



GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: Fall 2015

GEOGRAPHY 205 H(3-0)

Gateway to Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TR	09:30 - 10:45	ST 027

Instructor: Aida Nciri and Benjamin Israel	Room: ES 446
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The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in the Science theatres is professional Faculties Food Court.

Official Course Description:

The course provides an overview of human and physical environments, their inter-relationships and their relevance to environmental issues and world affairs. It also provides an overview of historical socio-spatial processes that have shaped the world today.

The course aims to familiarize students to the interdisciplinarity of the discipline and to introduce them to the variety of geographical approaches. By drawing from many concrete and global environmental and social issues, it intend to provide students with a spatial thinking and geographical concepts that are necessary to analyze and understand today's world. Specific examples are discussed in a global context and vary by term.

The course will be divided in three parts. The first part will focus on Earth's system. The second session will study the human societies in their environment. This parts highlights the intertwining between human and nature to show the irrelevance separating both spheres. It also focuses on the construction of today social space, through urbanization process and a globalization of the political and economic world. The last and third part will focus on tools and methods geographers use to measure and represent the world, including mapping and GIS.

NOTE: Not open to students with credit in Geography 211, 251 or 253 (Urban Studies 253)

NOTE: This section is part of the FLIP program, and will be delivered in French. See language policy below.

Instructors

This course will be co-taught by two instructors.

Required Texts and D2L

There is no required textbook for this course. Courses will be based on a series of articles and material posted on D2L.

Students will be required to read some materials prior to each class in order to prepare the topic of the day. A reading list for will be provided and posted on D2L.

Readings and supplementary material will also be available on D2L.

All course material will be posted through 2DL. Announcements will be placed on this site, and students are required to use this system.

Grading (Weighting)

Oral participation.....	10%
Oral presentation of two news articles.....	30%
Quiz: three at 5% each	15%
Map analysis (in class)	15%
3000-word research paper.....	30%

There is no scheduled final exam in this course.

It is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course

Grading System: Grade breaks are non-negotiable.

A+	96 - 100	C+	65 – 69.9
A	90 – 95.9	C	62 – 64.9
A-	86 – 89.9	C-	59 – 61.9
B+	81 – 85.9	D+	55 – 58.9
B	76 – 80.9	D	50 – 54.9
B-	70 – 75.9	F	< 49.9

Language policy

This course is specifically designed for students who are already proficient in the French language.

- Please pay special attention to language issues during the first add/drop period of the course, and if you find that you cannot understand the material or would have difficulty in writing or speaking comprehensible French, please transfer to an English section of GEOG205 if possible, or to another course.
- Everything that happens in the classroom will be conducted in French, whether originating from the instructor or the student. Students are expected to be able to fully participate in classroom discussions in French. The term paper must be written in French. Questions in class are welcome for further explanation of concepts, just as they would be in an English classroom.
- Technical terms will be defined in the classroom in French, and in appropriate cases English equivalents will be given to help students integrate their new knowledge into their everyday lives conducted in English. Students are expected to use the French terms for course purposes.
- Meetings with the instructor outside of the class section may be conducted in either French or English at the student's choice. However do not expect such meetings to translate class material.
- The instructor recognizes that French will be a second language for most students, and grammatical difficulties in writing and speaking will not be penalized unless they make understanding impossible. Nevertheless, students should make use of reasonable language helps for their writing, for example downloading spelling and grammar checkers in French, and consulting programs from the French Centre. Language dictionaries will not be permitted for exams. Clarity of thought and logic of presentation are not language-bound and will be included in grading protocols involving writing.
- Because it is not easy to find appropriate textbooks in French for all the topics of this course, students are free to consult general textbooks in English to give other explanations of the course material. Introductory Geography texts may be found in the Geography Resource Room in Earth Sciences 457, or in the University Library. If web-based sources are consulted, be careful of the credibility of the source.

Course Schedule (*subject to change*)

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 – Sept 7	Introduction to the course <i>Présentation du cours</i> What is geography ? <i>Qu'est-ce-que la géographie?</i>	Geographical concepts : polymorphy of space and production of space (scale, territory, network, places) <i>Les concepts géographiques: polymorphie de l'espace et production de l'espace (échelles, territoire, réseau, lieux)</i>
Partie I : La Terre		
Week 2 – Sept 14	From the solar system to the Earth's core <i>Du système solaire au noyau terrestre.</i>	The water cycle and the carbon cycle <i>Le cycle de l'eau et le cycle du carbone.</i>
Partie II : L'homme dans son environnement		
Week 3 – Sept 22	Quizz 1 / Test 1 The environment and the interdependencies human-nature : Landscapes and biodiversity I <i>L'environnement et les interdépendances homme-nature. Paysages et de la biodiversité I</i>	The environment and the interdependencies human-nature : Landscapes and biodiversity II <i>L'environnement: Les interdépendances homme-nature. Paysages et de la biodiversité II</i>
Week 4 – Sept 29	The environment and the interdependencies human-nature: Climate and natural disasters I <i>L'environnement et les interdépendances homme-nature. Le climat et les catastrophes naturelles I</i>	The environment and the interdependencies human-nature: Climate and natural disasters II <i>L'environnement et les interdépendances homme-nature. Le climat et les catastrophes naturelles II</i>
Week 5 – Oct 6	The environment and the interdependencies human-nature. Migrations and population dynamics I <i>L'environnement et les interdépendances homme-nature. Les migrations dynamiques des populations I</i>	The environment and the interdependencies human-nature. Migrations and population dynamics II <i>L'environnement et les interdépendances homme-nature. Les migrations dynamiques des populations II</i>
Partie III : La construction de l'espace mondial		
Week 6 – Oct 13	Quizz 2 / Test 2 The role of the state and international relations. <i>Géographie politique. La construction du concept d'Etat et son rôle dans les relations internationales aujourd'hui.</i>	Political and economic geography: Multi-level governance. Example of Canada and France. <i>Géographie politique et économique. La gouvernance multi-niveau. Exemple du Canada et de la France.</i>
Week 7 – Oct 20	Cities. Brief history of urbanisation <i>Les villes. Brève histoire de l'urbanisation.</i>	Issues of today's cities <i>Les enjeux de la ville d'aujourd'hui.</i>
Week 8 – Oct 27	Global cities	Globalisation. Historical perspectives <i>La mondialisation. Perspectives historiques.</i>
Week 9 – Nov 3	Globalisation of the economy (I): the example of the global food system. <i>Mondialisation de l'économie (I) : L'exemple du système alimentaire mondial</i>	Globalisation of economy (II): the example of drug trafficking. <i>Mondialisation de l'économie (II): l'exemple du trafic de drogue</i>
Week 10 – Nov 10	Reading week – no class	Reading week – no class
Partie IV: Les outils d'analyses du géographe : mesurer, quantifier, localiser et représenter		
Week 11 – Nov 17	Test 3 / Test 3 Les indicateurs du géographe en géographie humaine	Cartographie : Une représentation subjective du monde à travers des outils et des méthodes scientifiques I

	The geographer's indicators in human geography	Mapping : A subjective representation of the world with scientific methods and tools I
Week 12 – Nov 24	Map analysis – Analyse de carte (in class) Mapping : A subjective representation of the world with scientific methods and tools II <i>Cartographie : Une représentation subjective du monde à travers des outils et des méthodes scientifiques II</i>	GIS, remote sensing and new technologies SIG, remote sensing et nouvelles technologies
Week 13 – Dec 1	Mapping and geopolitics <i>Cartographie et géopolitique</i>	Research paper due date – Dissertation due Visualisation of North America's energy system La visualisation du système énergétique Nord Américain.

Exams and grade weighting

Oral presentation of two articles (30%).

a. Each student will be required to present two news article related to the topic of the day once in the term. The article can be from newspapers, blogs or well-known institutions. **They should be written in French and be less than one-year old.** The references of the articles (internet link or PDF/word file) should be sent to the main instructor two days before. The date of the present articles will be assigned to each student the first day of class.

b. The student has 10 min to present the two articles to the class. The content of the oral presentation consists of

- 1) a brief summary of the arguments and facts of each article showing the relevance with the topic of the day.
- 2) a geographical analysis of the topic they cover: what is spatial in the article? How to make it spatial? (see the concepts and dimensions studied during the first week of the course)
- 3) a critical comment of the articles (why these articles were interesting? How do they complement/contradict/support each other? What is missing in their analysis? What do they tell about the perspective of the journalist? What other perspective could have been presented if it was another source?).
- 4) One or two questions to open the discussion with the rest of the class (5 to 10 minutes discussion with the class).

A list of media resources will be posted on D2L

Oral participation (10%) – in class

Students will be evaluated on their oral participation. They are several opportunities for students to participate and obtain credit including:

- open discussion following the article presentations by other students
- questions asked by the instructors during the class
- discussions of the reading materials

Test (x3) (5% each) – in class

a. They will each be a 20 minute exam conducted in class (see schedule)

b. The material examined will be explained in the lecture

c. The format will mix multiple choice – expect between 15 and 20 questions and one hand-written answer to a short-essay question.

Map analysis (15%) – in class

A map will be given to students and they will have to guess as much information about the geographical, historical and social context of this map based on the knowledge acquired in the class.

A 3000 word research paper (30%) – hand out

The research paper is an opportunity for students to get an in-depth knowledge about a specific topic or issues covered in class.

A list of topics and films will be posted on D2L. There is the possibility to suggest other topics. This should be discussed with the main instructor for approval.

The research paper should refer to three to four required readings posted on D2L as well as to three to four other academic references (they can be in English).

The aim of the research paper is to mobilize the geographical concepts and a spatial thinking to contextualize and analyze social, political and economic issues.

A bibliography should be included in the research paper, following the model posted in D2L.

Additional course information (subject to change)

Policy regarding missed exams:

If a situation arises that prevents you from writing one of the exams, notify the instructor as soon as possible by email. If you miss an exam for medical reasons, you must provide a note from a medical doctor before you will be allowed to write a make-up exam. If you miss the exam for non-medical reasons, and you did not notify the instructors prior to the scheduled exam, you will receive "0" for the exam.

Email protocol

How to email your instructor

Contact all your instructors using the email function within D2L, found in the "Contact Instructors" link on the main page. **Please sign your emails as it is otherwise difficult to know who they are coming from.**

When to email your instructor:

- When you have questions about course content, **but only after you have established that the answer to your question has not already been posted on D2L in either the Syllabus or Lecture notes.** It is your responsibility to be familiar with the materials already posted
- When you wish to make an appointment to meet. Please list three possible times when you will be available, for the instructor to be able to match one with their schedule.

How to excel in GEOG 205:

- Attend all lectures. Attendance is closely linked to success in any course. Professors often give 'hints' in class. This is not an accident; it is done to highlight important points that often translate into exam questions. Hint, hint!
- Be ready to engage in the course material. You are not engaged if you are:
 - Consulting Facebook. Even the occasional distraction may sabotage your grade by missing a critical linking point (or hint) given by the instructor.
 - Watching movies etc. on your computer. Please don't make the mistake of thinking you can multitask in this way. True engagement requires your undivided attention.
- Understand what your instructors expect of you:
 - We expect you to take notes on what is said in the lecture. The PowerPoint slides are only the structure of the lecture; the important information is what is said and seeing the relevance of that information in the context of the course. Studying exclusively from the slides will not supply the understanding you need to answer the exam questions. **Exam questions will not come exclusively from the slides;**

- You should understand the concepts, not memorize ‘facts’. Geography is **NOT** about memorizing ‘facts’, and understanding is **NOT** the same as recalling trivia. Exams are intended to determine how well you understand the concepts. Many exam questions will require that you integrate knowledge from different parts of the course. True understanding comes from being able to recognize the links and apply knowledge obtained from one topic, to understand another.
- **It is generally expected that students study at LEAST one hour for each hour of lecture. A course like GEOG 205 should be considered at least a 6-hour commitment per week.**
- When studying, ask yourself these questions:
 - a. What happened?
 - b. How does our culture or society affect how we perceive what happened?
 - c. Why did it happen at that location and not another?
 - d. What are the reasons or processes that caused it to happen?
 - e. What are the implications of what happened?
 - f. Is there information in other topics that can help you answer these questions or to develop a deeper understanding?
- Remember that your instructors are here to help you. If you have non-academic issues that are negatively impacting your performance in the course please talk to your instructors as soon as possible.
- D2L will be used extensively to communicate outside of lecture periods. All lectures, grades, and updates/corrections to the course materials will be provided on D2L. Check it regularly.

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. See the French Centre as well as the other writing helps.

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>

Academic Accommodations:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the university policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf

Students needing an accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. The procedure can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf

Students needing an accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, in writing, to "(Instructor).

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: suvpaca@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