



## GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2011

### GEOGRAPHY 205 H(3-0)

#### Gateway to Geography

Timetable: LEC 01      MoWeFr      10:00 - 10:50      MFH 162

<b>Instructors:</b> Gwendolyn Blue Darren Sjogren Peter Slezak	<b>Office: ES 302</b> <b>Office: ES 406</b> <b>Office: ES 452</b>
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#### **Official Course Description:**

An overview of human and physical environments, their inter-relationships and their relevance to environmental issues and world affairs. Major topics are drawn from current global issues where location matters. Specific examples are discussed in a global context and vary by term.

NOTE: Not open to students with credit in Geography 201, 203, 211, 251 or 253 (Urban Studies 253)

#### **Required Text:**

Matthews, J.A. and Herbert, D.T. 2008. Geography: a very short introduction. Oxford University Press Inc., New York. (\$12 at the UofC Bookstore)

Additional readings will be assigned as the term progresses. Refer to BlackBoard.

#### **Recommended software for participation (more info below):**

We will be using a web-based system for interactive feedback during this course. It is called MonocleCAT. Subscriptions are \$20/term or \$38/60 months. More information in the "Participation Grades" section below.

#### **Blackboard:**

All the course material will be available on Blackboard.

#### **Grading:**

Mid-term exam # 1	(25% - 50 questions)	Oct 14
Mid-term exam # 2	(25% - 50 questions)	Nov 16
Final exam	(50% - 100 questions)	Registrar scheduled

It is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.

## **Grading System:**

A+	> 90	C+	63 – 66.5
A	84.5 – 89.5	C	59.5 – 62.5
A-	79.5 – 84	C-	56 – 59
B+	75 – 79	D+	53 – 55.5
B	71 – 75	D	50 – 52.5
B-	67 – 70.5	F	< 50

**There will be an opportunity to earn bonus grades by participation. Please refer to "Participation Grades" below.**

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

## **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>

## **Disability Resource Centre 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.

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

Wk	Date	GEOG 205 CONTENT (50 mins)	Instructor
<b>Part I: What is Geography?</b>			
1	Sept 12	Topic 01	Blue, Sjogren, Slezak
	Sept 14	Topic 02	Sjogren
	Sept 16	Topic 03	Sjogren
2	Sept 19	Topic 04	Sjogren
<b>Part II: Geography of the natural environment</b>			
2	Sept 21	Topic 05	Sjogren
	Sept 23	Topic 06	Sjogren
3	Sept 26	Topic 07	Sjogren
	Sept 28	Topic 08	Sjogren
	Sept 30	Topic 09	Sjogren
4	Oct 03	Topic 10	Sjogren
	Oct 05	Topic 11	Sjogren
	Oct 07	Topic 12	Sjogren
5	Oct 10	<b>Thanksgiving – no lecture</b>	-
	Oct 12	Topic 12 and Review for Exam #1	Sjogren
	Oct 14	<b>Exam #1 (25% of final grade)</b>	Sjogren
<b>Part III: Human – Physical Interactions</b>			
6	Oct 17	Topic 13	Sjogren
	Oct 19	Exam #1 post-mortem and Topic 13	Sjogren
	Oct 21	Topic 14	Sjogren
7	Oct 24	Topic 15	Sjogren
	Oct 26	Topic 16	Slezak
	Oct 28	Topic 17	Slezak
8	Oct 31	Topic 18	Slezak
	Nov 02	Topic 19	Slezak
	Nov 04	Topic 20	Slezak
9	Nov 07	Topic 21	Slezak
	Nov 09	Topic 22	Slezak
	Nov 11	<b>Remembrance Day – no lecture</b>	-
10	Nov 14	Topic 22 and Review for Exam #2	Sjogren, Slezak
	Nov 16	<b>Exam #2 (25% of final grade)</b>	Sjogren, Slezak
<b>Part IV: Cultural and Political</b>			
10	Nov 18	Topic 23	Blue
11	Nov 21	Exam #2 post-mortem and Topic 23	Slezak, Blue
	Nov 23	Topic 24	Blue
	Nov 25	Topic 24	Blue
12	Nov 28	Topic 25	Blue
	Nov 30	Topic 25	Blue
	Dec 02	Topic 25	Blue
13	Dec 05	Topic 26	Blue
	Dec 07	Topic 26	Blue
	Dec 09	Review for Final Exam	Blue, Sjogren, Slezak
14	<b>End Fall Session - Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (50% of final grade)</b>		

## Lecture Topics

Topic 01: Course Introduction	Topic 16: Population dynamics
Topic 02: The breadth of geography and geographic inquiry	Topic 17: Emigration/immigration- patterns and trends - USA example
Topic 03: How we map the Earth	Topic 18: Population demographics
Topic 04: Remote sensing and GIS	Topic 19: Economic development - driving factors
Topic 05: Earth structure and dynamics	Topic 20: Economic development and HDI
Topic 06: Mountain building	Topic 21: Urban/rural development
Topic 07: Atmosphere origin and structure	Topic 22: Urban structure
Topic 08: What are weather and climate?	Topic 23: The Geographical Imagination
Topic 09: Earth's energy	Topic 24: Nature / Culture
Topic 10: Energy redistribution	Topic 25: Local / Global
Topic 11: Natural climate variability	Topic 26: Bridging human and physical geography: Climate change revisited
Topic 12: Natural bioclimatic zones	
Topic 13: Earth dynamics and hazards	
Topic 14: Extreme weather and hazards	
Topic 15: Climate change and hazards	

## ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION (subject to change)

### How to email your instructors

Contact all your instructors via BlackBoard. Use the email function within Blackboard. We will NOT answer emails that are sent directly to our email addresses. This is important because when you send an email through BlackBoard it adds the name of the course to the subject line. This allows us to identify your emails easily in the flood of other emails we receive every day. Your professors will be instructing over 700 students this term so please appreciate that you may not receive a response immediately. Sometimes we may choose to respond to your question in class so that all participants can benefit from the discussion. **Remember: contact the instructor who presented the information by addressing him/her in your email greeting.**

### On the formality of emails

We require that all emails sent to us be written formally. Consider these to be formal letters NOT TWEETS.

### Exams

There are three exams in this course:

1. Midterm exams **(25% each)**
  - a. They will each be a 50 minute exam conducted in class (see schedule)
  - b. The material examined will be explained in the lecture
  - c. The format will be exclusively multiple choice – expect 50 questions
2. Final exam **(50%)**
  - a. It will be a 2 hour exam scheduled by the registrar on the entire course
  - b. It will have two components:
    - i. ½ of the exam will cover material exclusively from Part IV
    - ii. ½ of the exam will be based on Parts I, II, and III

- c. **Hint:** for this exam you should focus on those topics that have recurred in different parts of the course.
- d. The format will be exclusively multiple choice – expect 100 questions

### **Participation Grades:**

We will be using a relatively new (2009) web-based system that will allow you to be more involved in the lectures. This system is called MonocleCAT from Top Hat Monocle. This system will replace "clickers" that have been used for some time in lectures at the UofC.

In a nutshell, this system will allow you to answer questions posed during the lecture (projected on the screen like the rest of the lecture) on an electronic device such as a phone/smartphone or WiFi connected computer, tablet, iPod etc. Your answers will be transmitted from your device via the Web to a server. This computer server will record your answers, linking them to your student number. These answers are then transmitted to your instructor's computer, allowing them to show in near real time how the class (your individual answers will never be projected) did on the question. You will only be allowed to answer the questions during the lecture period. One of the benefits of this system is that the questions and answers will remain on the system (if your instructor allows it) so that you can review them prior to the exams.

We hope you will use this system as a self-testing tool that will help you evaluate how well you understand the course material and how well you are doing relative to the other students. In addition we will use your participation as the basis for assigning "bonus marks". This is how it will work:

To receive a grade increase you must:

1. Be at least halfway to the next higher grade break
2. Have participated in greater than 50% of questions asked using MonocleCAT

Scenario:

- Your final grade is 73% - a "B"
- You have participated in > 50% of questions on MonocleCAT
- We will increase your grade to a "B+"

To use this system you must register and enroll at Top Hat Monocle ([www.tophatmonocle.com](http://www.tophatmonocle.com)). Instructions are given in the documents under MonocleCAT, which you can find in the "Syllabus and Info" tab in BlackBoard.

### **How to excel in Geog 205:**

1. Attend all lectures. Attendance is closely linked to success in any course.
2. Be ready to engage in the course material and ask questions.
3. Readings are intended to supplement and reinforce the concepts presented in the lecture, but ARE NOT substitutes for attending the lecture. Do not make the mistake of thinking that you can "just read the textbook" and do well in the course.
4. Blackboard will be used extensively to communicate outside of lecture periods. All lectures, grades, and updates/corrections to the course materials will be provided on Blackboard. We suggest that you consult Blackboard every morning in the event of changes, cancellations etc.
5. Use MonocleCAT as a self-testing tool and a way to earn bonus marks.
6. Ask questions of your professors. That is why we are here. Your professors will have office hours throughout the term. We urge you to take advantage of these opportunities.
7. Remember that your instructors are here to help you. If you have issues during the course please talk to your instructors sooner rather than later.