



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: SPRING 2010  
GEOGRAPHY 392**

**H(3-7) Area III**

**Overseas Field Studies in Physical and Environmental Geography – Part I**

<b>Instructor: Aaron Williams</b>	<b>Room:</b>
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**Official Course Description:**

Field research and reconnaissance survey of techniques applied to regions outside North America. Group travel-study combined with formal instruction and seminars.

MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT.

**Prerequisite:**

Consent of the Department

**Supplementary Fees:** (*field trips etc*). N/A

**Environmental Geography of Southeast Asia and China**

**Course Content**

Geography 392, Environmental Geography of Southeast Asia and China, will be offered during the Overseas Field School, Spring Session, 2010.

This half-course centers on data collection techniques and field research applied to environmental problems and resources in regions outside North America. The course focuses on recourses, environmental problems relating to both natural and human landscapes. This itinerary provides spatial settings for diverse studies and comparative analyses. Topics will include impacts of climate change, land degradation, deforestation, human's current and historical effects on landscapes, water issues, geothermal and hydrocarbon recourses, natural environmental disturbances, air pollution, and an examination of different agricultural practices. Particular emphasis will be focused on the impacts of the rapid industrialization of the region, and resulting ecological degradation.

The following pre-session components are included: one assignment, one paper, and introductory and topical lectures; *en route* components will include lectures, seminars, one-on-one student-instructor consultations, group study tours, and lectures by local experts. While overseas, students must complete one oral presentation, three field study assignments, an extensive field notebook, and a final examination. **Note:** Group travel study is interspersed with numerous opportunities for small group and individual instructor-approved studies.

**The final course grade includes these components:**

one pre-session assignment, based on selected required readings .....	05%
a pre-session paper .....	10%
an on-site oral presentation .....	15%
three field assignments.....	20%
a field notebook .....	40%
a final examination .....	10%

It is **not** necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course.  
 The Registrar will **not** schedule the Final Exam: it will be scheduled on the last day of the Field School.

**599.XX-level courses associated with GEOG 393**

Those enrolled in the associated 500-level course will be required to complete all these components but will be held to more rigorous marking criteria for them, including incorporation of more theoretical aspects of geography. In addition, they must complete a proposal for field research, including a literature review, prior to departure. An interim report on data collection will be due half-way through the field course, and a final report resulting from this research will be submitted no later than 6 weeks after the completion of the travel portion of the course.

Students enrolled in the 500-level courses will, in addition, be asked to assume a leadership position with respect to 300-level students, by being assigned to a small group and helping with background information and concept interpretation as required during the course. They will be responsible for submitting a diary of time and content of such activity, which will count toward their final grade.

**Expectations:**

By the conclusion of the program, a successful student will have acquired

- an understanding of field reconnaissance techniques,
- the ability to produce an academic field notebook,
- a good understanding of environmental issues in Southeast Asia and China,
- insights into physical and environmental processes, and the impacts of various forms of human activities on the environment.

**Grading System:**

***EITHER*** this type of grading system [numbers may be changed but you must include **all** the letter grades]

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

**OR** *The official grading scheme of the university will be used (Course Information Section in the University Calendar):*

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject
A-	3.70	↑
B+	3.30	↑
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance
B-	2.70	↑
C+	2.30	↑
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance – basic understanding of the subject
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal Pass-marginal performance
F	0	Fail - - poor performance

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:**  
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

#### 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.

#### Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic 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.

#### Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- To receive your assignment back via mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when handing in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. 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: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **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.