



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2018**  
**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.

**Course Objectives:**

This course seeks to enhance students' understanding what it means to 'think geographically' about environmental issues. The course draws on the environmental humanities and STS (science and technology studies) streams in geography. Linking key geography concepts with case studies, delivered through lectures, guest speakers, and student presentations, the course examines how spatial processes, representations, and power shape societal responses to environmental change. The theme of this year's course is 'Climate Change and the Anthropocene'. Linking the cultural and physical understandings of climate, we will explore the following questions:

- What meanings are attached to climate change and how do these meanings inform how we act as individuals and make public policy collectively?
- Who decides how climate change is defined and managed across various scales?
- Which perspectives are dominant and which are marginalized?

**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)
Describe various approaches to climate change, including dominant and marginal ones	1, 2, 4	2
Outline the ways in which representations of climate change influence action	2, 4	2
Identify how power and knowledge influence how climate change is represented	1, 2, 4	2
Communicate ideas clearly in written and oral form	7	2

**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, (3) Advanced.

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

**Learning Resources:**

**Grading/Weighting**

The following provides a general overview of assignments. Further details and evaluation rubrics are available on D2L. There is no final exam for this class. It is not necessary to pass individual components to receive a passing grade in the course.

**Exams: (30% of final grade)** Two short exams (15% each) test comprehension of lecture and reading material. February 7; March 21

**Presentation: (10% of final grade)** In small groups, students will provide one presentation on an assigned topic area. Presentation must draw from, and expand on assigned readings. This involves creating and delivering a power point (or equivalent) presentation that is 15 minutes in duration. Power point slides must be submitted before class to D2L to meet assignment requirements. Dates TBA.

**Final Research Essay (40% of final grade)** Research essay (or equivalent) based on secondary sources about a topic related to course. Length: 3000 – 3500 words. Due to D2L last day of class.

**Participation (20% of final grade)** Active participation in class discussions and completion of assigned writing assignments. Students are expected to have completed the readings prior to class and prepared to engage in productive dialogue about the key ideas.

**Grading System**

Assignments will be graded using the following scale. Grade breaks are non-negotiable.

96-100	A+	77-80.5	B	59-61.5	C-
90-95.5	A	71-76.5	B-	55-58.5	D+
86-89.5	A-	65-70.5	C+	50-54.5	D
81-85.5	B+	62-64.5	C	0-49.5	F

**Human subjects:** Students will not participate as subjects or researchers on human subjects in this course.

**Supplementary Fees: Not applicable**

*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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

#### **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](mailto: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**

- 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: [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference, so please participate in USRI surveys.