



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2017**  
**GEOGRAPHY 465**  
**H(3-0)**

**Science, Nature, Politics**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
LEC 01	We	14:00 – 16:45	ES 319

Instructor: Gwen Blue	Office: ES 322
Telephone: 220 5595	Email: <a href="mailto:gblue@ucalgary.ca">gblue@ucalgary.ca</a>

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

**Official Course Description:**

Examines competing claims about knowledge, authority and expertise that occur in environmental and other science-based controversies. Introduces core concepts and debates surrounding risk, uncertainty and democratic engagement in techno-scientific contexts, with a focus on the shifting role of citizens and more generally, publics, in geography, environmental decision-making and urban planning. Science, Technology and society (STS) frameworks will evaluate how avenues for public engagement are understood and constructed in relation to fundamental societal issues.

This course offers an introduction to and specific examples of what it means to “think geographically” about some of the most defining phenomena of our age. Questions of scale, process and representation are approached through the lens of science and technology studies (STS). The theme of this year’s course is ‘Climate Change’. In addition to unprecedented biophysical changes, climate change poses unique representational challenges, and demands new forms of seeing, imagining and responding.

The course is structured through individual case studies that connect local places with various ecological, political, economic and technological aspects of climate change. Through lectures, guest speakers, and student presentations, we will examine themes such as social construction, environmental determinism, reductionism, securitization, migration, power, justice and inequality. These themes will be discussed on a ‘tour’ of various locations including the Arctic as a geopolitical hotspot, the Maldives as a disappearing nation state, European border controls, climate policy in western Canada, and carbon politics in the Global South.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of at least 60 units. (10.0 full course equivalents)

**Supplementary Fees:** (field trips etc). N/A

**Text(s)/Readings:**

No assigned text book. All readings available through university library.

## Grading (Weighting):

**Exams: (3 @ 10% = 30% of final grade)** Short examinations test comprehension of material.

**Presentation: (30% of final grade)** individually or in small groups, students will provide one presentation on an assigned topic area. This involves creating and delivering a power point (or equivalent) presentation of 15 minutes for the class. Power point slides must be submitted before class to D2L to meet assignment requirements. Dates TBA.

**Final Research Essay (30% of final grade)** Research essay (or equivalent) based on secondary sources about a topic related to course. Essay length 3250 - 3500 words (12 pages double - spaced). Due last day of class.

**Participation (10%)** Active participation in class discussions and assignments.

There is no final exam for this class.

## Grading System:

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject
A-	3.70	↑
B+	3.30	↑
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance
B-	2.70	↑
C+	2.30	↑
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance – basic understanding of the subject
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal Pass-marginal performance
F	0	Fail - - poor performance

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)