



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2015

GEOGRAPHY 365 H(3-0)

Political Geography

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC01	TuTh	11:00am – 12:15 pm	ES 443

Instructor: Wil Holden	Office: ES 416	Hours:
Telephone: 220 4886	Email: wnholden@ucalgary.ca	

Please note: *The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.*

Official Course Description:

Spatial study of political systems, structures and processes and their relationship to geographic factors.

Prerequisite:

One of Geography 251, 253, Urban Studies 253 or consent of the department.

Topics:

A readings list will be distributed in the first week of classes.

Text(s)/Readings:

Glassner, M. and C. Fahrner. (2004) *Political Geography* (3rd Edition). New York: Wiley, (Recommended)

Other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Objectives:

To develop knowledge of concepts for understanding political geography. To appreciate the variety of approaches for understanding the spatial dimensions of political problems. To develop critical appraisal skills.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

This course will have **two midterms**, each worth 25%, and a two (2) hour **Registrar scheduled final examination** worth 50% that will be held during the final examination period in a gymnasium. It is not essential to pass all examination in order to receive a passing grade in the course. Students are **strenuously** advised not to make travel plans until they know their examination schedule.

The midterm and final examinations will be 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+ 100, **A** 90 to 99, **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

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

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.

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

The midterm examinations will involve written questions. The final examination will involve written questions.

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 **cannot** discuss their work with the Instructor within the first 48 hours after the grade has been made available and **must** discuss their work within 10 days after the grade has been 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.

Posting of grades will be at the discretion of the instructor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. **Grades will not be available in the Geography Office.**

USRI

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

Writing across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Principles of Conduct

The University of Calgary Calendar includes a statement on the Principles of conduct expected of all members of the University community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors and volunteers) whether on or off the University's property. This statement applies in all situations where the members of the University community are acting in their University capacities. All Members of the University Community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with this statement which is available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j-2.html>

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. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/plagiarism>

Student Accessibility Services Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

FOIP: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handled through D2L or personally.

- Their own grades will be available to each student on D2L 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
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: arts1@ucalgary.ca

The students ombudsman office information can be found at:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>

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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210 7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca