



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2010
GEOGRAPHY 457
(formerly Geography 547)
H(3-3) Area III**

Geographic Information Systems II

Timetable: Tu, Th 14:00-15:15 ES 342

Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Craigie Hall is Professional Faculties food court.

Instructor: Stefan Steiniger	Office: ES 302, sess. lect. room
Telephone: 403-220-7106	Email: ssteinig@ucalgary.ca

Official Course Description:

The role of Geographic Information Systems in environmental (physical-human interactions) research and management is explored both theoretically and practically. Topics will concentrate on GIS analysis techniques (e.g. slope and aspect, polygon overlays, hydrologic functions etc.), GIS modeling approaches (e.g. multi criteria analysis) and the discussion of errors with respect to applications in the environment/earth sciences field. The laboratories will consist of one continuous project that aims to model soil loss based on the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE). ESRI's ArcGIS and OpenJUMP GIS with the Sextante raster toolbox will be used for laboratories and student project.

Prerequisite: Geography 339 and one of 357 or 447 or consent of the Department

Text(s)/Readings: no required text, but the following books are recommended:

- (i) P. A. Longley, M. F. Goodchild, D. J. Maguire, D. W. Rhind, 2005: Geographic Information Systems and Science, 2nd Edition. Wiley,
- (ii) P.A. Burrough & R.A. McDonnell, 1998: Principles of Geographical Information Systems. 2nd Edition, Oxford.

Note: Readings from other sources may be assigned. Notifications of these will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading (Weighting):

Final Lab Project Report: 40%
Midterm Lab Report: 20%
Final Exam: 40%

Both components (labs and final exam) need to be passed individually to pass the whole course. An accepted final project report for the labs is necessary to take part in the final exam. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar.

The lab projects will be accomplished in groups of two students, and the final report is handed in as a group. The guidelines for the final report are given in a separate document.

Participation:

Before missing a lab your other group partner should be notified. If a lab is missed 2-4 weeks the instructor team needs to be informed. Missing labs for more than 4 weeks is not acceptable and the course is considered as not-attended for the student.

The instructor team will evaluate student participation in group work and can assign a student a lower grad or fail the student for little or no participation in group work.

The final project report can be improved once, if failed. But the final mark will not be better than a D+.

The only acceptable reasons for missing an examination or assignment in this class, as listed in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar (http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2008/how/How_IF.htm), 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.

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

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

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.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard 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: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

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.