



## GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2014

### GEOGRAPHY 205 H(3-0)

#### Gateway to Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	MWF	09:00 – 09:50	ENA 235

Instructor: Mryka Hall-Beyer	Office: ES 458
Tel: 220 2792	Email: <a href="mailto:mhallbey@ucalgary.ca">mhallbey@ucalgary.ca</a>

The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in the Engineering complex is ICT food court.

#### Official Course Description:

An overview of human and physical environments, their inter-relationships and their relevance to environmental issues and world affairs. Major topics are drawn from current global issues where location matters. Specific examples are discussed in a global context and vary by term.

NOTE: Not open to students with credit in Geography 201, 203, 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.

#### Required Texts and Blackboard

Readings and supplementary material will be available on Blackboard.

All course material will be posted through Blackboard (<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>) and students will be automatically enrolled. Announcements will be placed on this site, and students are required to use this system. French Blackboard templates will be used.

#### Grading (Weighting):

Participation quizzes	5%
Participation in discussion and one summary paper	15%
Midterm exams: two at 25% each )	50%
10-page (3000 word) research paper: (Subdivided 10% draft, 20% final report)	30%

#### 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.
- 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.

### **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 Blackboard, 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 BlackBoard 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:
  - What happened?
  - How does our culture or society affect how we perceive what happened?
  - Why did it happen at that location and not another?
  - What are the reasons or processes that caused it to happen?
  - What are the implications of what happened?
  - Is there information in other topics that can help you answer these questions or to develop a deeper understanding?
- If you have trouble with the information presented in lecture, we expect you to:
  - Consult a 1<sup>st</sup> year Geography text. First year geography textbooks are available in the UofC Library or in the Geography Collections Room (Earth Sciences Building Rm 457). If you have the basic terms from the lecture slides you should be able to find the relevant sections. Most textbooks will cover the material we will be talking about in this course. Marilyn Kinnear, who runs the Geography Collections Room, will be happy to help you find supplementary readings.
  - Consult an authoritative website. Government or research/university websites can be useful for finding background information on many topics in this course. Wikipedia is also a reasonable source, but note that Wikipedia is generally not accepted as an authoritative source for research paper you write in a university class. However, it is a good place to get some basic information to help guide further investigation into a topic.
  - Speak to the instructors. If you are still having trouble, please come to our office hours or make an appointment.

- 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.
- Blackboard will be used extensively to communicate outside of lecture periods. All lectures, grades, and updates/corrections to the course materials will be provided on Blackboard. 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.

### **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: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)