



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2013
GEOGRAPHY 699.02
H(3-3)**

NATURE AND PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC 01	Mo	13:00-15:45	ES 332

Instructor: Dr. Shelley Alexander	Office: ES 460
Telephone: 220 5597	Email: smalexan@ucalgary.ca

Official Course Description:

In the first part of the course, we explore the philosophy and nature of science. Next we review and analyze the history of physical geography and key developments in our discipline. Scientific method is then explored; in particular, we examine how key research issues (spatial/temporal scales, experimental method, modeling etc.) relate to the study of physical geography. Finally, we will investigate the perceived divide between human and physical geography and possibilities for and benefits from closing the divide.

Prerequisite: Consent of the Department, May be repeated for credit

Text(s)/Readings:

There is no required text for this course. Required readings will be posted on blackboard and assigned weekly.

Grading (Weighting):

Reaction Papers 40%
Participation 20%
Essay Final 40%
(Sciences, philosophy and physical geography essay)

There is no registrar scheduled final examination for this course

Grading System:

92-100 A+	70-73 B	60-62 C-
86-91 A	68-69 B-	55-59 D+
78-85 A-	66-67 C+	50-54 D
74-77 B+	63-65 C	0-49 F

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

Course Format and Grading

This course revolves around discussion of the assigned readings (listed in weekly schedule). **Prior to each class you will need to read the articles and write a brief (approximately 2-3 page) reaction paper.** Your reaction papers should

- 1) at least touch on the major issues raised in the readings, and
- 2) focus on two or three issues that are of particular interest to you (discussion points for class)

Your reaction papers need not be comprehensive (in fact, they probably can't be comprehensive if you stay within 2 pages single spaced). You will most likely find some of the reading difficult, not unlike your first venture into statistics. Please do not bang your head against the wall! You are not expected to come to class with a perfect understanding of all the nuances of the readings. **Make a good faith effort** to understand the major points of the readings and then come to class prepared to ask questions and discuss. Your reaction papers will count for 40 per cent of your grade. Your lowest reaction paper score will be dropped. You will also have an opportunity to view one or two popular films, which deal with major issues relevant to physical geography and political ecology. You may write a review of the film, which draws upon and applies concepts covered in the assigned readings, to replace another reaction paper score.

Discussion is extremely important in this seminar. Accordingly, class discussion will be a significant part of your grade (20 per cent).

The remainder of your grade (40 per cent) will be based on a 10 to 15 page seminar paper, due after the end of class. This requirement is designed to address your ability to deeply analyze and integrate the course content in a short (~15 pages maximum) critical essay. You will choose a graduate thesis to critically analyze considering topics discussed in class. While one goal of this essay is to assess your comprehension of the course material, this also provides an opportunity to read a graduate thesis in depth prior to writing your own research thesis.

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 Centre in the Effective Writing Office 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 Blackboard or personally.
- 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: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: 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 Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca