

GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: SUMMER 2021

GEOGRAPHY 391 H (70 hours) Area III

Geographic Field Studies August 23-September 1, 2021

Instructor of Record

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Course Instructors

Dr. Darren Bender

Dr. Victoria Fast

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Dr. Tricia Stadnyk

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Staff

Dan Odell (technician)

Kelsey Serviss (course assistant)

Course Description

An introduction to field research techniques and topics in physical and human geography. Lectures and projects will provide an introduction to a range of geographic disciplines. Field exercises will be conducted as Calgary-based day trips in the summer of 2021, for about ten days before Fall Term.

NOTE: Enrolment in Geography 391 may be limited. Preference for registration is given to Majors in Geography, Earth Science, and Environmental Science until June 26. Applications from other students will be reviewed between June 26 and July 15. Registration closes on July 15.

In-person instruction is planned for summer 2021, in accordance with public health and University of Calgary guidelines that are in effect at the time. Activities will be entirely outdoors, with online delivery for the lecture content and some of the group activity associated with the field activities.

Prerequisites

[Consent of the Department.](#)

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to provide wide-ranging exposure to field methods and analysis in Geography. While particular modules vary from year to year, field methods taught in the course include both physical (surveying, mapping, hydrology, geomorphology, biogeography) and human (cultural, tourism, urban, historical, economic) components of the discipline. In all instances, students gain hands-on experience in field data collection, data analysis, and synthesis.

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 to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Identify, select, and record observations in the field for specific research questions	3	2
Synthesize observations from various approaches to report interrelationships among aspects of place	4	2
Map field observations using appropriate precision levels and technology for the field situation and the questions being asked	6	1
Comprehend the interrelationships among humans and environments in extensive but spatially bounded areas	2, 4	2
Collect and analyze field collected data	3	2
Integrate results from field analysis with scientific literature and theories in written reports	7, 8	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, and 3 = Advanced.*

Course Text/Readings

Required readings will be posted on Desire2Learn (D2L) and will be available for viewing on the course D2L site starting in early to mid-August.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking blended courses (a combination of in-person and online delivery) are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection

Grading (Weighting)

Course content will be delivered as 7 modules/field activities, which you will rotate through in small groups over 7 different days. Modules will be posted well in advance of the course, and advance lecture material will be posted on D2L. This includes a mandatory introduction to each module activity that will be available online (pre-recorded), which students need to watch in advance of their daily activity. These pre-recorded lectures will contain essential background material and instructions for the day. There will be no synchronous online lectures, but after you have collected the field data you may wish to meet with your group online in the afternoon or early evening; some instructors may offer a Zoom office hour for follow-up questions. Course deliverables are associated with each field module, with daily deadlines (21:00 each evening, by default). In addition, students will develop an integrative StoryMap 'journal' over the 10 days, consisting of reflections and analyses of specific module activities within the broader context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The StoryMap journal is due at the end of the course.

Item		Dates	Details
Field Exercises (7 at 12%)	84%	August 23-27 August 30-Sept 1	Assignments will be completed in the evening after the field excursion and will be submitted to the instructor by 21:00 on D2L. Format will be different for each assignment and will be indicated by the instructor.
StoryMap journal	10%	September 7	Your StoryMap journal for the course is due on September 7 before 17:00 – submit your link to D2L. This is an individual assignment designed to provide you with a creative vehicle to integrate the course content and think about it within the broader picture of the role of Geography in supporting a sustainable Calgary and the UN sustainable development goals. You will have individual questions with each module (a daily activity) as well as two follow-up questions, which will be posted on September 1. If you use external sources or group material (e.g., maps) in your answers, ensure that they are properly cited and acknowledged.
Field notebook	6%	September 7	Hand in to Geography main office (ES 356) before 15:00 on Sept. 7, 2021.

Students are not required to pass all components of the course to pass the course as a whole.

There is no final examination for the course.

Module Submission and Late Policy

Module assignments are required to be prepared individually, unless otherwise instructed by the module instructor. Module assignments will be submitted in the evening after the field excursion and are usually due to the instructor by 9:00 pm or at each instructor's discretion. Field notebooks and your StoryMap journal are due as specified above. Unexcused late submissions (unless accompanied by a statutory declaration or medical note) will be assessed a penalty of 20% per day.

Human subjects: Students will participate as researchers on human subjects.

Supplementary Fees: A supplementary fee has been assessed for this course. For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

In the event that a student is unable to complete any of the course requirements on schedule, some of the assessment criteria can be waived, subject to a valid excuse. There will be no makeup assignments in this case, but the weight assigned to other course evaluation criteria will be proportionally increased.

Grading System

93–100	A+	77–80	B	60–65	C-
88–93	A	73–77	B-	55–60	D+
83–88	A-	70–73	C+	50–55	D
80–83	B+	65–70	C	0–50	F

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

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.

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: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf>

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.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published with the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be made available electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>

and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

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/>).

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/

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.