



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: SPRING 2015
GEOGRAPHY 392.18/393.18
H(3-7)

Overseas field Studies in Physical and Environmental Geography
Mekong Sub-Region

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Official Course Description:

Field research and reconnaissance survey of techniques applied to regions outside North America. Group travel-study combined with formal instruction and seminars.

MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Consent of the Department

Course Content

Geography 392 and 393 will be offered during the Overseas Field School, Spring Session, 2015.

Data collection techniques and field research applied to geographical phenomena in regions outside North America, in this case regions of Southeast Asia and China including, Yunnan, Lao, Cambodia, and Thailand. The tremendous variety of physical landscapes included in this itinerary provides spatial settings for diverse studies and comparative analyses.

GEOG392 Topics will include climate, regional biogeography, mountain building and degradation, soils of the region, natural resources, fluvial geomorphology, karstic topography, shore line geomorphology, natural hazards and disasters. Portions of Geography 392 will be taught on campus in the winter of 2015 to provide students adequate background knowledge on the region and subject matter.

GEOG393 The course focuses on recourses, environmental problems relating to both natural and human landscapes. This itinerary provides spatial settings for diverse studies and comparative analyses. Topics will include impacts of climate change, land degradation, deforestation, human's current and historical effects on landscapes, water issues, power generation, geothermal and hydrocarbon recourses, natural environmental disturbances, air pollution, and an examination of different agricultural practices. Topics will include the construction of Dams; coal fire power expansion, the impacts of climate change on tropical and subtropical ecosystems; the management of the Mekong, Yangtze, Chao Pra and other river systems; specific environmental problems that have emerged from development; soil management, degradation, and agricultural practices and environmental impacts of tourism development and expansion throughout the region. Portions of Geography 393 will be taught on campus in the winter of 2015 to provide students adequate background knowledge on the region and subject matter.

The following pre-session components are included, and each component will occur for each course, therefore workload for the two courses will be doubled what is below: one short paper, and introductory and topical lectures, field notes training; *en route* components will include lectures, seminars, student-instructor consultations, group tours, and lectures by local experts. While overseas, students must complete a pre-session paper, one oral presentation, three field study assignments, an extensive field notebook, and a final examination. The field notebook must be clearly distinguished for the two courses. The final examination will be conducted on-site, and will require students to synthesize observations made during the course and apply them to a concrete question. One question will pertain to each course. **Note:** Group travel study contains with numerous opportunities for small group and individual instructor-approved studies.

The final course grade includes these components:

pre-session paper	10%
on-site oral presentation (may be as part of a group).....	.15%
four field assignments @ 10% each.....	..30%
field notebook:35%
final examination	10%

It is **not** necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course, although it **is** necessary to **complete** each component. A student skipping any individual component unless there are valid, pre-arranged reasons, will not pass the course. The Registrar will **not** schedule the Final Exam: it will be scheduled on the last day of the Field School.

500-level courses associated with GEOG 392 & GEOG 393:

Those enrolled in the associated 500-level course will be required to complete all these components but will be held to more rigorous marking criteria for them, including incorporation of more theoretical aspects of geography. In addition, they must complete a proposal for field research, including a literature review, prior to departure. An interim report on data collection will be due half-way through the field course, and a final report resulting from this research will be submitted no later than 6 weeks after the completion of the travel portion of the course.

Students enrolled in the 500-level courses will, in addition, be asked to assume a leadership position with respect to 300-level students, by being assigned to a small group and helping with background information and concept interpretation as required during the course. They will be responsible for submitting a diary of time and content of such activity, which will count toward their final grade.

For the 500-level course, the 300-level requirements will account for 50% of the course grade, distributed as above. The additional 50% will be allocated as:

Pre-session proposal	10%
Mid-session update report	5%
Final report	25%
Leadership of group	10%

Expectations:

By the conclusion of the program, a successful student will have acquired the following:

- an understanding of field reconnaissance techniques;
- the ability to produce an academic field notebook;
- a good understanding of the geography of Southeast Europe; and
- insights into physical and environmental processes, and the impacts of various forms of human activities on the environment.

Grading System:

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject
A-	3.70	↑
B+	3.30	↑
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance
B-	2.70	↑
C+	2.30	↑
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance – basic understanding of the subject
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal Pass-marginal performance
F	0	Fail - - poor performance

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

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: 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 Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@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 registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210 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

