Geography Elective Courses (non-PHW coded)

MSocSci in Planetary Health and Wellbeing

14 October 2026

GE5216 Theoretical Conversations about Place, Space and Environment
This course situates geography within the wider fields of knowledge constituted by the social and natural sciences. Students will engage in theoretical conversations that invite them to think critically about place, space and environment. These conversations will be modeled for them each week by faculty from different research and disciplinary sub-fields in Geography. These conversations will make use of key ideas and concepts in Geography thus enabling students to advance their own understanding and engagement with the concepts in relation to key issues and challenges, including, climate change, spatial planning, health, and environmental sustainability. Four key concepts anchor the theoretical conversations the class will engage in: truth, difference, visualisation and scale.

GE5229 Political Ecology: People, Power, Nature
Political ecology is a vibrant interdisciplinary field for critically investigating complex relations between environment and society, paying close attention to power and politics. This course traces the foundations of the field, particularly within geography, and its diverse epistemological approaches, which address how capitalism, knowledge, gender, race, and more shape human interactions with biophysical natures. The course course covers current themes such as decolonization, urbanization, and climate change and is intended for graduate students with and without a political ecology background. Students will gain the theoretical tools and analytical skills necessary to understand, and address, urgent contemporary environmental and social problems.

GE4241 Spatial Health
This course covers the principles and methods of using geospatial technologies to address health issues, focusing on human-health-environment relationship. Geospatial concepts and data for health and disease ecology are explained. Methods and considerations are introduced with case studies for mapping population and health data, quantifying spatial patterns and detecting spatial clusters in health events, measuring exposure to risk factors, and evaluating spatial accessibility to health care. The combination of seminar discussion and practical work will provide students the opportunities to gain a thorough understanding of the roles of the environmental factors, social-economic conditions, and behavioural responses on health outcomes.

CCS5102 Sustainability and Climate Change
"Sustainability" has become a guiding principle across diverse sectors, with public and private actors alike underscoring its importance for achieving goals for planetary health, social welfare, and economic well-being. With the promise of win-win solutions across competing environmental and economic interests, sustainability appears to offer answers to intractable and interconnected problems, including those of climate change and biodiversity loss. This course critically assesses the promises of sustainability by examining how the concept has been understood, institutionalised, and contested across multilateral, national, corporate, and community settings, through a close examination of current sustainability theory and practice. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to analyze and critically evaluate sustainability frameworks, policies and proposed solutions in real-world contexts.

CCS5202 Climate Risk, Adaptation Pathways and Resilient Worlds
Climatic hazards and the risks that societies are facing are rapidly changing and becoming increasingly challenging to assess and manage. This course explores how we understand complex and cascading climate risks, at the intersection of hazards, exposure, and systemic vulnerability, across social-ecological systems, and how cross-scalar hazardscapes unfold. We examine how social and ecological tipping points are detected, how climate risk management is undertaken, and

how adaptation pathway planning helps address everyday barriers and limits to adaptation while opening up spaces for transformative and just adaptation. Via a variety of case studies, the course also evaluates new approaches to and methodologies for situated weathering and often contested resilience-in-the-making, in diverse contexts ranging from large-scales fires to embodied thermal insecurities.

CCS5205 Sustainable Finance
The course introduces the origins, theories, practices, geographies, and debates on sustainable finance. It explains how finance, through its instruments, markets, and institutions affects and is affected by economic, social, and environmental issues, at all scales, from individual households and firms, through nations, to global organizations. It provides students with enhanced financial literacy and ability to understand financial data, including the application of financial analysis to various sectoral and geographical contexts. By the end students will gain a better understanding on how the financial system can contribute to sustainable development and how it needs to be transformed to do so.

CCS5206 How to Live Well on a Damaged Planet
The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched in 2015, offer a sweeping vision for improving human wellbeing, protecting the planet, and enabling all to "live well on a damaged planet." Yet, for many, this vision of sustainable development has proven unsatisfactory, and even, contradictory. This course traces the evolution of "sustainable development," interrogates its dominant institutions and metrics, and explores critical alternatives such as ecofeminism, commoning, and climate justice. We survey global movements including food sovereignty, the People's health movement, the solidarity economy, degrowth, and *Buen Vivir*. A project-based, active learning approach invites students to reflect on and imagine their own visions for living well.

CCS5211 Air Pollution: Science and Solution
This course explores air pollution as both a scientific and societal challenge, asking questions such as: Why does air pollution matter? Who is most affected? How can we solve it? Students will examine major air pollutants, atmospheric processes, public health and environmental impacts, urban air quality, and regional issues. The course also covers monitoring and modelling tools, policy and governance solutions, and international cooperation efforts. By the end of the course, students will be able to integrate scientific, geographical, and policy insights to address air pollution as a critical dimension of climate change and sustainability.