



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2014
GEOGRAPHY 555
RAPID URBANIZATION IN A MEGACITY: THE CASE OF MEXICO CITY
H (3-0)

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC01	MTWTF	08:00 – 5:00	OFF CAMPUS

Instructors: Denise Brown and Olivia Tello	Office: ES444
Telephone: 220 3930	Email: dfbrown@ucalgary.ca

Introduction:

Rapid urbanization is one of the most troubling and urgent challenges faced by developing nations. Three of the largest and fastest growing megacities in the world are in Latin America (Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Mexico City). This international block course is designed to bring University of Calgary senior undergraduates with an interest in rapid urbanization and megacities into direct contact with the challenges faced, by providing them with a guided experience through the realities of environmental problems, transportation issues, the informal economy, irregular housing problems, infrastructural challenges, governance issues, and so on, in Mexico City. This course is designed to stimulate research interest—guiding the students in testing their knowledge of concepts of urban planning in a “real life” situation, and in identifying research questions which emerge from the challenging of theoretical notions with empirical observations.

Pre-session reading will be required for this course. There will be 5 hours of required *pre-session lectures*. However, the most important feature of this course is the experiential learning about the phenomenon of the megacity, which includes individual and group reflections and participation in discussions on observations made, on a daily basis. Each student will be required to keep a journal for daily observations. *This is an intensive course.*

Some themes to be explored include:

History of the city, social class and settlement pattern, transportation, distance factors, organization of retail activities, housing issues, environmental challenges, memory and the urban landscape, economic/employment issues, urban agriculture, design of public/private spaces, service provision, city growth and governance.

Readings: Reading list is posted on Blackboard.

Assignments:

Quiz on pre-session reading, 2 January.....20%
Journals registering all observations in situ..... 35%
Reflective notes posted in Journal each evening on themes of the day15%
Final project 18 January30%

Grading system:

96-100	A+	76-80	B	59-61	C-
91-95	A	71-75	B-	55-58	D+
86-90	A-	66-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-65	C	0-49	F

Special Instructions:

Grades will be deducted for poor writing style (spelling, grammar).

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

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 Centre in the Effective Writing Office 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 Blackboard or personally.
- 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
- 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 Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [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