



GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2016

GEOGRAPHY 321 H(3-0)

Geography and our Environment

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC01	MoWeFr	11-11:50 am	ST 147
Instructor: Aaron Williams		Office: ES 446	
Telephone:		Email: awill@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: N/A

Course Content:

This course focuses primarily on the impact of human activities on the environment, the challenges involved in achieving environmental sustainability, and on policies, plans, and strategies devised to move society and environment toward a sustainable future. This course integrates dimensions of human and physical environmental problems and highlights the roles of critical reflection, local action, stewardship and cooperative problem solving in environmental management.

Objectives:

- to instill knowledge, concepts and values critical to the study, management and understanding of our environment.
- to gain an understanding of the distribution, use, extraction and impact of global natural resources, the effects of human activities on a range of natural resources globally, and aspects of the uncertainty, complexity and conflict that characterize both the use and management of resources globally.
- To study and understand the concepts of maintaining and sustaining the environment as a resource.
- To gain an understanding of environmental problems and issues of sustainability within select world regions through case study examples.

Text(s)/Readings:

Links to supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard. Course-related assistance and reference materials will also be placed in the Geography Department Collections Room (ES457).

Assessment:

Assessment is based on three lecture exams, one class presentation with a written report and a research assignment. For exams, basic knowledge-based skills will be assessed in questions that ask you to sort, define or classify items. The integration of communication skills with critical thinking skills will be assessed through comprehensive questions that require short written answers. Short written answers may include assessment of group discussion outcomes and individual ethical reasoning skills or group presentation materials.

Course Requirements:

To obtain a passing grade in this course you must:

Acquire all lecture materials and submit all assignments. You must earn 50% or more on the exams, assignments, and presentations in this course in order to pass. You do not have to pass every component but you do need to earn 50 points out of the 100 points that comprise the course exams and assignments to pass the course. Attend at the date, time and place all course exams. In the event of a missed exam, **you must have emailed the instructor before the exam.** Make-up exams are set at the discretion of the instructor. There are no re-writes of exams for any reason.

Grading (Weighting):

Mid-term exam 1- February 24 th	30%
Mid term exam 2...March 21 st	30%
Class presentation and written report, March 23 rd	30%
Final examination (In class), April 13 th	10%

Note: There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination in this course.

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

Lecture schedule and optional readings from Our Environment Draper and Reed (2009):

This schedule acts as your course guide. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete lecture topics and readings appropriate to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the course. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class.

WEEK 1: Introduction to Course Course Outline
Jan 11,13,15

Film Damming the Mekong
<http://digital.films.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/PortalViewVideo.aspx?xtid=52140>

WEEK 2: Conceptualizing Sustainability
Jan 18, 20,22 Sustainable Development

Film The Battle for the Amazon: The Xingu vs. the Belo Monte Dam
<http://digital.films.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/PortalViewVideo.aspx?xtid=52415>

Optional film: The Amazon River: Pristine and Unprotected

<http://digital.films.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/PortalViewVideo.aspx?xtid=40145>

WEEK 3: Sustainable Development (cont)
Jan 25,27,29 Introduction to Conservation and Environmentalism

WEEK 4: Understanding our Physical Environment
Feb 1,3,5

WEEK 5: Biomes, Anthropogenic changes to environment and classification

Posted Reading: Putting People in the Map: Anthropogenic Biomes of the World (posted on d2L)

Feb 8,10,12 Assignment - choose topics and groups
Film (TBA)

Reading Break
Feb 15-21

WEEK 7: Wednesday February 24th Lecture Exam 1 30% (Weeks 1 - 6 inclusive)
Feb 22,24,26 Environmental Decision Making

Posted Reading: Natural Law – Do Ecosystems Have Rights (posted on D2L)

(Film TBA)

WEEK 8: Global and Regional Agriculture
Feb 29, Mar 2, 4

WEEK 9: Climatic Variability and Land Management in Southern Alberta
Mar 7,9,11

WEEK 10: Oceans
Climate Change, Impact, Management and Solutions
Mar 14,16,18 Ocean and Fisheries Dearden and Mitchell 2012 (posted on D2L) Presentations

WEEK 11: Wednesday March 23rd Lecture Exam 2 30% (Weeks 1-9,10 inclusive)

Mar 21,23,25 Presentations

WEEK 12: Presentations
Mar 28, 30 Apr 1 Presentations

WEEK 13: Presentations
Apr 8,10 Presentations

WEEK 14: Presentations
April 13, Final exam

Grading System:

96-100	A+	77-80	B	59-61	C-
90-95	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-64	C	0-49	F

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 instructor reminds each of us to: *'work. study. play. with integrity.'* 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>

Academic Accommodations:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the university policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf

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: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf

Students needing an accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, in writing, to the Instructor.

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.

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>

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

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.

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.