



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2017**

**GEOGRAPHY 311  
H(3-0)**

**Natural Events and Human Disasters**

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	We	18:00 – 20:50	ST 141

Instructor: Darren Sjogren	Office: ES 456
Tel: 403.220.2575	Email: <a href="mailto:sjogren@ucalgary.ca">sjogren@ucalgary.ca</a>

***Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in Science Theatres is Professional Faculties - Food Court.***

**Official Course Description:**

This course will explore how various Earth processes create hazards for humans in different regions. Topics include but are not limited to: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, landslides, hurricanes, drought, famine and disease. Lectures will focus on: (1) the causes of dangerous natural events, (2) how the physical geography of a region affects its vulnerability, (3) historic human impacts, and (4) how people in different regions perceive and mitigate risk from these events.

**Course Objectives**

The primary course objective is to explore natural disasters as complex interactions between humans and physical processes. The physical processes that create hazards will be introduced and factors that amplify or dampen their impact on humans or infrastructure will be emphasized. The factors that influence human vulnerability and resiliency will be stressed. Exploration of these interactions will be accomplished through lectures, in-class videos, and projects.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-level learning outcomes (PLO) they facilitate, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Explain why disaster severity is related to both event intensity and human vulnerability	2	1
Explain why event intensity and human vulnerability are spatially and temporally variable	4	1
Select and justify which elements of human vulnerability contributed to historic natural disasters	2	1
Explain the challenges to increasing resiliency to natural disasters	2	1
Explain the geographical distribution of natural disasters	4	1
Summarize, evaluate the information content of different sources	8	1

**PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes:** 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills. **Levels:** (1) Introductory, (2) Intermediate, (3) Advanced

**Prerequisite:** NA

**Supplementary Fees:** *No supplementary fee has been assessed for this course.*

**Required Text:**

Smith, K. (2013). Environmental Hazards: Assessing Risk and Reducing Disaster (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Routledge.

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the course. Bibliography will be posted on D2L.

**Grading (Weighting):**

Online quizzes	15%	(best 8 of 10 are counted)
Group Project 1	15%	
Group Project 2	15%	
Midterm exam	25%	
Final exam	30%	Registrar scheduled

- It is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.
- Only pens, pencils and erasers are allowed in exams. No other materials or devices are allowed.
- Late assignments will be assessed a 20% per day (or portion thereof) penalty unless accompanied by a medical doctor's note.

**Grading System:**

92-100	A+	76-79.99	B	60-63.99	C-
88-91.99	A	72-75.99	B-	56-59.99	D+
84-87.99	A-	68-71.99	C+	50-55.99	D
80-83.99	B+	64-67.99	C	0-49.99	F

**Policy regarding rounding of final grades**

In an effort to be fair to all students in the class, your individual grade will not be “rounded” or “bumped” up, regardless of how close you are to a grade break. In short, the final grade breaks are hard breaks. This policy minimizes ambiguity and ensures the grading is as fair and clear as possible. For more information see the Grade appeal and rounding policy on D2L.

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>**

**Human subjects**

Students will NOT participate as subjects or researchers on human subjects.

## **USRI**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

## **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 Support Services 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/k.html>

## **Internet and electronic communication device information:**

No restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is *no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor*. Phones must be turned to silent during class time.

## **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. Information on Academic Misconduct is available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

## **Academic Accommodations:**

Students needing an accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. The procedure can be found at:

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy)

Students needing an accommodation based in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the appropriate Associate Dean or Department Head.

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy)

Students needing an Accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience).

### **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

### **Posting of Grades and Pick up of Assignments**

- All assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Dropbox on D2L. Assignments that are emailed or submitted as hard (paper) copies of assignments will **not** be accepted.
- Final grades will be available to each student on D2L 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](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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 registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210 7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)