in Business -	See website for details. Different topics include: corporate social responsibility, environmental management etc.
CONS 330	Conservation Science and Sustainability	Fundamental concepts in conservation science. Different philosophies, perspectives, and disciplines used in setting priorities for managing biodiversity at all scales.
CONS 425	Sustainable Energy: Policy and Governance	Energy as a policy problem; governance framework for energy policy; prominent controversies in Western Canadian energy policy; the politics and policy of energy alternatives.
CONS 452	Global Perspectives Capstone	Examination of global resources and sustainability via scenario evaluation, modelling, and prescription.
ECON 102	Principles of Macroeconomics	Elements of theory and of Canadian policy and institutions concerning the economics growth and business cycles, national income accounting, interest and exchange rates, money and banking, the balance of trade.
ECON 210	Microeconomic Policy	A survey of policy issues, such as regulation, taxation, environmental and resource policy, health care, education and income distribution. May not be taken for credit by students with fourth-year standing.
ECON 211	Macroeconomic Policy	A survey of policy issues, such as the costs of inflation and unemployment, monetary and fiscal policy, the effects of government debt and exchange rate policy. May not be taken for credit by students with fourth-year standing.

ECON 234	Wealth and Poverty of Nations	Historical approaches to long-run economic growth; international comparisons of income growth and inequality; colonialism; evolution of world capital markets; human migrations; rise of world trading empires; instability in the international economy. Credit will be granted for only one of ECON 234 and former ECON 334 (6). May not be taken for credit by students with fourth-year standing.
ECON 255	Understanding Globalization	Social and economic implications for both rich and poor countries of lowered barriers to the international flows of information, capital, labour and goods. May not be taken for credit by students with fourth-year standing.
ECON 301	Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis I	Consumer behaviour, producer theory, exchange, monopoly, oligopoly, externalities, public goods, general equilibrium and welfare economics. Credit will be granted for only one of ECON 201, ECON 301, or ECON 304.
ECON 302	Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis I	Income and employment theory, monetary theory, the open economy, economic fluctuations and growth. Credit may be obtained for only one of ECON 302, ECON 305.
ECON 317	Poverty and Inequality	Economic inequality in Canada and other countries; measurement and causes. Inequality in the distribution of wealth; redistribution of income and wealth; notions of distributive justice.
ECON 339	Economics of Technological Change	Application of economic analysis to technological change; the impact of technological change on the growth and distribution of income; economic influences on the invention and diffusion of technology; the interaction between technology, work, skills, and education; public policy toward technological change.
ECON 345	Money and Banking	Financial markets and financial institutions in theory and practice; structure and development of the Canadian financial system; development and theory of the regulation of the financial system; process of monetary control; theory and history of central banking and monetary policy.

ECON 351	Women in the Economy	Economic analysis of markets and policies particularly affecting women. Selected topics drawn from economic discrimination; educational, occupational, and work choices; pay and employment equity; allocation of work time and consumption within the household and in the market; economics of marriage and fertility; poverty; taxation; income security and pension policies; and historical perspectives.
ECON 355	Introduction to International Trade	The determinants of trade patterns, trade policy, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, political economy of protectionism, bilateral and multilateral trade disputes, trade liberalization, trade and development. Credit may be obtained for only one of ECON 355 and 455.
ECON 356	Introduction to International Finance	Exchange rate policy regimes; international financial organizations; the interaction between monetary policy and exchange rate regimes; financial crises.
ECON 365	Topics in Canadian Industrial Organization and Regulation Policy	Current topics in industrial organization and regulation with emphasis on Canadian federal and provincial policy. The content will differ from year to year. Possible subjects include the regulation of transportation and communications, environmental regulation, marketing boards and other forms of agricultural regulation, competition and anti-combines policy, industrial organization and trade policy, and issues in consumer protection.
ECON 371	Economics of the Environment	Economic analysis applied to various environmental issues, including sustainable development, quality of life, and environmental impacts of specific industrial and consumption activities. The design and implementation of government policies. Global environmental effects of human economic activity.
ECON 374	Land Economics	Economic analysis applied to problems of land use. Rent theory. Land valuation. Land conservation. Techniques for assessing economic efficiency of land use. Effects of institutions and public policies on land use.
ECON 441	The Process of Economic Development	Industrialization of an agrarian economy; how the West grew rich; history of Japanese development; technical progress and growth; evolution of the patterns of income distribution; role of international trade in development; environment and

		development.
ECON 442	Issues in Economic Development	Gender; labour markets; child labour; political economy of reforms, corruption and growth; population growth and demographic transition; agricultural productivity growth; agrarian institutions; famines; multinationals; crises in Asia and Latin America; LDC debt problem.
ECON 455	International Trade	International trade theory and policy in general equilibrium; relative costs, factor proportions, imperfect competition and the pattern of trade; efficiency and distribution. Credit granted for only one of ECON355 and ECON455.
ECON 456	International Macroeconomics and Finance	Balance of payments; market for foreign exchange; mechanism for adjusting the balance of payments; internal vs. external stability; current problems and issues.
ECON 457	Seminar in International Economic Relations	Selected topics focusing upon various issues arising in international economic relations. Open only to fourth-year students in the Major program in International Relations.
ECON 466	The Economics of Government Regulation of Business	Normative and positive theories of government regulation of business. Topics include natural monopoly, socially optimal monopoly pricing, regulation of multi-firm industries, competition policy. Selected empirical studies.
ECON 471	Economics of Nonrenewable Resources	Application of economic analysis to the management of nonrenewable natural resources. Emphasis is placed on the economics of alternative energy sources. Other topics include mineral economics, criteria for the optimal use of resources, and measurement of resources.
ECON 472	Economics of Renewable Resources	Application of economic analysis to the management of renewable resources. Special attention is given to criteria for the optimal use of depleting resources such as forests and water. Other topics include public policy with regard to environmental quality, conservation, and outdoor recreation.
EDST 540A	Locating Oneself in Global Learning	

ENVR 200	Introduction to Environmental Science	Seminars and field trips introducing the major global, regional, and local environmental issues facing human societies.
EOSC 340	Global Climate Change	Mechanisms and processes of past and future global environmental and climate change.
FNH 355	International Nutrition	Conceptualization and scientific analyses of global problems in food and nutrition; complexities of food habits and malnutrition in various cultures around the world.
FNH 455	Applied International Nutrition	Applying nutrition concepts and principles in addressing problems of malnutrition and food insecurity in international settings. Basics of developing culturally acceptable, sustainable nutrition intervention programs.
FRE 295	Managerial Economics	Economic foundations of managerial decision-making. Organization of the firm, demand theory, cost and production, market structure, competitive strategy, welfare-economic foundations of business regulation. Credit may be obtained for only one of ECON 201, ECON 206, FRE 295, COMM 295.
FRE 302	Small Business Management in Agri-food Industries	Emphasizes the building of a business plan by exploring topics such as the planning process and financing, marketing and human resource concepts, as applied to an agri-food business, domestically and internationally.
FRE 306	Introduction to Global Food Markets	An overview of global food markets including recent trends (e.g., vertical coordination, strategic alliances, multinationals and small firms in niche markets), marketing and trade institutions such as state-trading enterprises and WTO regulations, issues specific to developing nations, and case studies.
FRE 340	International Agricultural Development	Characteristics, processes and sources of economic growth, role of agricultural and resource sectors in economic growth, analysis of output and input markets in those sectors, policy failures, tools for empirical analysis of rural markets, growth, and the environment.

FRE 385	Quantitative Methods for Business and Resource Management	Spreadsheet modeling and analysis of business and resource management problems: decision analysis, forecasting, linear programming, simulation modeling, and inventory management.
FRE 420	Trade and Domestic Policy in Global Food Markets	Food policy-making process in Canada and other countries, application of analytical tools to domestic and trade policies, market power and domestic policy distortions, major policies and instruments in Canadian agriculture and resource sectors.
FRE 460	Economics of Food Consumption	Microeconomics of consumer decisions and public policy in food contexts; foodborne illness; economic causes and consequences of obesity; sin taxes and prohibitions; information campaigns and advertising; labeling; food waste and ethics.
FRE 490	Current Issues in Food and Resource Economics	N/A
FRST 439	International Forestry	The socio-economic, biological and technological aspects of forestry within the international frame, in both the developed and developing world. Regional studies and the role of national and international agencies.
GEOB 102	Our Changing Environment: Climate and Ecosystems	Energy and water in the Earth-Atmosphere system, global climates and climate change, ecosystem properties and processes, human impacts. Please consult the Faculty of Science Credit Exclusion Lists: www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=12,215,410,414 .
GEOB 307	Biogeography and Global Change	Biogeographic concepts in understanding responses in ecosystems to environmental change at global, regional, and local scales. Conservation issues such as the loss of biodiversity and endangered species.
GEOG 121	Geography, Modernity and Globalization I	Human geography of the modern world, c. 1750 - 1945, including: pre-industrial societies, global encounters and conflicts, urbanization and regional growth; global migrations, trade and communications; imperialism and anti-imperialism; environment and war.

GEOG 122	Geography, Modernity and Globalization II	The human geography of the modern world since 1945: global interdependence in economic geography, geopolitics, and cultural geography; consequences of modernization, including demography, urbanization and environmental effects; regional case studies; reactions to modernization. May be taken separately from GEOG 121.
GEOG 250	Cities	An interdisciplinary introduction to the city in the context of contemporary globalization. Analysis of urban patterns and processes from the theoretical perspectives of various disciplines and methodologies.
GEOG 310	Environment and Resources	Concepts of environment and resource; the role of physical geography in understanding the interaction of humans and the environment; introduction to the management of environment-resource systems.
GEOG 312	The Global Climate System	Climates over the geological, historical and instrument periods. Theories of climatic change. Monitoring and modelling the climate system. Impacts of change on environmental and socio-economic systems.
GEOG 321	Historical Geography of Urbanization: Cities, Space, and Power	From the origins of urbanism to the modern era.
GEOG 329	Introduction to Political Geography	The heritage of political geography; the spatial structure of political organization including regional and global structures.
GEOG 345	Theory and Practice in Human Geography	A consideration of major intellectual issues and debates in the development of contemporary human geography, in relation to developments in other fields and changes in politics, culture and society.
GEOG 350	Introduction to Urban Geography	City systems and theories of urban location; internal spatial structure of the city; commercial and industrial location; social areas; neighbourhood and land use change; urban trends and public policy.
GEOG 352	Urbanization in the Global South	Urbanization in the developing countries of Latin America, Africa, and Asia; the role of cities in the development process

		and the features and problems of rapid urbanization.
GEOG 353	Geographies of Migration and Settlement	International regimes regulating migration, changes in global demographics, immigration policies of nation states, international migration patterns, settlement policies and outcomes.
GEOG 361	Introduction to Economic Geography	History and methods of economic geography. Location of resource industries, manufacturing, and service activities with emphasis on British Columbia in its North American and world setting. Recommended for students with no previous exposure to Economic Geography, before taking other courses in the 36x and 46x series.
GEOG 362	Geography of Economic Development	Geographical approaches to economic development; models of economic development and spatial change; influences on spatial economic change; case studies from the developed, third, and socialist worlds.
GEOG 364	Globalization, Cities, and Regions	Forms of economic development; changing location of economic activities and functions; implications for government and politics; local strategies for growth and equity.
GEOG 410	Environment and Society	Geographical analysis of society-environment relations. Relates resource management to environmental politics, political economy, and sustainable development. Perspectives drawn from political ecology and political economy, environmental history and environmental philosophy.
GEOG 412	Water Management: Theory, Policy, and Practice.	Interdisciplinary analysis of critical water issues, in Canada and internationally. Focus on social science perspectives. Emphasis on presentation, research, and essay-writing skills.
GEOG 423	Development of Environmental Thought	An examination of how attitudes toward human nature and non-human nature have changed from Mesolithic times to the present in Western society.
GEOG 424	Feminist Geographies	An introductory survey of contemporary feminist approaches to human geography

GEOG 453	Political Geographic Analysis	Analysis of the political organization of space at selected geographic scales (international to urban); development of political policy, organization, and behaviour, and their locational consequences; decision making and conflict resolution.
GEOG 495	Geographies of Social Movements in the Americas	The politics of North-South solidarity in theory and practice through community service learning models.
HIST 103	World History Since 1900	International relations; changes in the nation-state system; the emergence and impact of major political ideologies; genocide; decolonization; the globalization of trade; and the dynamics of economic, social, cultural, and environmental change in a global context.
HIST 104	Topics in World History	Thematically-organized topics will explore global aspects of human experience across time. Each section will examine a single theme. Check with the department for course offerings.
HIST 105	Contemporary Global Issues in Historical Perspective	Places issues and problems of current relevance such as disease, terrorism, drugs, or ethnic conflict in historical perspective. Each section will explore a single theme. Check with department for course offerings.
HIST 106	Global Environmental History	The impact humans have had on the environment, and the ways in which the physical environment has shaped human history: climate, agriculture, energy use, and urbanization.
HIST 326	Canada Since 1945: Affluence and Anxiety in the Atomic Age.	Includes immigration policy; the welfare state; Aboriginal peoples; the Cold War; resource economies and national politics; continentalism and free trade; constitutional crises; conflicting nationalisms; and new social movements. Credit will only be granted for one of HIST 326 or 426, if 426 was taken before 2007W.
HIST 402B	Problems in International Relations: Diplomacy and the Origins of Wars	Study of the relationship of the diplomatic factor to other factors in the origins of the First and Second World Wars. Priority for registration in this seminar is given to fourth-year students in the International Relations or Honours in History programs.

HIST 403A	Seminar in the History of International Relations	Selected topics, such as the role of diplomacy and its relation to other factors in international affairs, Canadian external relations, third-world international politics, Cold-War historiography, and area studies. Priority for registration in this seminar is given to fourth-year students in the International Relations or Honours in History programs.
HIST 405	Diplomacy and Conflict in the Middle East, 1914 to the Present	International relations in the Middle East in the aftermath of the Ottoman Empire, with special attention to the conflicts between Jews of Palestine/Israel and their Arab neighbours.
HIST 432	International Relations of the Great Powers in the Twentieth Century	The international relations of the great powers from the end of the First World War to the end of the Cold War.
KIN 360	Sport, Peace, and Conflict	Relationships that sport and leisure have with peace, conflict, and social inequality in Canada and internationally.
LLED 213	Introduction to Intercultural Communication and Socialization in Multicultural Contexts	The processes by which individuals become competent members of society through the use of language.
POLI 220	Introduction to Comparative Politics	A comparative analysis of foreign governments. Specific countries to be covered will vary according to section; consult the brochure issued by the Department.
POLI 260	Introduction to Global Politics	Applies conceptual tools to topics such as war, conflict management, the global economy, poverty, and civil society.
POLI 352	Comparative Politics of Public Policy	Policy making across industrialized democracies, with a focus on North America and Europe.
POLI 360A	Security Studies	The contemporary international security context: reorientation of the study of security, patterns of inter- and intrastate conflict and communal violence, dilemmas of international response and conflict management.

POLI 366	International Political Economy	An analysis of governmental policies and international political bargaining in regard to such issues as international investment, trade, and monetary relations. Pre-requisite: ECON 100 or 309 are recommended.
POLI 367B	International Relations Theory and the International System	The evolution of the international system and empirical and normative theories of international relations such as realism, liberalism, and Marxism.
POLI 463	International Interdependence	This seminar analyses issues relating to the politics of international economic relations. For specific content in a given year, consult the brochure issued by the Department.
SOCI 301A	Sociology of Development and Underdevelopment	Processes of social change in the Third World and other developing countries. Major themes stress the relationship between urbanization and industrialization; modernization and ethnic conflict; imperialism, neo-colonialism, and foreign aid; and intra-national modernization problems such as regional underdevelopment in industrial societies.
SOCI 302A	Ethnic and Racial Inequality	A critical examination of classical and contemporary theories and research evidence concerning ethnic and racial inequality at the societal and interpersonal levels.
SOCI 360B	Sociology and Natural Resources	Sociological perspectives on property, resource industries (such as agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining), resource development, and resource communities. May also include examination of social aspects of resource development in the Third World.
SOCI 361A	Social Inequality	Tendencies toward equality and inequality; manifestations of inequality (occupation, education, gender, ethnicity, income, power) and their consequences; caste and class features of major stratification systems; theories of social class; stratification profile of contemporary industrial societies.
SOCI 364	Built Environments	Physical, social, and economic aspects of built environments, including housing and community planning.
SOCI 420A	Sociology of the Environment	Sociological approaches to the study of environmental conflicts, issues, movements, impact of changing technology, economic

		development on the environment.
SOCI 464	Social Movements	A study of the sources, stages, and effects of social movements in developing and modernized societies.

Previously available courses (may be available again in the future):

- ASIC 200 Global Issues in the Arts and Sciences
- COMM 487 Environmental Management
- CONS 495 Principles of Managing Problem Wildlife in Forests and Agricultural Environments
- ECON 580** Social and Economic Measurement
- GEOB 204 Forest and Agricultural Climatology
- GEOB 400 Global Change Science
- GEOG 395 Culture, Nature, and Coloniality in Latin America
- GEOG 512 Climate Change in the 21st Century
- GEOG 519 Environment, Development and Security
- LFS 501 Approaches to the Integration of Knowledge
- SOCI 430 Global Citizenship
- SOCI 540A** Social Inequality

Can't find what you want?

Every year, there are different student directed seminars offered on various topics. If there is none for your very specific interests, you can make your own course! For more information, please see:

<http://leap.ubc.ca/get-conscious/study-global-issues/student-directed-seminars/>