

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2019

GEOGRAPHY 521 H(3-0)

The Urban Environment

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	We	17:00 – 19:45	ES 319

Instructor: Dr. Marit Rosol	Office: ES 446
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Please note: *The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Earth Sciences 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.

Prerequisite: 6 units (1.0 full-course equivalent): One of Geography 317, 321, 417 and one of Geography 321, 351 and 451. Recommended: previous courses in Urban Studies

Course Objectives:

“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 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 and case study 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.

As an advanced seminar, this is a reading, 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 city 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.

This course welcomes interested graduate students from Geography and related disciplines, pending consent by instructor.

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)
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	1, 2, 8	3
- 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	3	2-3
- have identified a problem and a relevant research-question in regard to their case study	2, 3, 8	2-3
- have carried out research on their case study based on literature, documents and other secondary sources	3, 4	2-3
- have analyzed their case study based on a critical evaluation of the discussed literature and independent literature search and review	2, 4, 5	2-3
- have presented their findings in class and in writing	1, 2, 5, 7, 8	3

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.

Learning Resources

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. If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/>

Students are expected to read all assigned readings and to do independent literature search in regard to their individual research project.

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 (5%) on one weeks course readings
4. Written research proposal (15%) and proposal presentation in class (5%)
5. Research findings presentation (15%) (Note: presentations in the last weeks of class)
6. Research paper (30%) (due last day of class, April 10th 2019)

You must earn a D 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.

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

Exemptions to the Examination and Tests Regulations

N/A

Grading System

Official grading scheme of the university:

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Human subjects

No research on human subjects will take place.

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.

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. 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/>).

Documentation for absences or missed course assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

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.