

**GEOGRAPHY 509**

**Permafrost**

**Timetable:** Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00-12:15  
Labs : Tuesdays 2:00-5:00

**Instructor:** Brian Moorman  
**Office:** ES 356  
**Phone:** 220-5584  
**E-mail:** moorman@ucalgary.ca

**Office Hours:** Mondays 1:00-2:00  
(or by appointment)

**Course Description:** This course deals with the development, characteristics and significance of permafrost, including the thermal and hydrological processes and resulting periglacial geomorphology and geotechnical implications. There are four main elements to the course; lectures, labs, a term research project and class participation.

**Prerequisite:** Geography 305 and 307

**Labs and Term Project** The labs and term project critical components of the class. For the first half of the term you will undertake labs to learn a number of the research methods used to study the thermodynamics and hydrology of permafrost. This will be followed in the second half of the term with a full research project in which you will work with others in groups of 2-4 students on a project of mutual interest within the areas outlined in class. At the end of term your group will be responsible for presenting your finding in a 15 minute presentation and poster presentation.

**Attendance and participation:** I consider attendance and participation to be a critical component of this class. To get a great grade in this class you have to convince me you've done the work and have understood the material. One way to do this is by attending class and being an active, informed participant. Students who miss class risk receiving a lower grade than the student might have secured with regular attendance. To this end 10% of your grade is reserved for attendance and participation. While this is not a lot, it is enough to go from a B to an A- (or the reverse). Part of the participation grade will come from the presentation of a "Question of the Day". This is a short presentation (2-3 minutes) answering a basic question that will introduce a new topic that we will be covering.

**Classroom Environment:** Feel free to ask questions and express opinions in this course, approaching readings and ideas actively and critically. As you do so, however, please strive to be courteous to your fellow students.

**Text:** *The Periglacial Environment* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) by Hugh M. French

**Readings:** Additional readings will be posted on the Blackboard site

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

Mid-term Exam (in class October 14 in class)	20%
Final Exam (schedule by the registrar)	30%
Labs	20%
Term project (due December 2)	20%
Participation (e.g. question of the day)	10%

It is not essential to pass all elements to pass the course as a whole.

### **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	0-49	F

#### **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 handles on Blackboard.
- 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: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@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.

