

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2021

GEOGRAPHY 430 GFC HOURS (3-1T)

Animal Geography

Section	Location	Meeting Times	Meeting Days
LEC01	Web Based Course	N/A	None – all asynchronous
TUT01	Web Based Course	N/A	None – all asynchronous
TUT02	Web Based course	N/A	None – all asynchronous
TUT03	Web Based Course	N/A	None – all asynchronous

Instructor: Shelley Alexander	Office: ES 460
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Official Course Description

Explores the socio-spatial relationships between humans and animals, with the goal of elucidating the ecological, economic, political, social, and cultural pressures shaping these relations, and the conflicts arising from human-animal interactions. Inter-species bonds and emotional lives of animals are also covered.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to build core competency understanding how humans relate to animals. We examine how ethics, culture, historical practice, social context, and worldviews impact the lives and welfare of animals (domestic, feral and wild). Topics include food production, pet ownership, livestock husbandry, animal assisted therapy, wildlife research and conservation, as well as animal sentience and emotional lives. Key learning will be gained through skill building techniques, such as interpreting animal play and communication. The course integrates a variety of methods, such as: qualitative, inquiry based and group role playing into five assignments, to explore the complexity of our engagements with certain animals (e.g. coyotes, sharks, wolves, horses). Final presentations provide students the opportunity to explore a human-animal relationship in depth, as well as the myriad of challenges facing animals in society. The course evaluates student's ability to synthesize data collected through media or literature, and provide concrete skills in analysis (e.g. media content analysis).

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)
Explain the history of Animal Geography around the world with a specific focus on North America	1,2	3
Describe historic and contemporary theories describing human and animal relationships	1,2	2
Use multiple methods to explore complex human-animal relationships (e.g. media content analysis, film reaction, role playing of stakeholders in a coyote cull hearing, among others)	3,4	1,2, 3
Identify ethical frameworks that influence choices about engagement with animals (wild, pets, livestock, feral)	2	2

Understand the role of media in affecting our perceptions about animals, using media content analysis techniques)	2, 3, 4	2
Develop a skill set to interpret the complex language used by dogs in play, as a means to understand animal sentience.	2, 5	2
Articulate how human disturbance affects animal survival, using regional examples aimed at co-existence	7	2
Describe how contemporary pet and domestic livestock ownership evolved and its relationship to social constructs, and power imbalances at local, international and global scales	3, 4, 5	2
Communicate how research approaches in conservation affect animal welfare	2	2
Use inquiry-based learning to explore the complex relationships between humans-animal-landscape in the procurement of food and water security for humans	1, 7	2,3

**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:

3 units from courses labelled Geography at the 300 level or above. Computer skills, library digital search, basic math, communication, and presentation skills

Learning Resources

Urbanik, Julie. 2012. Placing Animals, An Introduction to the Geography of Human-Animal Relations. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Maryland. 191pp.

Bekoff, Marc. 2007. The Emotional Lives of Animals: a leading scientist explores animal joy, sorrow, and empathy, and why they matter. New World Library, Novato, CA. 214pp.

Grading (Weighting and timeline)

Assignment	Start Date	Due Date	% final grade
Assignments 1(I/II)	Jan 19/26	Jan 26/Feb 02	10%
Assignments 2	Feb 02	Feb 09	10%
Assignments 3	Feb 09	Feb 16	10%
Assignments 4	Feb 23	Feb 30	10%
Assignments 5	Mar 02	Mar 09	10%
Assignments 6	Mar 09	Mar 23	10%
Final Project	Mar 23	Apr 6	30%
Final Reflection	Apr 6	Apr 20	10%
TOTAL			100%

Final Examination: There is NO final examination for this course

- It is essential to pass all components to pass the course as whole
- Only pens, pencils and erasers are allowed in exams. No other materials or devices are allowed.
- Late assignment policy – accommodations are made for medical or other emergency issues, or a minimum of 1 week prior arrangement with the professor.

Exemptions to the Examination and Tests Regulations (if applicable)

Not applicable

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

Exams

Student accommodation for missed exams or course work

If you miss one of the course assessments (exam or tutorial assignment) and possess a legitimate excuse, email Dr. Alexander smalexan@ucalgary.ca

Medical notes/statutory declarations are not required, but frequently asked questions about accommodations and other information is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>.

Supplementary Fees

no supplemental fees

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

No human subjects used

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 without 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 personally during scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, unless they are made available 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 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.

