



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2017
GEOGRAPHY 451
H(3-0)

Urban Systems Development

Section	Days	Times	Location
LECO1	TuTh	14:00 – 15:15	ST 128

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Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Science Theatres is Professional Faculties Food Court.

I. Description

This course will provide students with a critical review of the geographical principles of urban growth and uneven development in the context of local, regional and global urban systems. Topics may include the urbanization processes under capitalism, city-regions, global city networks, returns to urban agglomeration, inter-spatial competition, new geographies of consumption, and the transnational movements of capital and labor. In addition to its multi-national focus, the class will emphasize the role economic and political forces play in shaping cities. Concepts like power, class, space, growth, decline, competition, and governance will be used to understand contemporary forces that are affecting cities. The class combines lectures, discussions, and a large group project.

Prerequisite: Geography 341

II. Course Goals

Overall Goals

- Develop the intellectual tools and skills to read articles and books critically
- Discuss theories about contemporary urbanization

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Make observations and discern key details in patterns and changes to the urban environment that reflect more general processes of uneven development
- Analyze a case using an appropriate urban theoretical framework introduced in this course
- Effectively communicate your findings with a poster presentation
- Write a group report that effectively connects theories and observations

III. Format and Procedures

You should expect to spend a good deal of time preparing for this class. A good rule of thumb is that three to four hours of outside work is necessary for each day of class. Each week, an average of 100 pages of reading is required. Your group project will also take a good deal of time. Budget your time outside of class accordingly.

Other classroom policies:

- Cell phones must be silenced.

- Do not eat food that makes a lot of noise e.g. potato chips.
- Do not use computers to surf the Internet during class.
- No electronically submitted assignments, except reading responses, will be accepted for any reason.
- I do not check or respond to my university email from 6PM-6AM on workdays and throughout the weekends.

IV. Tentative Class Schedule

(This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunities. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.)

V. Course Requirements

Class attendance

Attendance in the lecture and discussion section of the course is essential but not enforced. Attendance for the group project section of this course is mandatory and taken at every class.

a. Absences must be fully justified. For absences due to emergency, e-mail me on the same day as the emergency and follow up with written documentation as per student rules.

b. Religious Holy Days Exemption: You must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Course Readings/Materials

All required readings will be available through D2L no later than one week before their assigned date. Please check the syllabus for the correct readings for the class. All students are expected to read all the material assigned to them; that means the entire book, book section, or article.

Assignments, Assessment, and Evaluation

a. **Mid-Term Examination:** Take-home, short answer written examination will assess your comprehension of the themes covered in the readings and lectures in the first section of this course. The mid-term draws on class readings and discussions only – no other materials are accepted as references.

b. **Online Reading Responses:** A "Reading Response Form" must be filled out on D2L by 9am the day of the class on all days readings are assigned; no late assignments will be accepted for credit. These assignments are not graded for content but incoherent, thoughtless, or incomplete responses will not be accepted for any credit. Moreover, they must be done on time so I can use them to prepare and modify my lectures based upon your input. These reading responses will make 10% of your overall mid-term grade (see grading procedures below). See the "Reading Response sheet" form, attached below, for details on how to complete a reading response assignment.

c. **Statement about group project:** All students are required to complete a group case-study project as part of this course. The project will examine a topic in urban development in a city or region of your own choosing. Crucially, your group's project will rely on at least one of the theoretical frameworks or key concepts examined in class (for example, the spatial division of labor; rent seeking, intercity competition; neoliberalism, city-regions, agglomeration, producer services, etc.). Primary research is not the focus: effective case studies will review and present empirical evidence from the research literature (primarily academic books and journal articles) and secondary sources such as newspapers and government reports (sites such as Wikipedia should be used sparingly as a resource).

Guidance for your case-study projects will be provided in class during the second half of the term. (An example would be examining the significance of the “backoffice” economy in Dublin by relying on the idea of low-skilled producer services, or agglomeration.) The selection of case-study topics is a matter to be decided in your group, but I will help you find a topic that can be realized in the few weeks you have to research and write the group report and prepare the poster presentation. In addition, you will be evaluated for how well your group functions and for your involvement in the group.

VI. Grading Procedures. Grades will be based on:

Midterm Grade: 40%

- Midterm Examination – 30%

- Reading Responses – 10% (all must be completed for full credit)

Group Project – 60%

a. Group Report – 30%

b. Poster Presentation – 10%

c. Group contract, procedures, and individual peer-evaluations – 10%

d. Individual Reflection Paper – 10%

Grading Distribution

Letter grades will follow approximately the following scheme:

A+ (98-100); A (93-97); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (63-66); D- (60-62); F (0-59)

VII. General University Guidelines

USRI

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

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, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Principles of Conduct

The University of Calgary 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 the University’s property. This statement applies in all situations where the members of the University community are acting in their University capacities. All Members of the University Community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with this statement which is available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j-2.html>

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. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/plagiarism>

Academic Accommodations:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the university policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.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. The procedure can be found at:

www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf

Students needing an accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, in writing, to the Instructor.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

FOIP: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside 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 provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handled through D2L or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on D2L by password access. 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
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: arts1@ucalgary.ca

The students ombudsman office information can be found at:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>

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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210 7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca