



## GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2012

### GEOGRAPHY 397.07 H(3-0)

#### Natural Events and Human Disasters

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC01	MoWeFr	15:00 – 15:50	EEEL 161

<b>Instructor:</b> Darren Sjogren	<b>Office:</b> ES 406
<b>Telephone:</b> 2202575	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sjogren@ucalgary.ca">sjogren@ucalgary.ca</a>

**Please note:** The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in EEEL is ICT Food Court.

#### **Official Course Description:**

Selected regional geographies. A survey of the physical, cultural and historical geography of a world region.

#### **Description:**

This course will explore how various Earth processes create hazards for humans in different regions. Topics include but are not limited to: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, landslides, hurricanes, drought, famine and disease. Lectures will focus on: (1) the causes of dangerous natural events, (2) how the physical geography of a region affects its vulnerability, (3) historic human impacts, and (4) how people in different regions perceive and mitigate risk from these events.

**Prerequisite:** A previous course in Geography is strongly recommended.

#### **Required Text:**

Smith, K, and D.N. Petley. (2009) Environmental Hazards: Assessing Risk and Reducing Disaster, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Routledge, New York.

#### **Recommended software:**

We will be using a web-based system for interactive feedback during this course. It is called Top Hat Monocle or MonocleCAT. Subscriptions are \$20/term or \$38/60 months. These can be purchased from the Bookstore or from [www.tophatmonocle.ca](http://www.tophatmonocle.ca). More information will be provided on BlackBoard.

#### **Blackboard:**

All the course material will be available on Blackboard.

#### **Grading (Weighting):**

Quizzes - best 2 of 3	(2 x 5% = 10%)
Mid-term exams (2)	(2 x 25% = 50%)
Final exam	(40%) Registrar scheduled

**Note:** It is not necessary to pass all components to pass the course as a whole.

### Grading System:

A+	> 90	C+	66 – 70
A	86 – 90	C	62 – 66
A-	82 – 86	C-	58 – 62
B+	78 – 82	D+	54 – 58
B	74 – 78	D	50 – 54
B-	70 – 74	F	< 50

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

### 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>

### Disability Resource Centre 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.

### **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](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION (subject to change)**

### **Email protocol**

#### **How to email your instructor**

Contact your instructor via the email function in BlackBoard. I will NOT answer emails sent directly to my email address. This is important because when you send an email through BlackBoard it adds the name of the course to the subject line. This allows me to identify your emails in the flood of other emails I receive every day. I will be instructing over 400 students this term so please appreciate that you may not receive a response immediately.

#### **Regarding the formality of emails**

Consider all emails to be formal correspondence, NOT TWEETS or TEXT MESSAGES. At minimum this means that you should include: (1) a greeting; (2) a message that is clearly written with complete sentences and proper punctuation; and (3) your full name and student number.

#### **When to email**

1. When you have questions about course content, but **only after you have established that the answer to your question has not already been posted on BlackBoard in either the Syllabus or Lecture notes.**
2. When you need help with a difficult concept from the lecture and you can't make it to my office hours because of a time conflict. When you email, please specify 3 times that you can come to my office. I will choose one that fits my schedule and notify you which time to come to my office. Office hours are posted on BlackBoard in the "Contact Instructor" link.
3. When you have an issue that prevents you from attending an exam. Notify me as soon as possible. All issues identified after the exam must be accompanied by a medical doctor's note.

### **Exams**

1. Midterm exam #1 **(25%)**
  - a. A 50 minute exam conducted in class
  - b. Multiple choice and short answer questions
2. Midterm exam #2 **(25%)**
  - a. A 50 minute exam conducted in class
  - b. Multiple choice and short answer questions
3. Quizzes **(2 x 5%)**
  - a. Three in-class quizzes – the 2 best marks will count toward final grade (2 x 5% = 10%)
  - b. Fifteen minute quizzes
  - c. Fifteen multiple choice questions for each quiz
4. Final exam **(40%)**
  - a. It will be a 2 hour exam scheduled by the registrar on all course material
  - b. Combination of short answer and multiple choice

## **Earn bonus marks using Top Hat Monocle (THM)**

We will be using a relatively new (2009) web-based system that will allow you to be more involved in the lectures. This system is called MonocleCAT from Top Hat Monocle (THM). I will refer to it as THM for simplicity. This system will replace "clickers" that have been used for some time in courses at the UofC.

In a nutshell, this system will allow you to answer questions asked during the lecture - projected on the screen like the rest of the lecture - on an electronic device such as a phone/smartphone or WiFi connected computer, tablet, iPod etc. Your answers will be transmitted from your device via the Web or cellphone service provider to the THM server. This computer server will record your answers, linking them to your student number (**must be your UofC student number**) that you supplied when you registered in the THM system. These answers are then transmitted to your instructor's computer, allowing them to show in near real time how the class did on the question. Note that your individual answers will never be projected, only summary information of the class as a whole. You will only be allowed to answer the questions during the lecture period; these will not be homework assignments. One of the benefits of this system is that the questions and answers will remain on the system so that you can review them prior to the exams.

***It is important that you check your THM grade book regularly to ensure that the system is receiving your responses.***

The primary reasons I have adopted this system are: (1) to help you evaluate how well you understand the course material, (2) to allow you to evaluate how well you are doing relative to the other students, (3) provide sample exam questions to help you prepare for the formal exams, and (4) to help the instructors evaluate how well you have understood the material so they can adjust the lectures to facilitate the learning process.

## **How THM will be implemented in Geog 397.07**

### **How the bonus marks can impact your final grade**

The maximum number of bonus marks you can earn is 3% of your final grade. The results of the questions will be used to calculate what proportion of the 3% will be added to the percentage grade you earned in the formal exams (two term exams and the final exam - see the schedule). THM will calculate a percentage grade of all the THM questions that were asked during the term. This number will be multiplied by the maximum bonus marks possible (3). The portion of the 3% will be added to the percentage grade you earned in the 3 formal exams and 2 quizzes to get your final percentage grade for the course. This final percentage grade will be compared to the Grading System to get the final Letter grade that will go on your transcript. Refer to the calculation example below.

### **Types of questions I will ask using THM**

1. *Participation questions.* These questions will be an informal polling within the lectures. I may ask your opinion on a controversial topic or may test your knowledge on a topic before it is discussed in the lecture. For this type of question the correctness of your answer will **NOT** be evaluated. **These questions will be worth 1 point each.**
2. *Comprehension questions.* The purpose of these questions is to test your understanding of the course material after it has been presented in the lecture. In other words they are review questions. These questions will be similar in style to the multiple choice questions asked on the formal exams. **Answering a question is worth 1 point. Answering it correctly will be worth 1 point.**

### Hypothetical grade calculation for Student X:

Student X earns the following grades in the formal exams:

Quizzes:	82%
Midterm exam #1:	64%
Midterm exam #2:	60%
Final Exam:	71%

The percentage grade earned in the formal exams is:

$$82(0.1) + 64(0.25) + 60(0.25) + 71(0.40) = \mathbf{67.6\%}$$

Note: numbers in the brackets correspond to the weighting of each exam (see "Grading")

This is a "**C+**" using the Grading System for this course.

Using THM, Student X earns the following Bonus Marks (maximum is 3%):

Participation Questions: student answers 9 questions out of a total of 10 asked

Comprehension Questions: student answers all 50 questions, but only 40 correctly

The bonus points earned using THM are:

$$9 + 50 + 40 = \mathbf{99}$$

Maximum bonus points possible:

$$10 + 50 + 50 = \mathbf{110}$$

Proportion of THM points earned:

$$99/110 = \mathbf{0.9}$$

To calculate the bonus marks earned:

$$0.9(3) = \mathbf{2.7}$$

Calculation of the final grade:

$$67.6 + 2.7 = \mathbf{70.3\%}$$

This is a "**B-**" using the Grading System for this course.

### **Before you can use THM**

To use this system you must register and enroll at Top Hat Monocle ([www.tophatmonocle.com](http://www.tophatmonocle.com)). Once you have set up your account with THM you must enroll in the appropriate course (note that you must make sure you are looking at UofC courses). ***It is critical that you use your UofC student ID when you set up your account (I won't be able to identify you otherwise).*** The name for this course will be **Geog 39707 Winter 2012**. Additional instructions are provided under MonocleCAT, which you can find in the "Syllabus and Info" tab in BlackBoard.

## **Hints on how to excel in Geog 397.07:**

1. Attend all lectures. Attendance is closely linked to success in any course. Professors often give 'hints' in class. This is not an accident; it is done to highlight important points that often translate into exam questions. Hint, hint!
2. Be ready to engage in the course material. You are not engaged if you are:
  - a. Consulting Facebook. Even the occasional distraction may sabotage your grade by missing a critical linking point (or hint) given by the instructor.
  - b. Watching movies etc. on your computer. Please don't make the mistake of thinking you can multitask in this way. True engagement requires your undivided attention.
3. Textbook readings are intended to supplement and reinforce concepts presented in the lecture. They **ARE NOT** substitutes for attending the lecture. You cannot "just read the book" and do well in the course.
4. Understand what your instructor expects of you:
  - a. I expect you to take notes on what is said in the lecture. The PowerPoint slides are only the structure of the lecture; the important information is what is said and seeing the relevance of that information in the context of the course. Studying exclusively from the slides will not supply the understanding you need to answer the exam questions. **Exam questions will not come exclusively from the slides.**
  - b. I expect you to understand the concepts, not memorize 'facts'. Geography is **NOT** about memorizing 'facts', and understanding is **NOT** the same as recalling trivia. I will examine you with the intention of determining how well you understand the concepts. Many exam questions will require that you integrate knowledge from different parts of the course. True understanding comes from being able to recognize the links and apply knowledge obtained from one topic, to understand another.
  - c. **It is generally expected that students study at least one hour for each hour of lecture. A course like Geog 397.07 should be considered at least a 6-hour commitment per week.**
  - d. If you have trouble understanding the information presented in lecture, I expect you to:
    - i. Consult the required readings and videos. That is why I have provided them.
    - ii. Pursue the web links. Some of the graphics I will show in lecture will be accompanied by web links in the posted lecture notes on BlackBoard. Usually these web pages were consulted when I prepared the lectures.
    - iii. Consult a 1<sup>st</sup> year Geography text. First year geography textbooks are available in the UofC Library or in the Geography Collections Room (Earth Sciences Building Rm 457). If you have the basic terms from the lecture slides you should be able to find the relevant sections. Most textbooks will cover the material we will be talking about in this course. Marilyn Kinnear, who runs the Geography Collections Room, will be happy to help you.
    - iv. Consult an authoritative website. Government or research/university websites can be useful for finding background information on many topics in this course. Wikipedia is also a reasonable source, but note that Wikipedia is generally not accepted as an authoritative source for research paper you write in a university class. However, it is a good place to get some basic information to help guide further investigation into a topic.
    - v. Speak to your instructor. If you are still having trouble, please come to my office hours or make an appointment.
5. Remember that I am here to help you. If you have non-academic issues that are negatively impacting your performance in the course please let me know sooner rather than later.
6. Use THM as a self-testing and studying tool while earning bonus marks. Please ensure that you are successfully submitting answers to the questions. To do this you should regularly consult the grade book in THM.

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

Wk	Date	GEOG 307.07 CONTENT	Readings from Smith and Petley (2009)
<b>Part I: The Making of an Environmental Hazard</b>			
1	Jan 09 Jan 11 Jan 13	Topic 00: Course Introduction Topic 01: Introduction to Environmental Hazards	Chapters 1, 3
2	Jan 16 Jan 18 Jan 20	Topic 02: Quantifying disasters Topic 03: Risk Assessment	Chapters 2, 4
3	Jan 23 Jan 25 Jan 27	Topic 03: Risk Assessment Topic 04: Risk Management	Chapter 4
4	Jan 30 Feb 01 Feb 03	Topic 05: Mitigation Review for Exam #1	Chapter 5
<b>Part II: Human Disasters - case studies</b>			
5	Feb 06 Feb 08 Feb 10	<b>Exam #1 (25%)</b> ----- Topic 06: Earthquakes	----- Chapter 6
6	Feb 13 Feb 15 Feb 17	Topic 06: Earthquakes Topic 07: Volcanic eruptions	Chapters 6, 7
7	Feb 20 Feb 22 Feb 24	<b>Reading Week - No Lectures</b>	-
8	Feb 27 Feb 29 Mar 02	Topic 08: Mass movements Topic 09: Tsunami	Chapters 6,8
9	Mar 05 Mar 07 Mar 09	Topic 09: Boxing Day Tsunami - 7 years later (A. Williams) ----- Topic 10: Severe weather	----- Chapter 9
10	Mar 12 Mar 14 Mar 16	Topic 11: Hydrological	Chapters 11, 12
11	Mar 19 Mar 21 Mar 23	<b>Exam #2 (25% of final grade)</b> ----- Topic 12: Biophysical	----- Chapter 10
12	Mar 26 Mar 28 Mar 30	Topic 12: Biophysical	Chapter 10
13	Apr 02 Apr 04 Apr 06	Topic 13: Environmental Hazards in the Philippines (Dr. W. Holden) ----- Topic 14: Global environmental change and hazards ----- <b>Good Friday - No Lecture</b>	----- Chapter 14 ----- -
14	Apr 09 Apr 11 Apr 13	Topic 14: Global environmental change and hazards Review for Final Exam	Chapter 14
15	<b>End Winter Session - Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (40% of final grade)</b>		



