

GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2018

GEOGRAPHY 321 H(3-0)

Geography and our Environment

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC01	MoWeFr	14:00 – 14:50	ES 162

Instructor: Conny Davidsen	Office: ES 318
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Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Earth Science is ICT Food Court.

Official Course Description:

Environmental and resource issues, with emphasis on topics such as sustainability; ethics; planning; policy and decision making; and management strategies. Case examples highlight issues in resource sectors such as freshwater, oceans, parks and wildlife, tourism and recreation, forests and energy.

Course Objectives:

- to examine and understand key concepts, knowledge and different perspectives surrounding the human-environment interface and its inquiry;
- to gain an understanding of the effect of human activities on a range of natural resources globally, including the uncertainty, complexity and conflict that characterize their use and management;
- to gain a deeper understanding of the global and local dynamics driving current environmental problems and sustainability challenges through examples worldwide

Course Learning Outcomes:

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Students should be able to explain concepts and values critical to the study, management and understanding of our environment.	1,2,3,4,5,7	2
Students should be able to conceptualize the distribution, use, extraction and impact of global natural resources, the effects of human activities on a range of natural resources globally, and aspects of the uncertainty, complexity and conflict that characterize both the use and management of resources globally.	1,2,3,4,5,7	2
Students should be able to apply concepts for maintaining and sustaining the environment as a resource.	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
Students should be able to evaluate environmental problems and issues of sustainability within select world regions through case study examples.	1,2,3,4,5,7	2
Students should be able to explain the basic fundamentals of globalization in relationship to the environment.	1,2,3,4,5,7	2

PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes: 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills. **Levels:** (1) Introductory, (2) Intermediate, (3) Advanced.

Prerequisite: N/A

Learning Resources:

Paul Robbins, John Hintz and Sarah A. Moore (2014): Environment and Society – A Critical Introduction. Second Edition. Wiley Blackwell, Malden MA. (required)

Notes: The previous (first) textbook edition is sufficient as well. Occasional cross-checks with a class colleague's newer version are recommended.

For all further details, added materials and updates posted by the instructor throughout the term, visit the course space in Desire2Learn online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

Grading (Weighting)

Midterm Exam 50%
Final exam 50%

The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar's office.

If you are unable to attend an exam due to medical reasons, a doctor's note is required to avoid a 0% grade. For non-medical reasons, instructor permission needs to be granted prior to the exam. Notify the instructor as soon as you know, i.e. in many cases long before the exam, to discuss. Exam make-up arrangements are --within university exam regulations-- at the discretion of the instructor.

It is not essential to pass all components to pass the course as a whole. Only pens, pencils and erasers are allowed in exams. No other materials or devices allowed.

Grading System

96 – 100	A+	77 – 80	B	59 – 61	C-
90 – 95	A	71 – 76	B-	55 – 58	D+
86 – 89	A-	65 – 70	C+	50 – 54	D
81 – 85	B+	62 – 64	C	0 – 49	F

The instructor reserves the right to adjust exam grading in order to reflect student performance more fairly.

Grading Expectations and Tips

- Attend all lectures. Attendance is closely linked to success in any course. Textbook readings, other used materials and documentaries are intended to enrich and reinforce input presented in the lecture, but they are not substitutes for attending the lecture. Similarly, lecture slides are just brief

summaries of what the lecture discusses. Listen, take notes, ask questions, and critically engage with the material, to learn.

- Check D2L regularly for new lecture slides, further readings, current updates, grades, corrections, class cancellations, announcements, etc.
- Know your class colleagues, and be in touch with them. Discuss the material together. Consider meeting regularly as a study group. You can build your own support system that makes learning easier, more effective, and helps you if you miss a class or an important update.

Human subjects:

Students will not participate as subjects or researchers on human subjects

Supplementary Fees: N/A

For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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, faculty members can and should consider quality of writing as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance: www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar.

The student accommodation policy can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. 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: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Department Head (email: geograph@ucalgary.ca).

Principles of Conduct

The University 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 university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Communication with the Instructor and Students

Please make sure your e-mails are polite and respectful. Abusive or disrespectful e-mails will be reported and you may face non-academic or academic misconduct if they are deemed to be abusive or bullying in nature.

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 at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. 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 adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops and tablets in class may only be used in the classroom to take notes or find information relevant to the class, as long as they pose no disturbance or distraction for others in the classroom.

Phones must be turned off during class, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor for example as a health care or law enforcement professional. No electronic devices are allowed during examinations.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an 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 must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Exam grades will be available to each student on D2L by password access. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office. If you have questions about your graded exams, please contact the instructor after class or by email. The policy for reviewing an exam is within two weeks of receiving the grade on D2L.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The 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 provides detailed information about common academic concerns.

For guidance on course registration (add, drop, swap), information about paying fees, and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic –403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

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 station, 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.

USRI Surveys

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, so please participate in USRI surveys.