

GEOG 324 LEC01 Society & Environmental Change

GFC Hours 3-1/2T

Winter 2024 classes: January 8th – April 9th

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TR	3:30-4:45PM	ENE 241

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Williams	Office: ES 420
Telephone: 403 220-7483	Email: awill@ucalgary.ca
Email communication will be through your UCalgary email address.	Office hours: TBA

The **Department of Geography** condemns the longstanding and continued injustices against those marginalized by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, xenophobia, able-bodied normativity, mental health profiling, and other forms of prejudice. We are pained by the fact that injustices are unevenly borne. <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/news/anti-racism-statement>

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Department of Geography would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-protocol>

Official Course Description

Environmental and resource issues, with emphasis on topics such as climate change, sustainability, ethics, planning, policy and decision making, and management strategies. Case examples highlight issues in resource sectors such as freshwater, oceans, parks and wildlife, tourism and recreation, forests and energy.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of geography 324 is to assess the impact of human activities on the environment, the challenges involved in achieving environmental sustainability, and on policies, plans, and strategies devised to move society and environment toward a sustainable future. Using the framework of political ecology, this course integrates dimensions of human and physical environmental problems and highlights the roles of critical reflection, local action, stewardship and cooperative problem solving in environmental management.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Students should be able to explain concepts and values critical to the study, management and understanding of our environment.	1,2,3,4,5,7	2
Students should be able to conceptualize the distribution, use, extraction and impact of global natural resources, the effects of human activities on a range of natural resources globally, and aspects of the uncertainty, complexity and conflict that characterize both the use and management of resources globally.	1,2,3,4,5,7	2
Students should be able to apply concepts for maintaining and sustaining the environment as a resource.	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
Students should be able to evaluate environmental problems and issues of	1,2,3,4,5,7	

sustainability within select world regions through case study examples.		
Students should be able to explain the basic fundamentals of globalization in relationship to the environment.	1,2,3,4,5,7	2

**PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes: 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills.*

***Levels: 1 = Introductory, 2 = Intermediate, and 3 = Advanced.*

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning Resources

There is no required textbook for this course. Links and/or bibliographic information for readings and videos will be posted on D2L as the term progresses.

Assessment Methods

Grading (Weighting)

Mid-term exam 1- February 8 th	30%
Mid-term exam 2...March 19 th	30%
Term Project: Class presentation and written report	25%
Final examination (in class final exam)April 4 th	15%

Please see the “Course Schedule” in D2L detailing course content and testable material for each exam. The course schedule is located under “Course info and Policies” under the “Content” dropdown menu. The “Term Project” is also located in the “Content” dropdown menu.

Exemptions to the Examination and Tests Regulations

- There **will not** be a scheduled final exam by the Registrar’s Office.
- It is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.
- Only pens, pencils and erasers are allowed in exams. No other materials or devices are allowed.
- Late assignment policy: Late assignments not subject to being excused with a valid medical/emergency will be assessed a 15% penalty per day.
- **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED EXAMs OR QUIZZES** under any circumstances, nor may the examinations be written early. Students unable to write an exam because of documented illness; family emergency or religious observance will have the weight shifted to the other midterm grade. **This means that the entire weight of the missed mid-term will be shifted to the upcoming or previous mid-term.** Please refer to the policy as outlined in the University of Calgary Calendar: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-1.html>. In the event that a student misses a midterm or any course work due to illness, please provide supporting documentation. Please refer to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq> for frequently asked questions concerning the provision of a medical note/statutory declaration.

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

All grades will be given in numerical form posted in D2L under the “Grades” dropdown menu. The final weighted average will be converted into letter grades using the grade conversion chart above.

Additional Course Information

Communication and course etiquette:

Regarding e-mail and other communication with the Instructor and other students. Please make sure your e-mails are polite and respectful. Any abusive or disrespectful e-mails or other communication deemed so will be reported and you may face non-academic or academic misconduct if they are deemed to be abusive or bullying in nature.

The Instructor expects students to show up for class. If you missed important information it is best that you attempt to obtain that information from your peers. If it because of illness or other extenuating circumstances contact the Instructor during office hours, after class, or set up an alternate time to meet. Sending e-mails expecting long responses from your Instructor because of your absence may go unanswered. This is especially true immediately before exams when the information has been given multiple times in class or by e-mail to the class.

It is a student’s responsibility to follow the course schedule and the readings that have been detailed in the course schedule in the outline. This schedule might change through the term so make sure you follow these changes that may be outlined in class. The material in the readings, videos and the lectures **are all** testable material regardless if the material in the readings or videos were not covered in the lecture or the lecture covered different material that is not in the readings or videos. Keep in mind as well that lecture slides are just headings of what the Instructor is discussing. You will need to take notes to understand the material. Reading the slides and not coming to class or not taking notes will not adequately prepare you for the exams. If you have questions about the exams please see the Instructor in his/her office hours.

Referencing Standard

In written work presented in this class, the accepted method for referencing the work of others will be in APA format. Please see <https://apastyle.apa.org> or https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and receive a tuition fee refund is **Thursday, January 18th, 2024**. The last day to add or swap a course for Winter 2023 is **Friday, January 19th, 2024**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Tuesday, April 09th, 2024**. Please note that the University is closed on **Monday, February 19th** for Family Day. Term break is **February 19th – 25th**. The University is closed **Friday, March 29th** and **Monday, April 1st** for Easter.

Resources and Writing support

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. Please note writing support resources provided by the Student Success Centre <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support> and the library <https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/>

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. 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.

[University of Calgary : K. Integrity and Conduct \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://www.ucalgary.ca/k-integrity-and-conduct)

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta regulates the return of term assessments. All assignments will be submitted on D2L in the format outlined in the term assignment. Assignments will be graded as a group, however if there are discrepancies in peer evaluations within the group, assignment grades may be provided on an individual bases.

Research

Human subjects

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

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

All assignments will be submitted on D2L in the format outlined in the term assignment.

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

Within the first week of classes, students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should register with Student Accessibility Services [Accessibility | Home | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://www.ucalgary.ca/accessibility) Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: freeman@ucalgary.ca).

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updates web browser
- Broadband internet connection
- Optional technology: webcam (built in or external) / microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone

Use of internet and electronic devices in class

There are no restrictions on the use of laptops and 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. **Students may not record in-person lectures or tutorials unless they have an academic accommodation and/or have been given permission by the Instructor or Teaching Assistant.** Phones must be turned to silent mode during class, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional. The use of any calculators and/or devices during examinations will not be allowed.

Guidelines for Video Sessions

Video sessions may be used in the event of instructor absence, for work within peer groups, or for other communication related to course obligations. To help ensure video sessions are private, do not share link or password with others via any medium, including social media platforms. Links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Recordings and materials presented, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering video conferencing sessions, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment.

Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your sessions visit: [eLearn @ UCalgary](#)

If you are unable to attend a session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a class session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Media Recording (if applicable)

https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Course evaluations and student feedback

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms.

Accessibility

Students will need to visualize portions of the lecture material and assignments in the form of maps and other geographic information. Yuja captions will be available for most but not all online lectures. Note, Yuja captions are often mis-interpreted by the speech filter used in Yuja so be aware of mispronunciations misspellings or other errors in the captions.

<https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/yuja/getting-started-yuja/>

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

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.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

Mental health plays a pivotal role in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services> and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the **Student at Risk line** if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Sexual Violence Policy

All members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@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/

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management> **The emergency assembly point for Engineering E (ENE) is the MacEwan Student (MSC) center North Atrium. [See ENE map:](#)**

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.