



## GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2009

### GEOGRAPHY 361 H(3-2) Area II

#### Imagining the World: An Introduction to Cultural Geography

**Timetable:** TuTh 11:00 - 12:15 ST 126

Please note: the appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Science Theatre is the Social Sciences Food Court.

<b>Instructor:</b> Kim Kozak	<b>Office:</b> ES 440
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#### **Official Course Description:**

An exploration of geography as a product and producer of social relationships and cultural meanings. How landscapes encode meanings and how places and spatial processes shape identities.

#### **Prerequisite:**

One of Geography 251, 253, Urban Studies 253

#### **Course Content:**

This course offers an exploration of geography as a product and producer of social relationships and cultural meanings. It examines how spaces, places, and landscapes encode meanings and how places and spatial processes shape identities.

Bridging human and physical aspects of our environment, 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. Some of the questions to be addressed in this course are: How do spaces, places, and landscapes acquire meaning? In what way can a space, place, or landscape be “read” as a text with encoded meanings? What is the relationship between space and identity? How are we “situated”? We begin the course by reflecting on positionality of the geographic self.

#### **Objectives:**

- Broaden our understanding of the field of Geography
- Provide an introduction to Cultural Geography as a subfield

- Analyze everyday spaces and places not just as locations or things but as ways of understanding the world
- Link the understanding of spaces and places with more complex theoretical debates
- Develop analytical reading, writing, and discussion skills

**Text:**

- Crang, M. (1998) *Cultural Geography*. Routledge: London and New York. (available in the bookstore)
- Other assigned readings (see Blackboard)

**Grading:**

**LABS:**

Participation, in-class engagement (6 labs):	6%
Lab reports: reaction/reflection paper (6 X 5% each)	<u>30%</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>36%</b>

**PAPERS:**

- 2 reaction papers on videos or other special assigned material (10% each): **20%**
- Reaction papers will be graded on your ability to link ideas and think clearly, concisely, and critically. In the reaction paper you should demonstrate that you are aware of the key concepts/themes provided in class as well and critically examine these themes within the context of the material you are examining.
  - Reaction papers will be also graded on your writing—the ability to convey your ideas in a grammatically correct text written in formal English style.
  - A good reaction paper that meets the requirements will receive a C or C+ grade. A very good reaction will show evidence of reflection and understanding, and will receive a B or B+. A reaction with originality and brilliance (that is, original thought) will receive an A or A+.
  - Reaction papers should take longer to write than your lab assignments.
  - Reaction papers should be approximately 750 words (750 being the minimum and 1000 being the maximum. Points will be deducted for longer papers).

**TESTS:**

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

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>
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### **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		

### **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.

### **Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

- All assignments will be handled on Blackboard.
- 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: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialsciirep@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.

*Please note: The instructor and teaching assistant reserve the right to make alterations to the class and lab outline as the semester continues, and you will be notified of any change.*

