

- **GEOGRAPHY 392 and 393 (co-requisites) and associated 500-level courses**

**Physical and Environmental Geography of Baltic Europe Parts I and II**

Timetable: SPRING SESSION, 2009

**Instructor:**

392: Mryka Hall-Beyer Tel. 220-6586 email mhallbey@ucalgary.ca

393: Mryka Hall-Beyer and Aaron Williams Tel. 220-2894 email awill@ucalgary.ca

**Course Content**

Geography 392 and 393 will be offered during the Overseas Field School, Spring Session, 2009.

Data collection techniques and field research applied to geographical phenomena in regions outside North America, in this case lands surrounding the Baltic Sea in northern Europe. The tremendous variety of physical landscapes included in this itinerary provides spatial settings for diverse studies and comparative analyses.

GEOG392 Topics will include climate, climate change and extreme weather, regional biogeography, mountain building and degradation, resource formation in shield areas, glacial geomorphology, shoreline geomorphology . Some soils information will be included but will not be a focus.,

GEOG393 The course focuses on resources, 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, geothermal and hydrocarbon resources, natural environmental disturbances, air pollution, and an examination of different agricultural practices. Topics will include influences of location and the Baltic Sea itself on climate and biosystems. Environmental problems due to physical factors. Specific environmental problems of the Soviet Era. Uses of alternative energy sources. Sustainable urban design.

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 numerous opportunities for small group and individual instructor-approved studies.

**The final course grade includes these components:**

a pre-session paper .....	10%
an on-site oral presentation (may be as part of a group).....	15%
three field assignments @ 10% each.....	30%

a field notebook: graded twice, at 10% and 20%.....	30%
a final examination .....	15%

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 and 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

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