

**GEOGRAPHY 409  
H(3-0) Area III**

**Permafrost**

**Timetable:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00-12:15      **Catalogue #:** 4644

**Instructor:** Brian Moorman  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10:00-11:00  
(or by appointment)

**Course Description:** Development, characteristics and significance of permafrost, including the thermal and hydrological processes and resulting periglacial geomorphology and geotechnical implications.

**Prerequisite:** Geography 305 and 307

**Term Project** The term project is the most critical component of the class. In it you will work with others in groups of 2-4 students on a large project of mutual interest within the areas outlined in class. There will be two main types of projects that can be undertaken this term, an environmental review of the permafrost aspects of the Mackenzie pipeline development, or an experimental research projects. There is limited space and equipment so the number of laboratory based research projects will be restricted to 20 students. Together you will be responsible for a 30-45 minute presentation and a written report or poster presentation substantial enough to represent the group's combined efforts.

**Attendance and participation:** I consider attendance and participation to be a critical component of this class. To get a great grade in this class you have to convince me you've done the work and have understood the material. One way to do this is by attending class and being an active, informed participant. Students who miss class risk receiving a lower grade than the student might have secured with regular attendance. To this end 10% of your grade is reserved for attendance and participation. While this is not a lot, it is enough to go from a B to an A- (or the reverse). Part of the participation grade will come from the presentation of a question of the day. This is a short presentation (2-3 minutes) answering a basic question that will introduce a new topic that we will be covering.

**Classroom Environment:** Feel free to ask questions and express opinions in this course, approaching readings and ideas actively and critically. As you do so, however, please strive to be courteous to your fellow students.

**Text:** *The Periglacial Environment* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) by Hugh M. French

**Readings:** Additional readings will be posted on the Blackboard site

**Grading (Weighting):**

Mid-term Exam (in class February 16)	20%
Final Exam (schedule by the registrar)	30%
Term project (due April 6)	40%
Participation (e.g. question of the day)	10%

It is not essential to pass all elements to pass the course as a whole.

**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

**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.

**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 done on Blackboard Grades will not be available at Geography's main office.

**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.