

**GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE\* (FALL 2006) updated: 7/17/06**

**GEOGRAPHY 321 H(3-0) (AREA II)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Timetable & Catalogue Number:** See current information on Infonet

**Instructor:** Dr. W.N. Holden

**TA:** TBA

Office: ES416 Office: Office hours: TR 16:30 to 17:30 Phone:  
220-4886 e-mail: [wnholden@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wnholden@ucalgary.ca)

**Course Content**

This is a survey course that emphasizes environmental problems and resource management at various scales (e.g., local, regional, national, international) with a focus on Canadian issues. Environmental problems and resource management considerations involve several interacting systems including the physical environment, economy, politics, and culture. The course will focus on the scope of various environmental issues and touch on the implications of various management options.

**Topics:** a readings list will be distributed in the first week of classes.

**Prerequisite:** A previous course in Geography or consent of the department.

**Objectives:**

To develop knowledge of concepts for understanding environmental issues and resource management.

To appreciate the variety of approaches for understanding environmental problems.

To understand the socio-political complexity of environmental issues/resource management.

To develop critical appraisal skills.

**Blackboard** <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

**Text(s)/Readings:**

Required: Draper, D. and M.G. Reed (2005). Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective. Third Edition. Scarborough: Nelson Thomson Learning.

Other readings will be placed in the Geography Department Collections Room (ES457).

\*subject to change before classes officially start.

## Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

This course will have **three assignments**, each worth 5%, **two midterms**, each worth 20%, and a two (2) hour Registrar scheduled **final examination** worth 45% that will be held in a gymnasium during the final examination period.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis. The course grade is calculated by using the weights indicated above and then converted into a letter grade. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

**A+** 95 to 100, **A** 90 to 94, **A-** 85 to 89, **B+** 80 to 84,  
**B** 75 to 79, **B-** 70 to 74, **C+** 65 to 69, **C** 60 to 64, **C-**  
55 to 59, **D+** 50 to 54, **D** 45 to 49, **F** 0 to 44

If, for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, **at the instructor's discretion**, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

Tests and exams may involve multiple-choice questions.

Dates for the midterms and assignments will be announced during the first week of classes.

Students must comply with the University regulations concerning "Intellectual Honesty," "Examinations," "Plagiarism," etc., which are published in the University Calendar.

The midterm examinations will be held in class on dates to be announced. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED EXAMINATIONS** under any circumstances, nor may the examinations be written early. Students unable to write the examination because of documented illness; family emergency or religious observance will have the weight shifted to the final examination.

Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work should discuss their work with the Instructor within one week of the grade being made available. Unclaimed work will be available from the instructor during office hours.

Should the writing of a midterm examination for an entire lecture section become impossible due to events beyond the control of the instructor (such as, and not exclusively consisting of; inclement weather, instructor's illness, unavailable facilities, or other "acts of fate") the midterm examination will be written one week later.

**WARNING: THIS IS NOT A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE!** It is your responsibility to ensure that you attend class. It is not my responsibility to "fill you in" on what you miss if you are absent from a class. I will not answer questions that, in my opinion, are the result of nonattendance or lack of attention in class.

**WARNING: THIS COURSE IS NOT AN "EASY A!"** The instructor of this course strictly adheres to the definition of letter grades in the University of Calgary Calendar. If you

are taking this course in expectation of a high grade so as to facilitate dentistry school, law school, medical school, or veterinary school admission please take something else. This course may be “only an option” for you, it is not “only an option” for the instructor.

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:**  
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

### **Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

### **Disability Resource Centre Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Campus Safewalk**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.