

ENVR414-23-S2 Current Issues in Environmental Chemistry

0.125 EFTS 15 Points
Semester 2 – July 17th to October 22nd 2021

This course comprises current issues in environmental chemistry. Examples include emerging contaminants, stable isotopes as tracers, air quality, global climate change, drinking water, contaminated land, radiochemistry, acid mine drainage and toxicology.

Learning outcomes:

1. Critically discuss local and global environmental chemistry issues based on scientific principles and data.
2. Understand the role of environmental chemistry in defining and solving environmental science issues.
3. Communicate environmental chemistry concepts effectively to a wide range of audiences

Timetable

Seminars

There is one two hour seminar per week

Please make sure to check the Course Information System for seminar times and locations

Course coordinator

Professor Sally Gaw, Department of Chemistry
Room Julius Van Haast 516 ext +64 3 3695904 (Internal 95904) Email: sally.gaw@canterbury.ac.nz
Email me if you have any queries about the course.

Contributing staff

Professor Brett Robinson brett.robinson@canterbury.ac.nz

Guest lecturers

Provisional Programme

- 18 July *Trace elements in the environment* (Brett Robinson, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)
- 25 July *Trace elements in the environment* (Brett Robinson, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)
- 1 August *Trace elements in the environment* (Brett Robinson, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)
- 8 August *Trace elements in the environment* (Brett Robinson, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)
- 15 August *Emerging organic contaminants* (Sally Gaw, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)
- 22 August *Emerging organic contaminants* (Sally Gaw, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)

Spring break

- 12 September *Emerging organic contaminants* (Sally Gaw, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)
- 19 September *Emerging organic contaminants* (Sally Gaw, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)
- 26 September *Emerging organic contaminants* (Sally Gaw, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences)

Guest lecture series:

- 3 October TBC
- 10 October TBC
- 17 October TBC

Assessment

Assignment 1 30%

Assignment 2 30%

Final exam 40% (2 hours)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Marking

The in-term assessment and the exam are marked by the staff members involved in this course and the grades are cross-checked by the course coordinator.

Problems etc.

If you have a problem with a specific seminar, please discuss it with the staff member teaching that seminar. Alternatively, please feel free to talk to the course-coordinator, Sally Gaw about any issues arising during this course (phone 3695904 (Internal 95904), email sally.gaw@canterbury.ac.nz).

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

If in doubt: ASK! The course co-ordinator is happy to field questions at any time. All staff involved in the course are generally available for advice on specific issues.

What do I do if I'm sick?

If you feel that illness, injury, bereavement or other critical circumstances have prevented you from completing an item of assessment worth 10% or more of total course assessment or have affected your performance in a test or exam, you should complete an aegrotat application form, available from <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/exams/aegrotats.shtml> or the Student Health and Counselling Service. You should also notify the course co-ordinator. For further details on aegrotat applications, please refer to the University of Canterbury Calendar. The aegrotat provisions are intended to assist students who have covered the work of a course but have been prevented by illness or other critical circumstances from demonstrating their mastery of the material or skills at the time of assessment. If the examiner cannot assess your aegrotat application because of lack of other evidence, you may be asked to sit a special assessment if you miss a final exam. You should also expect to be required to submit additional work if you miss a major assignment (e.g. a field trip for which a major write-up is required).

Please note: acceptance of the grounds for an aegrotat application does not simply excuse you from completing items of assessment if you are requested to do so. You will be given reasonable time to complete any such work.

What do I do if I have to miss something?

In rare cases you may not be able to sit a test or exam, or attend a field trip, because of involvement in international or national representative sport or cultural groups. In such cases see the course co-ordinator, and a course of action (usually the sitting of an equivalent test or exam at a different time, or submitting an equivalent piece of written assessment) will be arranged. This should be done well in advance of the set date for a missed exam/test/assignment.

Please note – holiday trips, weddings, birthday parties etc. are not given special status in the University policy, so please do not ask for special consideration in these circumstances.

Plagiarism

It is essential that you are aware that plagiarism is considered a very serious offence by the Academic community and the University. Plagiarism is defined as taking passages from another work or author and presenting it as if it is your own work. Plagiarism includes:

- buying any form of assessed work e.g. essays, lab reports
- re-use of previous assignments
- copying of another student's work (with or without their consent)

- the unreferenced use of published material or material from the internet e.g. cutting and pasting of paragraphs or pages into an essay.

For most pieces of in-term assessment you will be given information concerning the use of direct and indirect quotes from previously published work. If you are in any doubt about appropriate use of published material, please speak with a member of academic staff. If you are still unsure what plagiarism is, then seek advice.

It is a University policy that courses may request you submit work electronically for subsequent analysis of originality using *Turnitin*. Students agree that by taking courses in ENVR, required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Where do I hand in assignments and then collect them once marked?

All assignments should be placed in the designated collection box in the foyer of the 5th floor of the Department of Chemistry (near the Secretaries' Office), unless directed otherwise by the course co-ordinator. All assignments must be accompanied by a cover sheet signed by you stating that the submitted work is not plagiarised. In addition, you may also be asked to submit your work electronically (via Learn) for analysis in *Turnitin*. You will be given instructions on how to do this in the assignment handout.

Marked assignments will be returned in a seminar unless directed otherwise by the course co-ordinator. Teaching staff will endeavour to return work as soon as possible, and should contact you if there are likely to be any delays that will prevent return within the maximum 4-week timeframe. You should ensure that you pick up marked assignments and keep them until the end of the course as evidence that the work was completed and marked in the case that either is disputed. To guard against accidental loss, it would be prudent to keep photocopies or electronic copies of anything submitted.

What if I can't get it finished in time?

Reports and assignments should be handed in on time. *Note:* If you do not submit an assignment for assessment, you will be allotted zero marks, which will affect your final result. Extensions may be granted if you have a valid reason. **If you require an extension, you should request one from the course co-ordinator** (or the lecturer responsible for marking the work), with as much notice as possible. Please do this BEFORE the deadline for the assignment

Late Work: Late work should be accompanied with a detailed explanation of why the work is late. The work will be marked and 10% of the total marks will be subtracted for each day the work is late. Days late include week-end and holidays.

What if I have written more than the word or page limit?

If there is a word limit on an assignment, it is usually there to stop you doing too much work and to encourage you to write succinctly. It also makes things easier to assess. You can be up to 10% over

without too much worry, but if the length increases beyond that your mark may suffer due to failure to follow the requirements. If you find yourself way over the word limit have a chat to the lecturer concerned about how to trim your assignment to an acceptable length.

What if I fail part of the course?

In ENVR, we require a satisfactory level of achievement in both the theoretical aspects of the discipline and in practical activities. This means you must attend all class activities and submit all items of assessment unless you have a very good reason not to (e.g. medical reasons).

A student must achieve an overall score of at least 40% in both in-course assessment and tests/exams (as defined in the course outline), AND a total score of at least 50%, to be awarded a passing grade (C or better). If you fail to achieve the 40% minimum requirement, a grade of D will be awarded, even if your total score is greater than 50%.

What's the best way to give feedback?

We welcome constructive feedback at all times – help us to make this a valuable course for you. We endeavour to remain approachable at all times. If you would rather give feedback anonymously, please discuss issues with your class rep., who will be selected at the start of course and report back regularly to the ENVR staff.

What's the best way to complain?

If you feel you have not been fairly treated during this course, please raise the issue with the lecturer or course co-ordinator in the first instance. Other avenues include your class rep., who can raise issues anonymously, or the UCSA education coordinator.

Environmental Science Grade Table

Marks and Grades: The following numbers should be considered as a guide to the expected grades under normal circumstances. The Department reserves the right to adjust mark/grade conversions, if necessary. This will occur only where statistical analysis of marks indicates that the numerical distribution, and subsequently arising grades, is anomalous. Any such adjustments will **not** be made to the detriment of students' grades.

Grade:	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	E
Minimum mark %:	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	40	0

Sally Gaw (Course coordinator)
Brett Robinson

10 July 2023