



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2015**  
**GEOGRAPHY 647**  
**H(3-3)**

**Advanced Research and Applications in Geographic Information Systems**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>
LEC01	TuTh	11am - 12:15pm	ES 342
LAB01	We	9:00am - 11:45am	ES 415

Instructor: Dan Jacobson	Office: ES 306
Telephone: 220 6192	Email: <a href="mailto:dan.jacobson@ucalgary.ca">dan.jacobson@ucalgary.ca</a>
TA: Victoria Lukasik	Office ES 440
	Email: <a href="mailto:vlukasik@ucalgary.ca">vlukasik@ucalgary.ca</a>

**Please note:** *The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly points for all classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.*

**Official Course Description:**

Focus on advanced GIS applications in core areas; methodological developments in GIS and current research directions in GIS.

**Prerequisite:**

Consent of the Department. Geography 607 is recommended.

**Course Preparation:**

Students are expected to have a thorough working and detailed knowledge of a major GIS software platform, preferably the ESRI ArcGIS suite of software.

**Required Texts:** None

**Readings:** Additional readings, laboratory guides, and links to electronic resources will be made available during the course, via D2L.

**Recommended Text:** Provides a general overview serves as good reference work

Longley, P., Goodchild, M., Maguire, D., & David, R. (2010). *Geographic Information Systems and Science*. (3rd Edn.) New York: John Wiley & Sons.

**Course Objectives:**

This is an advanced course designed to increase the student's understanding of Geographic Information Science (GISc). This will involve critical analysis of theory, concepts, and current research, technical and social developments, along with applications of geographic information systems.

**Lab Assignments:**

Students will undertake a series of lab assignments designed to provide hands-on experience with advanced topics in GISc, The lab assignments will explore issues of effective spatial analysis and the communication of geographic information within the ArcGIS platform. All assignments must be submitted using the Desire2Learn (D2L) system. Email submissions will not be accepted.

**Term Project:**

All students will complete a term project due the last day of lectures (15 April 2015).

The goal of each project is to apply a new analytical technique, develop a GIS tool, employ an advanced GIS application, or conduct advanced research in a theoretical or applied area. Detailed term project guidelines will be provided to students' mid-way through the course. All projects must be submitted using the D2L system. Email submissions will not be accepted.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated in these areas: (1) Their knowledge of lecture materials, including classroom participation and discussion. (2) Discussions and review of topical literature. (3) Presentations to class. (4) The course project. (5) Quality of written and oral communication. (6) Laboratory assignments

The distribution of marks will be:

Laboratory assignments (4):	50%	(see assignment schedule on D2L)
Literature review:	10%	(see assignment schedule on D2L)
Term Project:	30%	
Comprised of:		
Proposal	5%	(see assignment schedule on D2L)
Project Presentation	5%	(see assignment schedule on D2L)
Project Paper and Report	20%	(due last day of lectures)
Participation:	10%	

**There is no final exam scheduled for this course.**

**Grading System:**

Assignments will be graded using the following scale.

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

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>**

The only acceptable reasons for missing an examination or assignment in this class, as listed in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar are illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. If you miss an assignment or examination, and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, you will have one opportunity to make arrangements for the missed work. Without appropriate documentation, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade.

## **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>

## **Student Accessibility Services Accommodations**

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

## **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: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@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),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca),

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),