



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2009
GEOGRAPHY 321
H(3-0) Area II**

Environmental Geography

Instructor: Dianne Draper	Office: ES 910
Telephone: 220 5586	Email: draper@ucalgary.ca

Official Course Description:

Environmental and resource issues, with emphasis on topics such as sustainability; ethics; planning; policy and decision making; and management strategies. Case examples highlight issues in resource sectors such as freshwater, oceans, parks and wildlife, tourism and recreation, forests and energy.

Prerequisite:

One of Geography 251, 253, Urban Studies 253

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

Course Content:

This course focuses principally on human activities in the Canadian environment, on the challenges these activities may generate for achievement of environmental sustainability, and on efforts and strategies intended to move our society and environment toward a sustainable future. We consider how our thoughts, motivations, beliefs and behaviours relate to environmental problems in different resource sectors and regions of Canada (and internationally), and discuss how science, values and public policy making are reflected in decisions and actions about the environment. This broadly-based survey course integrates human and physical dimensions of environmental change and highlights the roles of critical reflection, local action, stewardship and cooperative problem solving in environmental management. (Please note that the instructor reserves the right to include topics not identified in the course outline and/or other documents, and to exclude topics as appropriate to the focus and/or enhancement of the course).

Objectives:

- to develop knowledge of concepts that are important in studying and understanding our environment
- to gain an understanding of Canada's natural resource endowment, the effects of human activities on a range of natural resources, and aspects of the uncertainty, complexity and conflict that characterize both the use and management of Canada's resources
- to develop an appreciation of the approaches and strategies taken to resolve environmental concerns in Canada and elsewhere
- to develop critical thinking and analysis skills

Text(s)/Readings:

Required: Draper, D. and M.G. Reed (2008). Our Environment: A Canadian Perspective. Fourth Edition. Scarborough: Nelson Education.

Other readings may be placed in the Geography Department Collections Room (ES457). Students are responsible for copying costs of any required readings.

Course Requirements:

In order to obtain a grade in this course, students must submit each of the following evaluative components; it is not essential to pass all components in order to pass the course as a whole. Additional details of assignments are provided in class.

Please note that there are no make-up tests or deferred examinations, nor may tests be written early. Students unable to write an in-class test because of documented illness, family emergency or religious observance will have the weight of that component shifted to the final examination. Evaluative components must be submitted in person (assignments will **not** be accepted *via* email).

Evaluative component	Weighting	Date
In-class test	15%	October 2
In-class test	20%	November 4
Research project	40%	November 27
Final (take-home) exam	25%	December 4

Grade Scale:

Tests, projects and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis. Course grades are calculated by converting the weights indicated above into letter grades. The following letter grade equivalences will be applied:

A+ = 95-100 **B+** = 80-84 **C+** = 65-69 **D+** = 50-54
A = 90-94 **B** = 75-79 **C** = 60-64 **D** = 45-49
A- = 85-89 **B-** = 70-74 **C-** = 55-59 **F** = 0-44

Please note that variations in grade distributions always will be considered by the instructor where called for by the performance in each individual class. The student does not have any 'right' to a certain grade, but is responsible for earning grades. The instructor has unfettered discretion to evaluate student performance and assign all grades.

As the grading of any exam is open to human error, please feel free to question your results. If you have a question regarding the grading of your exam, please see me first, within one week of the grade being made available. If you are not convinced that you have been treated fairly, you may choose to appeal (please consult the current University Calendar for more information).

Students must comply with University regulations concerning 'Intellectual Honesty', 'Examinations', 'Plagiarism', etc., all of which are published in the University Calendar.

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.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- To receive your assignment back via mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when handing in to the professor.
- Posting of grades is at the discretion of the Professor and, if posted, grades will be scrambled. Grades are **not** 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: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

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.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

"It is the student's responsibility to request academic 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 also are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course."