



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2017

GEOGRAPHY 607

GFC Hours (3-3)

Geography Information Systems: Basics and Beyond

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	Tu Th	09:30 – 10:45	ES 342
LAB 01	We	08:00 – 10:50	ES 415

Instructor: Darren Bender
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Teaching Assistant: Mohamed Ahmed
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Please note: The ICT Food Court is the designated emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in the Energy, Environmental & Experiential Learning Building.

Official Course Description

Introduction to the world of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Includes: representing reality in the digital realm, georeferencing, data structures, software history and comparison, and the full spectrum of analytical approaches associated with advanced GIS software. A major part of the work will be hands on. Software is used as a vehicle for taking the theory and concepts into a working reality.

Course Objectives

This course is intended for graduate students with little or no background in the field of geographic information science (GISci), and it is open to students from outside the field of geography. The course is designed to be an accelerated introduction to GIS and GISci, with an emphasis on theory and conceptual knowledge that is transferable across software systems. Practical work with real geographic datasets and the ArcGIS Desktop software suite will provide hands-on experience gathering, processing, manipulating, analyzing, visualizing, and interpreting geospatial data within a GIS. At the end of this course, students will be able to apply GISci tools and GIS software for spatial problem-solving at an intermediate level.

Prerequisite: Consent of the Department

Supplementary Fees: none

Required Text(s)/Readings

Longley, PA, MF Goodchild, DJ Maguire, and DW Rhind. 2015. *Geographic Information Science and Systems*, 4th Ed. Wiley. 496 pp.

Readings from other sources may be assigned. Notifications of these will be posted on D2L. They will not require purchase.

Grade distribution

Five pre-lab exercises (e-learning) @ 2% each	10%
Five labs assignment @ 7% each	35%
Term project assignment	25%
Three in-class tests @ 10% each	30%

A passing grade on each component of a course (above) is required to pass the course as a whole.

Grading system

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

Course Administrative Policies and Procedures

Course administrative policies and procedures related to office hours, assignments, lab submissions, online discussions, sending questions to the instructor, etc. are available on the course web page on the university D2L site at: <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>. All students are required to familiarize themselves with course policies and procedures.

Human subjects

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

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor, see the course D2L page online at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>.

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

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 or 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.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic: 403-220-3911, suypaca@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/
- Graduate Students Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

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.

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.