

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2020

GEOGRAPHY 412 GFC HOURS(3-2)

Soil Science

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TuTh	12:30 – 13:45	Web Based Course (hybrid)
LAB 01	M 11-12:50		Web Based Course (asynchronous)
LAB 02	T 14-15:50		Web Based Course (asynchronous)

Instructor: Andrea Freeman	Office: N/A
Telephone: N/A	Email: freeman@ucalgary.ca

Official Course Description

Exploration of soil science including the chemical, physical, and biological properties of soils; soil formation and development, including the classification of soils, and the application of soil science to land use, environmental quality, global change, and sustainable development.

Course Objectives

Students completing this course will be able to describe the formation of soils at the Earth's surface, including chemical, physical, and biological processes that have acted upon them. Further, they will be able to understand the application of these concepts in the literature, and provide initial recommendations on the use of soils in geomorphology, in land use and environmental assessments (including archaeology) as well as modifications or amendments to soils that promote healthy solutions to global issues and sustainable development practices.

Online meeting schedule

Section	Meeting Time	Meeting Dates
LEC 01	TuTh	Required synchronous sessions: Sep 8, Oct 20, Oct 27, Nov 3, Nov 17, Nov 26, Dec 3
LAB 01-02	M 11am, T 2pm	Optional synchronous sessions (recorded): Sep 21, 22; Oct 5,6, 26, 27; Nov 16, 17, 30; Dec 1

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)**
Understand and articulate advanced concepts in soil science	1, 5, 7	2,3
Describe elemental and biological processes that act on soil formation	2	1.2
Critically evaluate the literature on soil science as applied in Geography	4, 7, 8	2,3
Compose and participate in written and oral discussion of soil processes	5, 7, 8	2
Conduct basic analyses on soil components	3, 4	1, 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.

Prerequisites

Prerequisite: 3 units from Geography, 211, 308, 310.

Learning Resources

Weil and Brady. *The nature and properties of soils* (15th edition).

A list of additional readings for discussions will be posted to D2L during the first week of classes.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses 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)

Two, weekly group discussions (5% each)	10%
Discussion Questions (3% each X 6 discussions)	18%
Group Contract	2%
Participation (synchronous sessions)	5%
Midterm Tests (x3, 20%, 10%, 10%)	40%
Labs (5X5%)	25%

All components must be attempted in order to pass the course, but a failing grade on any individual component will not necessarily result in failure of the course. Final course grade will be determined by percentage earned.

Notable dates: October 8 (Test #1: 20%), November 19 (Test #2, 10%), December 8 (Test #3, 10%), Weekly discussions begin Oct. 20

Guide to Assessments (Tests):

- Examinations are open-book and open note; however, any written answers must be presented in your own words (no plagiarism, no cutting and pasting from shared notes or other online resources) Students unfamiliar with Academic Integrity should consider taking a workshop: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>
- You are on your honor to use only the textbook and your own personal notes for examination purposes; any other resources identified will be reported to the Associate Dean; for tests 2 and 3 your “notes” may include your personal answers to discussion questions.
- Tests will be posted to D2L and will open at 12:30 pm (Calgary) on the date of the test and will close at 12:30 pm the following day.
- You must not consult or interact with other students in this course during the 24-hour examination period.
- The instructor will be available via Zoom for questions between the hours of 12:30 and 1:45 pm on the date of the test only. If you are taking the test at a time other than the scheduled course hours, there will be no one available to answer questions.
- Each test will be open for 1 hour and 52.5 minutes. You will be given no additional time. Please do not enter and exit the test; you will only be allowed one entry.
- Students needing an in-term deferred exam must provide a valid excuse, in writing.

- *There is no final examination for this course.*

Guide to Assessments (Other):

- A reading list will be provided and divided into topics. All students are required to read these materials.
- Students will be assigned to groups based on topical interest and will be required to participate in two weekly presentations as the leaders of those discussions. I strongly advise preparing a powerpoint presentation. Students working from another time zone should inform the instructor at the beginning of the term.
- Powerpoint presentations must be sent to the instructor by 10 am (Calgary) on the date of the presentation so that in the event of an inability to share, the instructor may load any prepared materials.
- Discussion Questions will be provided for each discussion session. These are due by 10 am (Calgary) on the day following the discussion. These must be answered in your own words. Lectures and discussions will form the content of tests 2 and 3.
- Lab assignments will be posted and handled asynchronously. The scheduled lab session following the assignment posting will be open via Zoom for questions and handled by the TA. You may attend either session (M or T). The TA will provide due dates for the lab assignments.
- A rubric will be provided for both weekly discussions (oral) and participation.
- Late assignment policy: Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty in the first week. Unless a valid excuse is provided, any assignments more than one week late will receive an automatic grade of zero.

Grading System

96 – 100	A+	77 – 80.9	B	59– 61.9	C-
90– 95.9	A	71 – 76.9	B-	55 – 58.9	D+
86– 89.9	A-	65 – 70.9	C+	50 – 54.9	D
81– 85.9	B+	62 – 64.9	C	0 – 49.9	F

Please keep in mind that assessments are designed to ideally place student performance into the categories defined in the University Calendar under F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System. An A+ should be reserved for Outstanding performance and a C is an indication of Satisfactory performance. Should final grades not appear to satisfy these categories, the instructor may adjust the grades to more accurately reflect performance. Normally, this will only be done if student grades as a whole fall below the threshold of student performance (grades will not normally be adjusted downward). Individual appeals for a higher grade will not be considered except in the case of an error in grading or tallying grades.

COURSE POLICIES

Expectations

- Following the first class, any questions regarding materials in the course outline should be posted to the FAQ of the discussion board. The instructor will not be expected to address questions that have been handled in writing and synchronous sessions. Please utilize your peers for such answers.
- I expect that students will have completed the activities for each module before the next module is posted.
- To do well in the course I recommend that you log on frequently, at least 2-3 times a week to D2L and keep up with all assigned readings etc.
- Students can expect the instructor and/or the TA to monitor discussions periodically and to check on student progress. Please note that I can see if you have actually watched the video lectures.
- Please keep in mind that I do not normally look at email after 5pm. Student questions will be triaged based on instructor availability, nature of question/emergency, and whether or not it has been addressed in the FAQ.
- Students will let the instructor know of an issue they have that impacts their success in the course as soon as possible.

- The news area of the classroom you see each time you log on will be used to post updates and comments on class matters. Some questions may be answered in the FAQ portion of the class discussion, as they will be relevant to all students.
- I will also email the class to remind you of upcoming important dates. Instructor presentations are not downloadable and are the intellectual property of the Professor. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf>
- Asynchronous sessions will be posted prior to the synchronous schedule date through D2L (normally at the beginning of the week); synchronous sessions will be posted after the synchronous schedule.
- The discussion forums are an essential part of the course and exam questions may be drawn from them.

Synchronous Session Policy

All students are required to participate in synchronous sessions regardless of location. Ideally, students in this course should be visible during synchronous sessions. If you find that your internet connection is unstable during synchronous sessions, you are permitted to turn off video for yourself. You must be able to be identified as a student in this course. You may not share Zoom links or passwords with anyone. Unidentifiable individuals will be removed from the session. Please use your UofC credentials and UofC email address for Zoom. Telephone access will only be permitted *with advanced permission of the instructor*. Please send an email before 4:30 pm on the date prior to the lecture advising of the need to use telephone access. You must provide your name, SID, and the phone number from which you will be logging in. See additional policies below.

Email Policy

In all emails to me and the TA you must use your U of C email address. In any email correspondence please begin with the course code (GEOG 412) in the subject line along with the subject of your message. Please err on the side of formality. Students should send an email only where the questions or concerns are of a private nature. All other questions about content, assignments, or processes should be posted to the appropriate course discussion board so that all students have the benefit of the answer. Most of the time, you can expect a reply to an email within 24 hours. Please do NOT expect and immediate reply. I also rarely reply to emails evenings or weekends. I will not answer emails if I cannot identify you as a student in this course.

Discussion Board Policy

The university seeks to create and maintain a positive and productive learning, working, and living environment; an environment in which there is:

- respect for the dignity of all
- fair treatment of individuals
- respect for academic freedom

This means that students, as well as faculty, must act ethically, honestly and with integrity, and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect. In other words, instances of racism, sexism, or other derogatory remarks, or remarks that may cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or suffer emotional or mental distress will not be tolerated. Any such remarks made in the discussion boards will be immediately deleted and the person responsible may be subject to University sanctions for non-academic misconduct. If you note a post that does not adhere to these principles please contact the instructor immediately. For more information see: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

Disagreements between individuals are inevitable, and it is important in the interests of academic freedom that individuals can express their views without fear of repercussion. It is also through understanding other points of view that we learn. When disagreements do occur, it is thus important to maintain respect for the dignity of all. It is also possible that remarks may be made that, while not intended to be offensive, may be hurtful to others. Again, if you find a post by anyone, including the instructor or TA, that is offensive, please let me know right away.

Supplementary Fees

Not Applicable

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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 at: <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.

Human subjects

Human subject research is not a part of this course.

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 returned by the instructor or teaching assistant electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office.

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:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.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: 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 their instructor or the Department Head (email: david.goldblum@ucalgary.ca).

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 disciplines 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, suwpaca@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.