



The Department of
GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2009

GEOGRAPHY 607

GFC Hours H(3-3)

Geography Information Systems: Basics and Beyond

Instructor: Shelley Alexander	Office: ES 460
Telephone: 220 5597	Email: smalexan@ucalgary.ca
Lecture: Tuesday 13:00-15:45	Location: KNB 129

Please note: the appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in Kinesiology is MacEwan Student Centre North Courtyard.

Course Description:

This course provides MGIS students with an introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The main goal of the course is to provide students with a solid theoretical and applied foundation in GIS, in order to support future course work in the program. The topics covered in the course will begin with fundamentals; representing reality in the digital realm, georeferencing, data structures, software history and comparison, to advanced topics such as spatial interpolation, network analysis, decision support systems and statistical applications with GIS. The primary software utilized will be ArcGIS. This course is not about learning software exclusively – software is a vehicle for extending spatial theory and concepts into reality. Hands on applications through labs will be a major part of this course. The application area review and project is designed as an opportunity to explore the potential for GIS in your area of interest, and as a way of establishing ideas for future course projects.

Prerequisite: Consent of department. MGIS students must enroll first.

Consent of the Department: MGIS students have priority and must register first. This course may be repeated for credit.

MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT

Text(s)/Readings:

Geographic Information Systems and Science, 2nd Edition, by Longley, Goodchild, Maquire and Rhind. (this text is NOT REQUIRED, but will be a useful reference source for you.)

Grading (Weighting):

Lab Assignments: 45%

Presentation: 15%

Final Project: 30%

ESRI Online courses 10%

(proof of completion of 2 on-line courses – approx 20 hrs per, one course must be Maps/Cartography, other chosen from selected labs: see Bart Hulshof)

Note: There is no final examination for this course. It is essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.

Grading System:

EITHER this type of grading system [numbers may be changed but you must include **all** the letter grades]

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

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: suypaca@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.