

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2018
GEOGRAPHY 457
H(3-3)

Urban and Environmental GIS

Section	Days	Time	Location
LECO1	MoWeFr	09:00 – 09:50	ES 342
LAB 01	We	11:00 – 13:50	ES 307

Instructor: Victoria Fast	Office: ES 452
Telephone: 403 220 8353	Email: victoria.fast@ucalgary.ca
TA: Angela Ambrose	Email: angela.ambrose@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: by appointment	
Lab Assistant: Adam McLane	Email: ajmclane@ucalgary.ca
*Available for consultation during lab times	

Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.

Official Course Description:

The role of Geographic Information Systems in environmental research and management is explored both theoretically and practically. Topics will relate to major issues within the urban and environmental fields. Advanced analytical approaches will be critically examined within lecture and laboratories.

Course Objectives:

This course builds on your previous introductory- and advance-level coursework in GIS, through a more in-depth examination of GIS applications in urban and environmental studies, and the data structures, source, and analysis techniques used in them. We will explore urban spatial analysis, decision-making in a GIS environment, and representational challenges, including project planning, spatial data acquisition, data preparation, analysis and visualization of project findings, and communication and implementation of project results. You will gain experience in locating and obtaining geospatial data from local, provincial, and national government sources; developing primary data for urban spatial analysis; and analyzing and representing these data using desktop GIS software. We examine a range of urban and environmental uses of GIS, including crime analysis, disaster management, transportation and routing application, and environmental justice. Underlying this course is the question of “what is the urban? and what is the environment?”, which has been formulated to challenge the often-present assumption of an urban/nature binary.

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

- Apply diverse spatial analytic approaches toward urban and environmental planning, decision-making, and administration,
- Evaluate appropriate data sources for diverse spatial problems,
- Compose maps using cartographically sound principles,
- Deconstruct the ways representations and data come to shape the ways we think of places and the people in them, and
- Devise policy recommendations based on spatial analyses.

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 they facilitate and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Apply diverse spatial analytic approaches toward urban and environmental planning, decision-making and administration	1,2,4,6	2,3
Evaluate appropriate data sources for diverse spatial problems	6	3
Compose cartographically sound maps and reports to communicate geographic information in a variety of media	7,8	2
Deconstruct the ways representations and data come to shape the way we think of places and the people in them	1,2,4,5,7,8	2,3
Devise policy recommendations based on spatial analysis	1,2,7	

**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: Geography 357

Learning Resources

There is no required textbook for this course. Course readings will be drawn from GIS texts, academic journals, popular media (blogs, videos, etc). The required readings will be available on the course D2L site. Lab materials will be distributed on D2L as well.

Course Evaluation Components and Weighting

Laboratory Assignments (6 * 7% each)	42%
Weekly In-Class Engagement	10%
Spatial News	5%
Midterm	13%
Major course project	30%
Proposal: 5%	
Presentation: 10%	
Final written report (including peer evaluation): 15%	

Notes: It is not necessary to pass each course component in order to pass the course. There is no final examination for this course.

GRADING SYSTEM

A+	4.00	>95	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	86-94	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	80-85	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	77-79	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	74-76	Good performance
B-	2.70	70-73	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	67-69	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	64-66	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	60-63	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	1.30	56-59	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses
D	1.00	50-55	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses
F	0.00	<50	Failure. Did not meet course requirements

Human subjects: Students will NOT participate as subjects or researchers on human subjects

Supplementary Fees: N/A

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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, faculty members can and should consider quality of writing as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance: www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview.

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: www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. 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 the Department Head (email: geograph@ucalgary.ca).

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: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html.

Internet and electronic communication device information

There is no restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor. Phones must be turned off during class, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional. The use of any calculators and/or devices during examinations will not be allowed.

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.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during schedule 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.

Policy regarding rounding of final grades

In an effort to be fair to all students in the class, your individual grade will not be rounded up, regardless of how close you are to a grade break. In short, the final grade breaks are hard breaks. This policy minimizes ambiguity and ensures the grading is as fair and clear as possible.

Missing Exams

As listed in the Deferral of final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar are illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you miss an assignment or examination and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, you will have one opportunity to make arrangements for the missed work. Without appropriate documentation, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The 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 provides detailed information about common academic concerns.

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

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/

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/>).

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.

USRI Surveys

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, so please participate in USRI surveys.