



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2014

GEOGRAPHY 361 H(3-2)

Imagining the World: An Introduction to Cultural Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TuTh	11:00 – 12:15	ES 342
LAB 01	Tu	13:00 – 14:50	ES 313
LAB 02	Tu	15:30 – 17:20	ES 313

Instructor: Aaron Williams	Office: ES 446
Telephone: 403 220 6200	Email: awill@ucalgary.ca

The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.

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.

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.

Prerequisites: Geography 251, 253, Urban Studies 253.

Text: (available in the University bookstore)

Horton, John and Kraftl, Peter, (2010). *Cultural Geographies: An Introduction*, Routledge. London and New York.

Plus: other assigned readings (see D2L)

Grading:

LABS:

Participation, in-class engagement (5 labs)	5%
Lab reports: reaction/reflection paper in response to question posed- 5 X 5% each	<u>25%</u>
Subtotal	<u>30%</u>

TESTS:

Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM	<u>20%</u>
Subtotal	<u>70%</u>

TOTAL	100%
--------------	-------------

Please note: It is not necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course.

Lab sessions will begin in the second week of classes. Dates of subsequent labs will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading System:

96-100	A+	76-80	B	59-61	C-
91-95	A	71-75	B-	55-58	D+
86-90	A-	66-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-65	C	0-49	F

Special Instructions:

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

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

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). 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 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 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>

Student Accessibility Services Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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.

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.

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.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suypaca@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>

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 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