

# **GEOGRAPHY 361: IMAGINING THE WORLD (INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY)**

## **Timetable: Fall Session**

Lec 01 TR 11 85 A 167

**Instructor:** Dr. Denise Brown  
**Office:** ES 444  
**Office hours:** W 11-12 or by appointment  
**Phone:** 220-3930  
**Email:** dfbrown@ucalgary.ca

**LABS:** T 1:00 ES 313  
T 3:30 ES 313

**Teaching assistant:** Jesse O'Brien  
**Email:** jrobrien@ucalgary.ca  
**Office hours:** TBA

## **Course Content:**

This course looks at how human groups create and imagine landscapes and how these landscapes reinforce their identities. Bridging human and physical aspects of our environment with a focus on the construction of meaning on the landscape, cultural geography is concerned with the social and spatial constitution of cultures. As such, this subfield of Geography borrows from other academic disciplines, such as anthropology, history, psychology, and political science, seeking explanations for the geographical expression of culture. Some of the questions to be addressed in this course are: What are the political aspects of space? How do economic activities influence our landscape? What is the relationship between space and identity? In what way can a landscape be “read” as a text with encoded meanings? How are we “situated”? And what are gendered aspects of our landscapes? We begin the course by reflecting on positionality of the geographic self.

## **Objectives**

Broaden the students' understanding of the field of Geography  
Provide an introduction to Cultural Geography as a subfield  
Teach the students analytical reading and writing skills  
Link theoretical concerns in Geography with the understanding of everyday spaces  
Teach students to use their theoretical and analytical knowledge of geography to reach a critical understanding of “their own” geographies.  
Develop critical thinking skills, discussion skills.

**Text: (available in the University bookstore)**

*Cultural Geography* by Mike Crang, Routledge (London and New York) 1998  
(available in the bookstore)

**Plus: other assigned readings (see Blackboard)**

**Grading:**

**LABS:**

Participation, in-class engagement (6 labs)	6%
Lab reports: reaction/reflection paper in response to question posed- 6 X 5% each	<u>30%</u>
subtotal	<u>36%</u>

**PAPERS:**

2 reaction paper on videos or other special assigned material (10% ea)	20%
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**TESTS:**

Midterm	22%
FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM	<u>22%</u>
Subtotal	<u>44%</u>

**TOTAL** 100%

**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		

**Special Instructions:**

Grades will be deducted for poor writing style (spelling, grammar).

**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).
- If you would like to receive your assignment through the mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when you hand it in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. Please note, grades will not be available in the Geography office.

### **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.

### **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 are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **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: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.