

## Methods and Philosophy of Geography

**Timetable:** Winter SESSION, 2008.

Time/location: Room 332 .....1600-1900 Monday

**Instructor:** Dr. Wayne Davies. **Office:** ES 442. **Phone:** 220-4888

**Emergency Email:** [wdavies@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wdavies@ucalgary.ca).

Please arrange any appointments immediately after class.

### Course Description

This course is designed to provide a critical survey of the key issues and problems in the *construction* of the field of Geography *throughout history* and its relationships with other fields of enquiry. This will provide a background to a survey of the *contemporary* methodological and philosophical debates about its nature, from such issues as: the scientific approaches of the 1960s and their utility; the humanistic reactions; through structuralism and post structuralism; radicalism; the new ecological and technical approaches; gender geography; post-modernism; and new hermeneutic perspectives, especially the critical practice approach and the new cultural geography. In addition, questions such as the decline and relevance of traditional fields such as regional geography, and new trends such as globalization will be addressed.

### Required Reading

D. Livingstone (1992). *The Tradition of Geography*. Blackwell. BUY. Copies in Bookstore

Other readings will be provided *throughout* the class from various journal articles and books especially:

W.K.D. Davies. *Writing Geographical Exploration*. Univ.of Calgary Press. 2003. *Chapters 2 and 3* ;

J. Matthews and D. Herbert, *Unifying Geography: Common Heritage, Shared Future*. 2004.

In addition, parts of other books will be used , such as P. Cloke et al. (1991) *Approaching Human Geography*. A. Holt-Jansen "Geography: History and Concepts"; R. Peet (1998) "Modern Geographical Thought" (1998); D Gregory (1996) "Geographical Imagination".

### **Pre-requisites. Consent of Department/ Instructor.**

**Grades.** Class attendance/participation: 10%. Project or Essay 20%

Final Take-Home Exam: 4 exam. essays of 6-7 pages ( 30 lines per page) each, **not** scheduled by the Registrar's office) 70%. Students will have a week to complete from receipt of examination. Time to be arranged by mutual consent in last two weeks of term

*It is not necessary to pass all parts of the course to obtain a passing final grade.*

### **The Official Univ. of Calgary Grading scheme will be used**

i.e..A =4.0... Grade Points; B...3.0 (or 75%) ; C....2.0( or 50%) ; D.... 1.0 ( Or 25%)

#### **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).
- If you would like to receive your assignment through the mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when you hand it in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. Please note, grades will not be available in the Geography office.

### **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.

### **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: [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.