

GEOG/UBST

Winter2024
GEOG 532

Section	Days	Time	Location
GEOG 532	MWF	2 – 2:50	SA 107

Instructor: Gwendolyn Blue	Office: ES 322
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Email communication will be through your UCalgary email address.	Office hours: By appointment

The **Department of Geography** condemns the longstanding and continued injustices against those marginalized by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, xenophobia, able-bodied normativity, mental health profiling, and other forms of prejudice. We are pained by the fact that injustices are unevenly borne. <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/news/anti-racism-statement>

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Department of Geography would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-protocol>

Official Course Description

Seminar-style overview of core readings, key concepts and central debates in science, technology and society (STS) in Geography. Considers mutual shaping of science, technology and society as context-dependent practices involving institutions and discourses that vary across regions and time. Themes include social construction of knowledge and technology, agency, networks, co-production, expertise, authority, legitimacy, and democratic engagement. Empirical cases at global, national, and regional scales illustrate key concepts and debates.

Course Objectives

Complex scientific and technological issues face our world today, including the effects of AI, digital surveillance, genomics, and bio-digital convergence. In light of hype and promises to address social problems, technoscientific innovations present ethical, political, and legal challenges. Geographers, and critical scholars more generally, use a range of theoretical and empirical approaches to examine issues at the science-technology-society interface. This course introduces students to geographical thinking about technoscience by integrating critical thinking, values, and social and environmental responsibility into analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Analyse, synthesise and effectively use scholarly and other arguments about the socio-spatial dimensions of techno-science	1, 2, 4, 5	3
Decipher how language and imaginaries shape social responses to techno-science	1, 2, 4, 5	2
Develop and present effective arguments, backed up by convincing evidence, about the ways in which techno-science reinforces or challenges existing social hierarchies and beliefs	4, 5	2
Apply critical questions to techno-scientific innovations: is technology inevitable, necessary, or desirable? How are risks and benefits distributed? What values are at play? What alternatives are available?	5	2
Clearly communicate understanding of complex issues at the intersection of technology, environment, and society.	7	3

**PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes: 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills.*

***Levels: 1 = Introductory, 2 = Intermediate, and 3 = Advanced.*

Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): 9 units in courses labelled Geography at the 300 level or above.

Course Format

Synchronous

Learning Resources

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updates web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and receive a tuition fee refund is **January 18, 2024**. The last day to add or swap a course for Winter 2024 is **January 19, 2024**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 9, 2024**. Please note that the University is closed on February 19, March 29, and April 1, 2024.

For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

Grading (Weighting)**Seminar presentation** 10% of final grade

Overview: Working in small groups, students will summarize key points and concepts from assigned readings through a 10-minute class presentation. Presentation topics and dates will be assigned during the first weeks of class. Due: Exact dates TBA - range between January 22 and March 20, 2024. All members of group receive the same grade.

Research project 60% of final grade

Overview: The research project consists of independent research into a case study of technology in society. Evaluation for the project is based on three components: proposal, presentation, and final report. Students have option of working individually or in small groups. If working in small group, all members receive the same grade.

Proposal (5% of research project grade)

Written overview of research project topic that includes justification / significant, research questions, and annotated bibliography of potential research sources (minimum 5, up to 10).
Due: February 16, 2024 by 11:59PM (D2L submission)

Presentation (30% of research project grade)

Students provide a 10-minute video recorded presentation of research project. Videos will be shown in class between March 25 and April 8, 2024
Due: March 24, 2024 by 11:59 PM (D2L submission)

Final research report (65% of research project grade)

A written essay outlining significance, research question (s), background, methods, key findings, and recommendations. Length: 4000 – 5000 words, double spaced, excluding abstract, table of contents, images, references. Equivalent outputs (e.g. podcast, documentary) acceptable but must be approved in advance by instructor. Due: April 8, 2024 by 11:59 PM (D2L)

Participation 30% of final grade

Overview: Participation assignments evaluated using pass-fail: Fail (0 = unsatisfactory), Pass (1 = meets expectations; 1.25 = exceeds expectations).

Participation assignments include:

- Reading responses: Written responses and reflections on readings. Five in total. Submitted to discussion board on D2L. Due Monday by 9:00 AM on weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Worth up to 60% of participation grade.
- Active participation in class discussions (Consistent, thoughtful, and constructive participation in class discussions, 40% of participation grade). Throughout

Additional:

- There is no final examination in the course.
- It is **not** essential to pass all components to pass the course as whole.
- Late assignment policy: Assignments will be docked one letter grade (e.g. A to A-) for each class day late. For instance, if assignment is due on Friday, but submitted the following Monday, the assignment would lose one letter grade. If submitted on Wednesday, two letter grades would be lost. Reading responses must be completed by due date indicated: late responses will not count toward evaluation.

Grading System

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.
CG		Credit Granted. Not Included in the GPA calculations. See section F.1.3 for additional details
CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the GPA. This will be noted in calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade)

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-3.html>

In the event that a student misses a midterm or any course work due to illness, supporting documentation, such as a medical note or a statutory declaration will be required see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>
Please refer to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq> for frequently asked questions concerning the provision of a medical note/statutory declaration.

Supplementary Fees

Not applicable

For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at

<https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University 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 university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

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 at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. 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 adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an 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 must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Human subjects

Students are not expected to participate as subjects in human research projects.

Internet and electronic communication device information

There are not restrictions on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor. Phones must be turned off during class, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional.

Referencing Standard

In written work presented in this class, the two accepted methods for referencing the work of others will be (1) Chicago Manual of Style: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html> or (2) American Psychological Association: <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition> .

Resources and Writing Support

Please note writing support resources provided by the Student Success Centre <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support> and the library <https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/>

Exams & Deferrals

Exam deferrals are granted with a legitimate reason, e.g., illness and scheduling conflicts due to work and/or extra-curricular activities. Please inform the instructor in advance via e-mail or in person to reschedule.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams>

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, unless they are made available electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office and assignments cannot be dropped off at the Department Office.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html> 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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>. Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: freeman@ucalgary.ca).

Documentation for Absences or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act at (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Course evaluations and student feedback

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre,

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>). Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the **Student at Risk line** if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Sexual Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management>. In case of emergencies and fire drills, the muster point is ICT building.

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 station, 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.