



GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2012

GEOGRAPHY 205 H(3-0)

Gateway to Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 02	MWF	10:00 – 10:50	ST 140

Instructor: Gwen Blue	Office: ES 322		
Tel: 220 5595	Email: gqblue@ucalgary.ca		
Instructor: John Yackel	Office: ES 408	Hours: M 11:30-12:00, Thurs 9:00 – 9:30	
Tel: 220 2892	Email: yackel@ucalgary.ca		
Instructor: Peter Slezak	Office: ES 452		
Tel: 220 8353	Email: slezak@ucalgary.ca		

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 Texts (Available at U of C Bookstore)

Geography / Global Warming / Global Catastrophes: a very short introduction.

Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context. Custom Edition.

Additional **required** readings are listed on BlackBoard under 'Lectures'. It is your responsibility to keep up with assigned readings as these will appear on examinations.

Grading (Weighting):

Exam 1	30%	
Exam 2	30%	
Final exam	40%	(Registrar scheduled)

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

Grading System:

A+	90 - 100	C+	66 – 69.5
A	86 – 89.5	C	62 – 65.5
A-	82 – 85.5	C-	58 – 61.5
B+	78 – 81.5	D+	54 – 57.5
B	74 – 77.5	D	50 – 53.5
B-	70 – 73.5	F	< 49.5

Please note: Grade breaks are non-negotiable.

Policy regarding missed exams:

If a situation arises that prevents you from writing one of the exams, notify the instructors as soon as possible (by email is acceptable). If you miss an exam for medical reasons, you must provide a note from a medical doctor before you will be allowed to write a make-up exam. If you miss the exam for non-medical reasons, and you did not notify the instructors prior to the scheduled exam, you will receive "0" for the exam.

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

Email protocol

How to email your instructors

Contact all your instructors using the email function within Blackboard, found in the "Contact Instructors" link on the main page. We will **NOT** answer emails are sent directly to our email addresses. Instructors will typically not respond to student emails on weekends.

This is important for two reasons: (1) when you send an email through BlackBoard it adds the name of the course to the subject line, allowing us to identify your emails in the flood of other emails we receive every day; (2) because many students do not use their UofC email accounts, their emails have a high probability of being deleted by our spam filters.

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 them in your email greeting.**

Formal, professional communication

Consider all emails to your instructors to be formal correspondence, **NOT** TWEETS or TEXT MESSAGES. At minimum this means that you include: (1) a greeting where you specify the instructor you want to read your email because all four instructors will receive it; (2) a message body that is clearly written with complete sentences; (3) your full name and student number (when we reply, we want to know how to address you).

When to email your instructors:

- When you have questions about course content, **but only after you have established that the answer to your question has not already been posted on BlackBoard in either the Syllabus or Lecture notes.** It is your responsibility to be familiar with the materials we have posted;
- When you need help with a difficult concept from the lecture and you can't make it to the instructor's office hours because of a time conflict. When you email, please specify 3 times you

are available to come to their office. The instructor will choose one that fits their schedule and notify you when to come to their office. Office hours are posted on BlackBoard in the "Contact Instructors" link.

Formal Exams

There are three formal exams in this course:

1. Exam 1 (30%)
 - A 50 minute exam conducted in class
 - Will cover material in Topics 00 – 04 (the syllabus and Topic 00 are testable)
 - The format will be exclusively multiple choice – 50 questions
2. Exam 2 (30%)
 - A 50 minute exam conducted in class
 - Will cover material in Topics 05 - 08
 - The format will be exclusively multiple choice – 50 questions
3. Final exam (40%)
 - It will be a 2 hour exam **on all course material** scheduled by the registrar
 - The format will be exclusively multiple choice – 100 questions
 - It will have two components:
 - 25-30 questions will cover material exclusively from Part IV (see Lecture Topics)
 - 70-75 questions will be from Parts I, II, and III

Materials on BlackBoard

Copyright law does not permit us to post any information (graphics, figures, photos, tables etc.) on BlackBoard unless we have been granted permission. For this reason we will include a URL, a reference to a textbook or a reference to a published paper in the figure caption when we cannot post the graphic. To get these graphics you must follow the URL in the case of a web source, consult the textbook or obtain the published paper. When we use figures from a textbook, we will ensure a copy is on reserve for you in the Geography Collections Room (Earth Sciences Building Rm 457). When we use materials or assign readings from a published paper, we will provide the full reference on BlackBoard. You will be required to obtain the paper through the UofC library. For required videos, we will post a link to the UofC library online resources. If the link does not work you will have find the resource in the UofC library.

How to excel in GEOG 205:

- Attend all lectures. Attendance is closely linked to success in any course. Professors often give 'hints' in class. This is not an accident; it is done to highlight important points that often translate into exam questions. Hint, hint!
- Be ready to engage in the course material. You are not engaged if you are:
 - Consulting Facebook. Even the occasional distraction may sabotage your grade by missing a critical linking point (or hint) given by the instructor.
 - Watching movies etc. on your computer. Please don't make the mistake of thinking you can multitask in this way. True engagement requires your undivided attention.
- Readings are intended to reinforce concepts presented in the lecture. They **ARE NOT** substitutes for attending the lecture. You cannot "just read the book" and do well in the course.
- Understand what your instructors expect of you:
 - We expect you to take notes on what is said in the lecture. The PowerPoint slides are only the structure of the lecture; the important information is what is said and seeing the relevance of that information in the context of the course.

Studying exclusively from the slides will not supply the understanding you need to answer the exam questions. **Exam questions will not come exclusively from the slides;**

- We expect you to understand the concepts, not memorize ‘facts’. Geography is **NOT** about memorizing ‘facts’, and understanding is **NOT** the same as recalling trivia. We will examine you with the intention of determining how well you understand the concepts. Many exam questions will require that you integrate knowledge from different parts of the course. True understanding comes from being able to recognize the links and apply knowledge obtained from one topic, to understand another;
- **It is generally expected that students study at LEAST one hour for each hour of lecture. A course like GEOG 205 should be considered at least a 6-hour commitment per week.**
- When studying, ask yourself these questions:
 - What happened?
 - How does our culture or society affect how we perceive what happened?
 - Why did it happen at that location and not another?
 - What are the reasons or processes that caused it to happen?
 - What are the implications of what happened?
 - Is there information in other topics that can help you answer these questions or to develop a deeper understanding?
- If you have trouble with the information presented in lecture, we expect you to:
 - Obtain the graphics used in lecture. Often they are the main focus during the lecture (see the section “Posting materials on BlackBoard”)
 - Consult the required readings and videos. That is why we provided them.
 - Consult a 1st year Geography text. First year geography textbooks are available in the UofC Library or in the Geography Collections Room (Earth Sciences Building Rm 457). If you have the basic terms from the lecture slides you should be able to find the relevant sections. Most textbooks will cover the material we will be talking about in this course. Marilyn Kinnear, who runs the Geography Collections Room, will be happy to help you find supplementary readings.
 - Consult an authoritative website. Government or research/university websites can be useful for finding background information on many topics in this course. Wikipedia is also a reasonable source, but note that Wikipedia is generally not accepted as an authoritative source for research paper you write in a university class. However, it is a good place to get some basic information to help guide further investigation into a topic.
 - Speak to the instructors. If you are still having trouble, please come to our office hours or make an appointment.
- Remember that your instructors are here to help you. If you have non-academic issues that are negatively impacting your performance in the course please talk to your instructors as soon as possible.
- 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. Check it regularly.

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.

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: suypaca@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

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Wk	Date	GEOG 205 CONTENT	Instructor(s)
Part I: The discipline of Geography			
1	Sep 10 Sep 12 Sep 14	Topic 01: An introduction to Geography	Yackel
2	Sep 17 Sep 19 Sep 21	Topic 02: Geographic representations	Yackel
Part II: Geography of the natural environment			
3	Sep 24 Sep 26 Sep 28	Topic 03: Earth dynamic systems	Yackel
4	Oct 01 Oct 03 Oct 05	Topic 03: Earth dynamic systems Topic 04: Physical aspects of climate and climate change	Yackel
5	Oct 08 Oct 10 Oct 12	Thanksgiving (no lecture) Topic 04: Physical aspects of climate and climate change	- Yackel
6	Oct 15	Exam 1 (30% of final grade)	Yackel
Part III: Geography of the human environment			
6	Oct 17 Oct 19	Topic 05: Population dynamics and demographics	Slezak
7	Oct 22 Oct 24 Oct 26	Topic 05: Population dynamics and demographics Topic 06: Economic development	Slezak
8	Oct 29 Oct 31 Nov 02	Topic 06: Economic development	Slezak
9	Nov 05 Nov 07 Nov 09	Topic 07: Cultural geography	Blue
10	Nov 12 Nov 14 Nov 16	Reading Days (no lecture) Topic 08: Cultural aspects of climate	- Blue
11	Nov 19 Nov 21 Nov 23	Topic 08: Cultural aspects of climate	Blue
12	Nov 26	Exam 2 (30% of final grade)	Blue/Slezak
Part IV: Human - Physical Interactions			
12	Nov 28 Nov 30	Topic 09: Human/nature mosaic	Yackel
13	Dec 03 Dec 05 Dec 07	Topic 10: Environmental change and hazards	Yackel
14	End Fall Session - Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (40% of final grade)		