



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2015

GEOGRAPHY 311 H(3-0)

Natural Events and Human Disasters

| Section | Days | Time | Location |
|---------|------|---------------|----------|
| LEC 01 | We | 18:00 – 20:50 | ICT 121 |

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|----------------------------|---|
| Instructor: Darren Sjogren | Office: ES 406 |
| Tel: 220 2575 | Email: sjogren@ucalgary.ca |

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

Course Description

This course will explore how various Earth processes create hazards for humans in different regions. Topics include but are not limited to: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, landslides, hurricanes, drought, famine and disease. Lectures will focus on: (1) the causes of dangerous natural events, (2) how the physical geography of a region affects its vulnerability, (3) historic human impacts, and (4) how people in different regions perceive and mitigate risk from these events.

Prerequisites: A previous course in Geography is strongly recommended.

Required Texts:

Smith, K. (2013) *Environmental Hazards: Assessing Risk and Reducing Disaster*, 6th Edition. Routledge, New York.

Northey, M., Knight, D.B., and Draper, D. (2012) *Making sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences: A student's guide to research and writing*, 5th Edition. Oxford University Press.

Additional readings and videos will be assigned as the course progresses.

D2L: All the course materials including lecture slides and assignments will be available on D2L.

Grading (Weighting) - Subject to change prior to the beginning of lectures

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Research projects (2) | 30% (15% each) |
| Assignments (4) | 20% (5% each) |
| Midterm exam | 30% |
| Take home final exam | 20% |

Note: (1) There will NOT be a registrar-scheduled exam in this course.
(2) It is not necessary to pass all components to pass the course as a whole.

Grading System:

| | | | |
|----|---------|----|---------|
| A+ | > 90 | C+ | 66 – 70 |
| A | 86 – 90 | C | 62 – 66 |
| A- | 82 – 86 | C- | 58 – 62 |
| B+ | 78 – 82 | D+ | 54 – 58 |
| B | 74 – 78 | D | 50 – 54 |
| B- | 70 – 74 | F | < 50 |

Policy regarding 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 Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

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.

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 the "(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

Posting of Grades

- Final 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 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