



GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: Winter 2013

GEOGRAPHY 231 H(3-3) (AREA III) INTRODUCTION TO GEOSPATIAL METHODS

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC01	MWF	10:00 - 10:50	ES 443
LAB01	Tu	11:00 - 13:45	ES 307
LAB02	Tu	14:00 - 14:45	ES 307
LAB03	Th	14:00 - 16:45	ES 307

Instructor:

Dr Geoffrey Hay
Office: ES 304
Office Hours: By appointment only
Phone: 220-4768
Email: Through BlackBoard only

Course Assistant(s):

Rishi Bastakoti & Xiaoxiao Liu
Office Hours: TBA
Email: Through BlackBoard only

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

Official Course Description:

An introduction to cartography, coordinate systems, remote sensing, geographic information systems and descriptive statistics.

Prerequisite:

Geography 205 or admission to the Major or Minor in Geography, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Urban Studies, Latin American Studies, Transportation Studies, or urban Studies; and Pure Mathematics 30 or Mathematics II (offered by continuing Education).

Text(s)/Readings:

Required:

1. *Introduction to Geospatial Methods*. Wiley Custom compilation for Geog 231. Available at bookstore.
2. Northey et al. *Making Sense, A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*, Fourth Ed. Oxford University Press.
3. Links to other documents as posted on Blackboard by instructor

Grading (Weighting):

Item	Weighting	Notes
Lab 1	5%	
Lab 2	6%	
Lab 3	7%	
Lab 4	8%	
Lab 5	9%	
Lab 6	10%	
Exam #1	10%	
Exam #2	15%	
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled by the Registrar

Note: It is not necessary to pass each course component in order to pass the course.

Assignments and Examinations:

All assignments must be submitted by the specified due date and time. The only acceptable reasons for missing an examination or assignment in this class, as listed in the Deferral of final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar are illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you miss an assignment or examination and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, you will have one opportunity to make arrangements for the missed work. Without appropriate documentation, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade.

Grading System:

A+	> 92	C+	68 – 72
A	88 – 92	C	64 – 68
A-	84 – 88	C-	60 – 64
B+	80 – 84	D+	56 – 60
B	76 – 80	D	50 – 56
B-	72 – 76	F	< 50

Rounding of final grades

In an effort to be fair to all students in the class, your individual grade will not be “rounded” or “bumped” up, regardless of how close you are to a grade break. In short, the final grade breaks are hard breaks. This policy minimizes ambiguity and ensures the grading is as fair and clear as possible.

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>

Disability Resource Centre 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.

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.
- 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.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION (subject to change)

Email protocol: How to email your instructor

Contact your instructor via the email function in BlackBoard. I will NOT answer emails sent directly to my email address. This is important because when you send an email through BlackBoard it adds the name of the course to the subject line. This allows me to identify your emails in the flood of other emails I receive every day. I will respond as soon as possible. **Note:** I will not answer emails on the weekend.

Regarding the formality of emails

Consider all emails to be formal correspondence, NOT TWEETS or TEXT MESSAGES. At minimum, this means you should include: **(1)** a simple greeting; **(2)** a message that is clearly written with complete sentences and proper punctuation; and **(3)** your full name and student number.

When to email

1. 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.**
2. When you need help with a difficult concept from the lecture and you can't make it to my office hours because of a time conflict. When you email, please specify 3 times that you can come to my office. I will choose one that fits my schedule and notify you which time to come to my office. Office hours are posted on BlackBoard in the "Instructor and TAs" link.
3. When you have an issue that prevents you from attending an exam. Notify me as soon as possible. All issues identified after the exam must be accompanied by a medical doctor's note.

Format of graded components

1. **Laboratory exercises**
 - a. Each lab has specific requirements. Refer to the labs for specific deliverables.
 - b. All labs are graded by the TAs
2. **Exam #1 (10%)**
 - a. 50 minute – conducted in class (see schedule)
 - b. Multiple choice & Short answer
3. **Exam #2 (15%)**
 - a. 50 minute – conducted in class (see schedule)
 - b. Multiple choice & Short answer
4. **Final exam (30%)**
 - a. It will be a 2 hour exam scheduled by the registrar on all course material
 - b. Multiple choice & Short answer & Essay question(s)

Appealing grades

If you feel as though your grade on a particular question was inconsistent with the answers provided by your TA or instructor, you may appeal the grade. Procedures are as follows:

1. If it is a lab component contact your TA, if it is a lecture exam contact your instructor.
2. Go to their office hours, or make an appointment.
3. Provide a clear justification for why the question should be marked again. "I thought I deserved better" is not sufficient justification.
4. The TA or instructor will mark the question again and notify you of the result.

Posting materials on BlackBoard

I will post my lecture slides on BlackBoard before the lecture whenever possible. Please note that, due to **copyright law**, I will not post any graphics unless I can do so legally. With this limitation in mind, I will include a URL, a reference to a textbook or a reference to a paper in the figure caption. To get the graphics you must follow the URL in the case of a web source, consult the textbook or obtain the paper. When I use figures from a textbook, I will ensure a copy is on reserve for you in the Geography Collections Room (Earth Sciences Building Rm 457). When I use materials or assign readings from a published paper, I will provide the full reference. You will be required to obtain the paper through the UofC library. For required videos, I will post a

link to the UofC library online resources. If the link does not work you will have find the resource in the UofC library.

Hints on how to excel in GEOG 231

1. 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!
2. Be ready to engage in the course material. You are not engaged if you are:
 - a. Consulting Facebook. Even the occasional distraction may sabotage your grade by missing a critical linking point (or hint) given by the instructor.
 - b. 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.
3. Readings are intended to supplement and reinforce concepts presented in the lecture. They ARE NOT substitutes for attending the lecture because the lectures give context and linkages between topics that you don't get from the readings. You cannot "just read the book" and do well in the course.
4. **Understand what your instructor expects of you:**
 - a. I 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.**
 - b. I expect you to understand the concepts, not memorize 'facts'. Geography is **NOT** about memorizing 'facts', and understanding is **NOT** the same as recalling trivia. I will examine you with the intention of determining 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.
5. **It is generally expected that students study at least one hour for each hour of lecture or laboratory. A course like GEOG 231 should be considered at least a 10-12 hour commitment per week.**
6. If you have trouble understanding the information presented in lecture, I expect you to:
 - a. Obtain the graphics used in lecture. Often they are the main focus during the lecture (see the section "Posting materials on BlackBoard")
 - b. Consult the required readings and videos. That is why I have provided them.
 - c. Consult a 1st 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.

- d. 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.
 - e. Speak to your instructor. If you are still having trouble, please come to my office hours or make an appointment.
7. **If you have non-academic issues that are negatively impacting your performance in the course please let me as soon as possible.**