



## GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE

### GEOGRAPHY 521 H(3-0)

#### The Urban Environment

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TuTh	18:00 - 19:15	EEEL 151

Instructor: Dr. Marit Rosol	Office: ES 446
Telephone:	Email: <a href="mailto:marit.rosol@ucalgary.ca">marit.rosol@ucalgary.ca</a>

**Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Energy, Environment & Experiential learning is ICT Food Court.**

#### **Official Course Description:**

Urban environments and their construction as a reflection of human needs and non-human constituents, systems of production and distribution, urban policy, infrastructure and design are considered from the perspectives of both physical and human geography. Critical examination of anthropocentric notions of duality, space and place and “the other” frame the examination of human management practices and non-human nature. Topics may include the explosion of monocultures and environments of infectious disease and toxic waste.

**MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT.**

**Prerequisite:** One of Geography 317, 321, 417 and one of Geography 321, 351 and 451

## Course Content

“As a theoretical lens”, Nik Heynen writes, Urban Political Ecology “provides an integrated and relational approach that helps to untangle the interconnected economic, political, social, and ecological processes that together go to form highly uneven urban landscapes.” (Heynen 2014: 602). But what does this mean exactly? What is “Urban Political Ecology” – and what does it tell us about the urban? The purpose of this seminar is to introduce higher level undergraduate students to different ways of understanding, theorizing and researching not only “urban natures”, but the city itself through a critical urban political ecology approach. Through intensive readings and discussions of important theoretical articles and book chapters, discussions of different themes such as water, food, green space, housing etc. in class, and through local case-studies chosen and researched by students, we will examine the evolution of urban political ecology, its main tenets and its relevance for understanding cities and urbanization processes.

This is a research and writing-intensive class. This course consists in two main components:

- a) reading, presenting and discussing relevant theory and case study articles on urban political ecology and
- b) developing, researching, presenting and writing on a small case-study on urban ecology issues in the Calgary region chosen by students (individual or group work)

*Reference:* Heynen, Nik. 2014. Urban political ecology I: The urban century. *Progress in Human Geography* 38 (4), 598-604.

## Outcomes / Objectives

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

- be able to paraphrase, summarize, explain and discuss key texts and concepts of the urban political ecology literature
- have chosen a small local case study in order to investigate one or more of the important tensions and conflicts urban political ecology deals with
- have identified a problem and a relevant research-question in regard to their case study
- have carried out research on their case study based on literature, documents and other secondary sources
- have analyzed their case study based on a critical evaluation of the discussed literature and independent literature search and review
- have presented their findings in class and in writing

**Key reading** (*required, available at the library in print and online through ebrary and ebscohost*):

**Heynen, Nik, Kaika, Maria and Swyngedouw, Erik (eds.). 2006. *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism*, London and New York: Routledge.**

Further weekly readings will be announced in class, links to some of the supplemental readings will be posted on D2L. Students are expected to do independent literature search in regard to their individual research project.

**Course requirements / Assessment / Grading (Weighting):**

1. Participation in weekly discussion of readings and research projects (10%)
2. Facilitation of one seminar session (10%)
3. Class presentation (10%) and written reflection (10%) on one weeks course readings (in total: 20%)
4. Research proposal incl. proposal presentation in class (10%)
5. Research findings presentation (20%) (Note: presentations in the last weeks of class)
6. Research paper (30%) (due last day of class, i.e. 11 April 2017)

You must earn 50% or more on the assignments, and presentations in this course in order to pass. **It is essential to pass all components to pass the course as a whole.**

**Note: There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination in this course.**

**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)