



## 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><br>Gwendolyn Blue<br>Darren Sjogren<br>Peter Slezak | <b>Office: ES 302</b><br><b>Office: ES 406</b><br><b>Office: ES 452</b> |
|---|---|

#### **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.