



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: SPRING 2012
URBAN STUDIES 253
(Geography 253)
H(3-0)**

Introduction to Cities

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	MoWe	09:00 -11:45	PF 110

Instructor: Geoff Ghitter	Office: ES 446
Telephone: 220 6200	Email: gghitter@ucalgary.ca

Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Professional Faculties Building is the Education Block Food Court.

Course Description

This course is designed as a general introduction to the diverse processes that shape cities. While covering the interdisciplinary field of Urban Studies, it emphasizes the most diverse of the disciplines: Geography. In this course we will examine fundamental issues of city growth and development, social differentiation, urban culture, urban politics, urban economic processes, urban planning, urban morphology, urban design, and urban futures. While emphasizing a geographic (spatial) perspective, we will draw from a variety of perspectives, including those of Anthropology, Architecture, Cultural Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Sociology, Urban Design and Urban Planning. Examples will come from a variety of locations around the world, emphasizing Canada, the United States, and Europe.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with a broad introduction to the processes that shape cities. These processes give rise to a variety of research and social policy questions that form the basis of Urban Studies and much of urban Geography. As this is an introductory course, emphasis is placed on raising basic questions about cities. Provisional answers to these questions may be suggested, but more advanced study is required for comprehensive understanding. In addition to introducing students to the fields of Urban Studies and Urban Geography, this course is designed to demonstrate the advantages of an interdisciplinary perspective, to show the importance of cities in shaping cultural, economic, and political processes, and to familiarize students with contemporary urban issues.

Prerequisite:

N/A

Supplementary Fees: (*field trips etc*). N/A.

Assignments and Grading

All assignments and exams must be completed. Student need not pass each element to pass the course. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late. On written assignments writing competency (organization, grammar, spelling, word choice, etc.) will count for 20% of the grade (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-1.html>). The Writing Centre can help you with your writing difficulties (<http://efwr.ucalgary.ca/>).

There is a registrars' scheduled final exam in this course.

Grades will be based on:

Midterm Exam: 25%
Film Analysis: 22.5%
Calgary Exercise: 22.5%
Final Exam: 30%

All grades (assignments and exams) will be based on the following grading scale:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Required Textbooks

R.T. Legates and F. Stout (2007) The City Reader 5th Edition, New York: Routledge.

Additional required readings will be made available through Blackboard no later than one week before their assigned date.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Lectures will take the form of wide-ranging discussions focusing on the assigned readings. Completing the assigned readings prior to class is highly advised.

As a way to make this class more interesting and to invite more participation, at the beginning of every class period we will spend 20-25 minutes talking about an urban issue based on newspaper stories or opinion columns that have appeared recently in local and national media, primarily from the Calgary Herald. The idea is to see how the topics being discussed at a

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/i-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 in person.
- 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