

---

## CE 898.2

### Food-Water Nexus Field Trip

Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering  
T1 2025-2026 September 7-12

---



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

#### Land Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that the Saskatoon campus of the University of Saskatchewan is on **Treaty Six Territory** and the **Homeland of the Métis**. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another. I would also like to recognize that some may be attending this course from other traditional Indigenous lands, and as part of the field trip, we will be visiting other traditional Indigenous lands. I ask that you take a moment to make your own Land Acknowledgement to the peoples of those lands. In doing so, we are actively participating in reconciliation as we navigate our time in this course, learning and supporting each other.

**Instructor:** Warren Helgason, Ph.D., P.Eng.  
Associate Professor  
Civil, Geological and Environmental Engineering  
Office: 1A14a Engineering Building  
Phone: (306) 966-5315 (office)  
(306) 717-4067 (cell)  
email: warren.helgason@usask.ca

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Course Delivery:** This course includes an intensive 4-day field trip to Lethbridge, Alberta followed by the 2-day FWNET student workshop where the final trip reflections will be presented.

**Website:** <https://canvas.usask.ca/>

**Textbook:** N/A – all required background reading materials will be provided to the students.

**Assessment:** Pass/Fail  
Participation  
Reflection essay

---

#### Prerequisites:

- Restricted to MSc and PhD students formally enrolled in the FWNET CREATE program. This is a mandatory training component which must be completed in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a student's program.

#### Enrollment Limit:

- Enrollment is limited to 15 students.

---

#### Course Description:

This field course exposes students to issues, challenges, and opportunities which occur at the interface between water management and food production. These issues will be explored through a 4-day field trip to southern Alberta, where food and water sustainability issues are prevalent and

can be easily demonstrated. Students will visit and engage with a range of organizations involved in food production and water management. At the end of the field trip, students will document and reflect on their experience by submitting an essay which demonstrates their understanding of food-water nexus issues.

### **Course Content:**

#### **Class Schedule**

Date	Itinerary
Sept 7	Travel to Lethbridge, Alberta
Sept 8	St. Mary's River Irrigation District – overview of how water is managed within an irrigation district Lethbridge Polytechnic Irrigation Demonstration Farm – applied research in irrigation water management St. Mary's Reservoir and Dam - operation and management of upstream water infrastructure, dam, and power plant Perry Farms – specialty crop production, unique farm management
September 9	McIntyre Ranch – large cattle ranch and natural grasslands conservancy Kainai buffalo rematriation project – indigenous land management Vanden Dool Dairy – intensive dairy farm
September 10	Big Marble Farms – commercial greenhouse operation Travel to Saskatoon
September 12	Presentation trip reflection reports

### **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a strong conceptual understanding of how water is managed to support food-production in the study region (southern Alberta).
2. Identify challenges and opportunities which exist at the intersection of water management and food production.
3. Identify and appreciate different perspectives on food-water nexus issues.

### **Assessment**

Students will be given a Pass/Fail grade in this course. Participating in all the field trip stops (unless excused by the instructor) and completing the reflection assignment is mandatory for passing this course.

### **Participation:**

Students are expected to fully engage in the tour stops. Dialogue with the hosts at each stop, other students, and course instructors is expected.

### **Trip Reflection Essay:**

The main deliverable of this course will be a written assessment that will be completed within one week following the trip. The essay will provide an overview of the student experience on the trip and a synthesis of the food-water nexus issues that were discovered along the journey.

---

## Academic Dishonesty and Academic Appeals:

### Policies on Academic Dishonesty, Academic Appeals and Course Delivery:

Although the face of teaching and learning has changed due to covid-19, the rules and principles governing academic integrity remain the same. If you ever have questions about what may or may not be permitted, ask your instructor. Students have found it especially important to clarify rules related to exams administered remotely and to follow these carefully and completely.

Students are expected to undertake all aspects of their academic work in an ethical manner. Students are expected to submit their own individual work for academic credit, properly cite the work of others, and to follow all rules for examinations. Academic misconduct, plagiarism, and cheating will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for understanding the university's policies on academic integrity and academic misconduct. If any form of academic misconduct is discovered, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

For more information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the University Council *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct* (<https://secretariat.usask.ca/student-conduct-appeals/academic-misconduct.php>) as well as the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints & Appeals (<https://secretariat.usask.ca/student-conduct-appeals/non-academic-misconduct.php>).

For information regarding appeals of a final grade or other academic matters, please consult the University Council document on *Student Appeals of Evaluation, Grading and Academic Standing* (<http://policies.usask.ca/policies/student-affairs-and-activities/student-appeals.php>).

Additional policies and procedures related to student conduct and appeals are provided on the University Secretariat website ([www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals](http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals)) and on the University website <http://www.usask.ca/integrity/>.

A summary of University of Saskatchewan policies relating to academic courses is provided in the document: *Academic Courses Policy on Class Delivery, Examinations, and Assessment of Student Learning* (<http://policies.usask.ca/policies/academic-affairs/academic-courses.php>).

### Integrity Defined (from the Office of the University Secretary)

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

For more information on what academic integrity means for students see the Academic Integrity section of the University Library Website at: <https://library.usask.ca/academic-integrity#Academicintegrity>

You are encouraged to complete the Academic Integrity Help session to understand the fundamental values of academic integrity and how to be a responsible scholar and member of the USask community - <https://library.usask.ca/academic-integrity.php#AcademicIntegrityHelp session>

### Safety:

Safety is of paramount importance. Students are expected to work in a safe and responsible manner, to follow all safety instructions, and use any specified personal protective equipment.

### Copyright:

---

Course materials are provided to students based on their registration in a class. Any materials created by course instructors is the intellectual property of the instructors. This includes exams, tests, PowerPoint/PDF slides and other course notes. Additionally, other copyright-protected materials created by textbook publishers and authors may be provided to students based on license terms and educational exceptions in the Canadian Copyright Act (see <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).

Before copying or distributing others' copyright-protected materials, students need to ensure that their use of materials is covered under the University's Fair Dealing Copyright Guidelines available at <http://www.usask.ca/copyright/basics/copyright-policy/fair-dealing-guidelines/index.php>. For example, posting others' copyright-protected materials on the internet is not covered under the University's Fair Dealing Copyright Guidelines; doing so requires permission from the copyright holder. For more information about copyright, please visit <http://www.usask.ca/copyright/students/rights/index.php> or contact the University's Copyright Coordinator at [copyright.coordinator@usask.ca](mailto:copyright.coordinator@usask.ca).

Students should be aware that a violation of the university's copyright policies could be an instance of non-academic misconduct. For example, the practice of uploading or posting copyright-protected materials to course-sharing websites, depositories, or "drop boxes", without the permission of the copyright holder, could result in a charge of non-academic misconduct under the university's "Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters", found at the following location: <https://secretariat.usask.ca/student-conduct-appeals/non-academic-misconduct.php>.

### **Examinations with Access and Equity Services (AES)**

Students who have disabilities (learning, medical, physical, or mental health) are strongly encouraged to register with Access and Equity Services (AES) if they have not already done so. Students who suspect they may have disabilities should contact AES for advice and referrals. In order to access AES programs and supports, students must follow AES policy and procedures. For more information, check [www.students.usask.ca/aes](http://www.students.usask.ca/aes), or contact AES at 306-966-7273 or [aes@usask.ca](mailto:aes@usask.ca).

Students registered with AES may request alternative arrangements for mid-term and final examinations. Students must arrange such accommodations through AES by the stated deadlines. Instructors shall provide the examinations for students who are being accommodated by the deadlines established by AES.

## **Student Supports**

### **Student Learning Services**

Student Learning Services (SLS) offers assistance to U of S undergrad and graduate students. For information on specific services, please see the SLS web site <http://library.usask.ca/studentlearning/>.

### **Student and Enrolment Services Division**

The Student and Enrolment Services Division (SESD) focuses on providing developmental and support services and programs to students and the university community. For more information, see the students' web site <http://students.usask.ca>.

### **Financial Support**

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact Student Central (<https://students.usask.ca/student-central.php>).

### **Aboriginal Students Centre**

The Aboriginal Students Centre (ASC) is dedicated to supporting Aboriginal student academic and personal success. The centre offers personal, social, cultural and some academic supports to Métis, First Nations, and Inuit students. The centre is also dedicated to intercultural education, bringing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students together to learn from, with and about one another in a respectful, inclusive and safe environment. Students are encouraged to visit the ASC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/aboriginalstudentscentre/>) to learn more.

---

**International Student and Study Abroad Centre**

The International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) supports student success in their international education experiences at the U of S and abroad. ISSAC is here to assist all international undergraduate, graduate, exchange and English as a Second Language students and their families in their transition to the U of S and Saskatoon. ISSAC offers advising and support on all matters that affect international students and their families and on all matters related to studying abroad. Please visit [students.usask.ca](https://students.usask.ca) for more information.