



## GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2016

### GEOGRAPHY 521 H(3-0)

#### The Urban Environment

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC01	MoWeFr	9-9:50 am	EEEL 151
Instructor: Dr. Aaron Williams		Office: ES 446	
Telephone:		Email: <a href="mailto:awill@ucalgary.ca">awill@ucalgary.ca</a>	

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

Urban environments and their construction, as a reflection of human needs and non-human constituents, systems of production and distribution, urban policy, infrastructure, and design, are considered from the perspectives of both human and physical geography. Critical examination of anthropocentric notions of duality, space, place, and 'the other' frame the examination of human management practices and non-human nature. Topics may include the explosion of monocultures and exotic species, heightened human-wildlife conflict, environmental justice, altered hydrological systems, air pollution, changing environments of infectious disease, toxic waste, and more.

**Prerequisite:** *One of Geography 317, 321, 417 and one of Geography 321, 351, 451.*

#### **Course Content:**

In both the global north and the global south urban environments are experiencing rapid growth and transformation. In the global north or developed world, there are examples of the "greening" of urban environments through the reduction of the use of fossil fuels in both production and consumption, the adoption of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and tidal power, the cleaning up of water sources and catchments, the reclamation hazardous waste materials and waste management. Despite these gains, rapid urban growth and industrial development has had considerable impacts on human-environmental systems, affecting water availability and quality, air quality, sanitation processes and infrastructure, and soil quality and productivity within and surrounding cities.

Environmental management, environmental policy, available financial resources, and political commitment to sustainable urban environments are highly variable among cities, countries and regions. This uneven distribution of healthy urban environments is often manifest in spatial divisions of race, ethnicity, gender, wealth, and income. This course will address these issues, focusing on the following objectives.

**Objectives:**

- To explore theoretical frameworks that address environmental management, urban development, and change within urban environments.
- To understand the concepts of maintaining and sustaining urban environments as a means of maintaining quality of life for citizens and the livability of cities.
- To gain an understanding of urban environmental problems and issues through case studies that explore successes and failures in environmental policy and management in a variety of cities around the world.
- To introduce some of the dominant approaches and theories connecting social justice and the production of urban environmental conditions.

**Texts/Readings:**

Robbins, Paul (2012). **Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction, 2nd Edition** (Critical Introductions to Geography), Wiley and Sons. Oxford. U.K.

Robbins, Paul. (2007). **Lawn People: How Grasses, Weeds, and Chemicals Make Us Who We Are.** Temple University Press. Philadelphia P.A.

Links to supplemental readings will be posted on D2L.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Assessment is based on

**Course Requirements:**

Acquire all lecture materials and submit all assignments. You must earn 50% or more on the exams, assignments, and presentations in this course in order to pass. You do not have to pass every component but you do need to earn 50 points out of the 100 points that comprise the course exams and assignments to pass the course. Attend at the date, time and place all course exams. In the event of a missed exam, **you must have emailed the instructor before the exam.** Make-up exams are set at the discretion of the instructor. There are no re-writes of exams for any reason.

**Grading (Weighting):**

Research proposal presentation	10%
Assigned readings test	20%
Presentations (2)	20%
Research project Note: presentations last week of classes	50%

Note: There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination in this course.

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

### **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

### **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>

### **Academic Accommodations:**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the university policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf)

Students needing an accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. The procedure can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf)

Students needing an accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, in writing, to the Instructor.

### **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 D2L or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on D2L 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.

### **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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)