



## GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE

### GEOGRAPHY 683 H(3-0)

#### Geographic Information Systems Project: Application

Instructor (typically the student's supervisor):	
E-mail:	
Phone:	
Office:	
Office Hours:	

**Official Course Description:**

Implementation of a project on a GIS topic which will involve demonstrating mastery of GIS project design and the implementation and presentation of results commensurate with graduate level work. This topic will relate to material covered by the student in Geography 681.

**Prerequisite:**

Geography 681 or consent of the Department

**Supplementary Fees:** (*field trips etc*). N/A

**Text(s)/Readings:**

To be arranged with the instructor.

**Description:**

This course is intended for students enrolled in the MGIS Program only. Students will design, conduct, and communicate an independent research project in one or more of the following fields: geographic information systems, remote sensing, spatial statistics, spatial modelling/analysis. Typically, the project is based on a thorough review of research methods and applications that was submitted in Geog 681, and will be designed in consultation with the student's supervisor.

The format, style, and length of paper will be determined by the instructor, although it is recommended that students prepare their document following the style and format guidelines for MGIS Final Projects. A typical length of the Geog 683 paper is 15 – 25 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt font). [Suggested – to be discussed with instructor]

**Title:** TBD

**Evaluation:**

Typically, there will be four components submitted for evaluation in this course. (These components of evaluation are meant to be a guideline for students and supervisors, and may be modified if needed).

First, students will provide a brief (1 – 2 page) overview of their research methods. For example, students pursuing an analytical project in GIS would summarize the analytical techniques (spatial analysis, statistics, modelling approaches) that will be used in the project. The format of this summary is flexible and should be discussed with the supervisor at the beginning of the term. Second, students will prepare a summary of the data and or information sources required to complete their research project. For example, the sources and availability of GIS or remote sensing and any ancillary data will be reported. If permitted by license or other restrictions, a copy of the data will be also provided to the supervisor. Third, students will prepare a research paper (e.g., in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal) that details the background, methods, results, interpretation and conclusions reached from their research project. The format of the paper should be discussed with the supervisor. Students may optionally submit a preliminary draft of their research paper for evaluation by their instructor, prior to submitting a final draft. If no preliminary draft is submitted, then the evaluation marks will be transferred to the final draft evaluation. Finally, students will submit a final draft of their paper, which is typically due on the last day of lectures. There will be no final examination for this course.

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|--|-----|-------------------|
| 1. Outline of research methods             | 10% | <i>due:</i> _____ |
| 2. Preparation of data/information sources | 10% | <i>due:</i> _____ |
| 3. Preliminary draft of paper (optional)   | 30% | <i>due:</i> _____ |
| 4. Final draft of paper                    | 50% | <i>due:</i> _____ |

**Grading Scheme:**

Grade	Percent	Graduate Description
A+	96.0 - 100	Outstanding
A	90.0 - 94.9	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	85.0 – 89.9	Very good performance
B+	80.0 – 84.9	Good performance
B	75.0 – 79.9	Satisfactory performance
B-	70.0 – 74.9	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
F	<70.0	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>**

### **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**

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- To receive your assignment back via mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when handing in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. 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: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.