



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2012

GEOGRAPHY 205 H(3-0)

Gateway to Geography

Timetable: LEC 02

TuTh 14:00 - 15:15

MFH 162

Instructors: Gwendolyn Blue Darren Sjogren Peter Slezak	Office: ES 322 Office: ES 406 Office: ES 452
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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:

We will be using a web-based system for interactive feedback during this course. It is called Top Hat Monocle or MonocleCAT. Subscriptions are \$20/term or \$38/60 months.

Blackboard:

All the course material will be available on Blackboard.

Grading:

Mid-term exam # 1	(30% - 50 questions)	
Mid-term exam # 2	(30% - 50 questions)	
Final exam	(40% - 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+	66 – 70
A	86 – 90	C	62 – 66
A-	82 – 86	C-	58 – 62
B+	78 – 82	D+	54 – 58
B	74 – 78	D	50 – 54
B-	70 – 74	F	< 50

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.

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

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION (subject to change)

Email protocol

How to email your instructors

Contact all your instructors using the email function within Blackboard, which can be found in the "Contact Instructors" tab on the main page. We will **NOT** answer emails are sent directly to our email addresses. 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.**

Regarding the formality of emails

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 three 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. When you have an issue that prevents you from attending an exam. Notify the instructors as soon as possible. All issues identified after the exam must be accompanied by a medical doctor's note.

Formal Exams

There are three formal exams in this course:

1. Midterm exam #1 **(30%)**
 - a. A 50 minute exam conducted in class
 - b. Will cover material in Topics 00 - 04
 - c. The format will be exclusively multiple choice – 50 questions
2. Midterm exam #2 **(30%)**
 - a. A 50 minute exam conducted in class
 - b. Will cover material in Topics 05 - 08
 - c. The format will be exclusively multiple choice – 50 questions
3. Final exam **(40%)**
 - a. It will be a 2 hour exam scheduled by the registrar **on all course material**
 - b. The format will be exclusively multiple choice – 100 questions
 - c. It will have two components:
 - i. 40 questions will cover material exclusively from Part IV (see Lecture Topics)
 - ii. 60 questions will be from Parts I, II, and III (see Lecture Topics)

Earn bonus marks using Top Hat Monocle (THM)

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 (THM). This system is an alternative to "clickers" that have been used for years at the UofC.

In a nutshell, this system will allow you to answer questions asked 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. From our experience using this system last term, the WiFi bandwidth in our classrooms is inadequate to accommodate all people who want to use their computer. Our advice is to text message your answers using a cell phone.

Your answers will be transmitted from your device via the Web or service provider to the THM server. This computer server will record your answers, linking them to your student number (**must be your UofC student number**) you supplied when you registered in the THM system. These answers are then transmitted to your instructor's computer, allowing them to show in near real time how the class did on the question. Your individual answers will never be projected, only class summary information. You will only be allowed to answer the questions during the lecture period; this is not a homework assignment. One of the benefits of this system is that the questions and answers will remain on the system so that you can review them prior to the exams. We strongly urge you to use this as a study tool because we will be asking questions that are similar in style, and possibly content, to questions on the formal exams.

It is important that you check your THM grade book regularly to ensure that the system is receiving your responses.

The primary reasons we have adopted this system are: (1) to help you evaluate how well you understand the course material; (2) to allow you to evaluate how well you are doing relative to the other students; (3) to provide sample exam questions to help you prepare for the formal exams; (4) to help the instructors evaluate how well you have understood the material so they can adjust the lectures to facilitate the learning process.

How THM will be implemented in Geog 205

How the bonus marks can impact your final grade

The maximum number of bonus marks you can earn is 3% of your final grade. The bonus marks will be added to the percentage grade you earn in the formal exams (two term exams and the final exam - refer to the schedule).

THM will calculate a percentage grade of all the THM questions that were asked during the term. This number will be multiplied by the maximum bonus marks possible (3). This portion of the 3% will be added to the percentage grade you earned in the formal exams to get your final percentage grade for the course. This final percentage grade will be compared to the Grading System to get the final Letter grade that will go on your transcript. Refer to the calculation example below.

Types of questions we will ask using THM:

1. *Participation questions.* These questions will be an informal polling within the lectures. We may ask your opinion on a controversial topic or may test your knowledge on a topic before it is discussed in the lecture. For this type of question the correctness of your answer will **NOT** be evaluated. **These questions will be worth 1 point each.**
2. *Comprehension questions.* The purpose of these questions is to test your understanding of the course material after it has been presented in the lecture. In other words, they are review questions. These questions will be similar in style to the questions asked on the formal exams. **Answering a question is worth 1 point. Answering it correctly will be worth 1 point.**

Example grade calculation for Student X:

Student X earns the following grades in the formal exams:

Exam #1: 74%
Exam #2: 60%
Final Exam: 71%

The percentage grade earned in the formal exams is:

$$74(0.30) + 65(0.30) + 71(0.40) = \mathbf{68.6\%}$$

Note: numbers in the brackets correspond to the weighting of each exam (see "Grading")

This is a "**C+**" using the Grading System for this course

Using THM, Student X earns the following Bonus Marks (maximum is 3%):

Participation Questions: student answers 9 questions out of 10 asked by the instructors

Comprehension Questions: student answers all 50 questions, but only 40 correctly

The bonus points earned using THM are:

$$9 + 50 + 40 = \mathbf{99}$$

Maximum bonus points possible:

$$10 + 50 + 50 = \mathbf{110}$$

Proportion of THM points earned:

$$99/110 = \mathbf{0.9}$$

To calculate the bonus marks earned:

$$0.9(3) = \mathbf{2.7}$$

Calculation of the final grade:

$$68.6 + 2.7 = \mathbf{71.3\%}$$

This is a "**B-**" using the Grading System for this course

Before you can use THM

To use this system you must register and enroll at Top Hat Monocle (www.tophatmonocle.com). Once you have set up your account with THM you must enroll in the appropriate course (note that you must make sure you are looking at UofC courses). ***It is critical that you use your UofC student ID when you set up your account (we won't be able to identify you otherwise).*** The course you will enroll in is called **Geog 205 TuTh Winter 2012**. Additional instructions are provided 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. 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!
2. Be ready to engage in the course material. You are not engaged if you are:
 - a. Consulting Facebook. Even the occasional distraction may sabotage your grade by missing a critical linking point (or hint) given by the instructor.
 - b. 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.
3. Readings are intended to supplement and reinforce the 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.
4. Understand what your instructors expect of you:
 - a. 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.**

- b. 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.
 - c. **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.**
 - d. When studying, ask yourself these questions:
 - i. What happened?
 - ii. How does our culture or society affect how we perceive what happened?
 - iii. Why did it happen at that location and not another?
 - iv. What are the reasons or processes that caused it to happen?
 - v. What are the implications of what happened?
 - vi. Is there information in other topics that can help you answer these questions or to develop a deeper understanding?
 - e. If you have trouble understanding the information presented in lecture, we expect you to:
 - i. Consult the required readings and videos. This is why we have provided them.
 - ii. Pursue the web links. Some of the graphics we will show in lecture will be accompanied by web links in the posted lecture notes on BlackBoard. Usually these web pages were consulted when we prepared the lectures.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. Speak to the instructors. If you are still having trouble, please come to our office hours or make an appointment.
5. 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 sooner rather than later.
 6. 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.
 7. Use THM as a self-testing and studying tool while earning bonus marks. Please ensure that you are successfully submitting answers to the questions. To do this you should regularly consult the grade book in THM.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Wk	Date	GEOG 205 CONTENT	Instructor(s)
Part I: What is Geography?			
1	Jan 10 Jan 12	Topic 00: Course introduction Topic 01: What is Geography	Blue, Sjogren, Slezak Blue
2	Jan 17 Jan 19	Topic 02: Geographic representations	Sjogren
Part II: Geography of the natural environment			
3	Jan 24 Jan 26	Topic 03: Earth dynamic systems	Sjogren
4	Jan 31 Feb 02	Topic 04: Weather and climate	Sjogren
5	Feb 07 Feb 09	Topic 04: Weather and climate Exam #1 (30% of final grade)	Sjogren Blue, Sjogren
Part III: Geography of the human environment			
6	Feb 14 Feb 16	Topic 05: Population dynamics and demographics	Slezak
7	Feb 21 Feb 23	Reading Week - No Lectures	-
8	Feb 28 Mar 01	Topic 05: Population dynamics and demographics Topic 06: Economic development	Slezak
9	Mar 06 Mar 08	Topic 06: Economic development	Slezak
10	Mar 13 Mar 15	Topic 07: Globalization and localization	Blue
11	Mar 20 Mar 22	Topic 08: Cultural aspects of climate	Blue
12	Mar 27	Exam #2 (30% of final grade)	Blue, Slezak
Part IV: Human - Physical Interactions			
12	Mar 29	Topic 09: Human/nature mosaic	Sjogren
13	Apr 03 Apr 05	Topic 10: Environmental change and hazards	Sjogren
14	Apr 10 Apr 12	Topic 10: Environmental change and hazards Review for Final Exam	Sjogren Sjogren
15	End Winter Session - Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (40% of final grade)		