

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2023

GEOGRAPHY 554

GFC HOURS (3-0)

Class Number 75265

Social Movements, Possible Worlds

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TuTh	11:00AM – 12:15PM	SA 121

Instructor: Byron Miller	Office: ES 328
Telephone: 403 220-7321	Email: Byron.Miller@ucalgary.ca (preferred mode of contact)
	Office hours: Tu/Th 12:30-1:30 and by appointment

***Geographers** recognize that injustice is manifest in many different places, including in our Department and the University of Calgary, and across many scales, including urban, regional, national, and global scales. The **Department of Geography** condemns longstanding and continuing injustices suffered on the basis of geographic location, class exploitation, and/or marginalized identity. We stand against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, classism, xenophobia, able-bodied normativity, mental health profiling, and other forms of prejudice. <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/news/anti-racism-statement>*

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Department of Geography acknowledges and appreciates that we live on 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

Introduction to social movement mobilization as it is shaped by, and shapes, broader urban and societal processes. The social, cultural, and political dimensions of social movements, and their geographical constitution and strategies, are examined in a variety of contexts.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of social movement mobilization and the geographical constitution of the processes, contexts and strategies that shape them. Themes to be addressed include the free rider problem, cooperative and communicative action, collective identity formation, colonization of the lifeworld, forms of organization, alliance building, political opportunity structures, the state, and social media. Students should develop the ability to analyze the political forces shaping social movements and be able to identify and evaluate possibilities for building more just, inclusive and sustainable world.

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.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Appraise the contributions of different social movements theories toward explaining political-geographic struggles and social change	1,4	3
Construct creative and compelling arguments about social movement mobilization using established and emerging political-geographic theoretical frameworks	1,4,5,8	3
Synthesize across diverse thought to reflect and act on unequal and intersecting power relations	1,2,5	3
Compose oral and written educational materials related to social movements and social and political change	4, 5, 7,8	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

3 units from Geography 351, 452, Sociology 353. Academic writing skills are essential.

Course Format

This course is offered in-person on the University of Calgary campus. It will have three key focus areas: the first part of the course will introduce students to theories and issues in the study of social movements, with particular attention paid to the geographical constitution and strategies of social movements; the second part of the course will examine three key social movements—the labour and cooperative movement, the civil rights movement, and the environmental movement—in order to better understand how our theoretical understandings play out in the so-called “real world”; the third part of the course will consist of student group research projects and presentations, focusing on social movements of their choosing.

Learning Resources

Two textbooks are required:

Miller, B. (2000) *Geography and Social Movements: Comparing Anti-nuclear Activism in the Boston Area*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Routledge, P. (2017) *Space Invaders: Radical Geographies of Protest*, London: Pluto Press.

Other required readings will be posted to D2L. The reading list is subject to change as the focus of class discussion and student interests evolve.

Optional Readings

There are many additional books very much worth reading. Here are a few:

Kevin Ward, Andrew Jonas, Byron Miller, and David Wilson (eds) (2018) *Handbook on Spaces of Urban Politics*, Routledge. (an affordable paperback has just been published; it is also available online through the library)

Walter Nicholls, Byron Miller, and Justin Beaumont (eds) (2013) *Spaces of Contention: Spatialities of Social Movements*, Surrey and Burlington: Ashgate. (re-issued on Routledge, 2016)

Peter Marcuse, James Connolly, Johannes Novy, Ingrid Olivo, Cuz Potter, and Justin Steil (eds) (2009) *Searching for the Just City: Debates in Theory and Practice*, New York and Oxon: Routledge.

David Harvey (2012) *Rebel Cities*, London and New York: Verso.

Edward Soja (2010) *Seeking Spatial Justice*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Doug McAdam, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly (2001) *Dynamics of Contention*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sidney Tarrow (2012, 2nd ed) *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Assessment Methods

Grading and weighting

Social movement film review	15%	Individual
Midterm exam	25%	Individual
Group paper	25%	Group
Presentation of group paper	10%	Group
Final exam	25%	Individual

Social movement film review

Value: 15% of final grade

Date: Exercise will be posted Sept 28 and due on Oct 24.

Type: Short 4-page essay-analysis of a film portraying a social movement.

Description: You should apply the concepts and theories from the readings and lectures to your analysis of the development of a social movement.

Midterm exam

Value: 25% of final grade

Date: Will be posted Oct 26 and due at the beginning of class on Oct 31.

Type: Take-home open book exam.

Description: The examination will assess your comprehension of the themes covered in the readings, lectures, and presentations in the first half of this course.

Group paper

- Value:** 25% of final grade
- Date:** Project description will be posted in early October. The final draft is due the last day of class, Dec 6.
- Type:** Students are required to complete a group paper as part of this course. The paper will examine and analyze a social movement chosen by the members of the group.

Description: The readings in this course address many processes and issue important to the understanding of social movement mobilization. Your group will be responsible for selecting a social movement, conducting research on it, using related materials to write a research paper of approximately 20 pages, plus bibliography. You will also present your research to the class, on either the last or second-last week of the course (see Group presentation below). In addition to be graded on the quality of your written work, you will be evaluated for how well your group functions as a unit, and for your individual involvement in the group. Additional information will be posted on D2L at the time that group work begins.

Group presentation

- Value:** 10% of final grade
- Due Date:** Week 13 or 14. Schedule of group presentations TBD
- Type:** A group presentation of the group paper, involving all members of the group.
- Description:** Additional information will be posted on D2L closer to the due date.

Final exam

- Value:** 25% of final grade
- Date:** Will be posted on the last day of class and due one week later (feel free to turn it in earlier).
- Type:** Take-home open book exam.
- Description:** The examination will assess your comprehension of the themes covered in the readings, lectures, and presentations in the second half of this course.

Notes:

- 1) Due dates may change by class consensus.
- 2) Two "Self and Peer Assessments" will be conducted as part of the group paper and presentation project. The first Self and Peer Assessment will be conducted partway through the group research project, simply as a way of checking on, and adjusting if necessary, group dynamics. The second Self and Peer Assessment will be conducted at the time the group papers are turned in and may result adjustments to group and individual grades if there are significant differences in the efforts and contributions of group members.

Grading system

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ (98-100); A (93-97.9); A- (90-92.9); B+ (87-89.9); B (83-86.9); B- (80-82.9); C+ (77-79.9); C (73-76.9); C- (70-72.9); D+ (67-69.9); D (60-66.9); F (0-59.9)

It is essential to pass all components of the course to pass the course as a whole.

While exams are open-book and open-note, discussion of the exams and/or collaboration with classmates on exam answers is expressly forbidden. If you have any questions about the exams, please direct them to me.

If you know you will miss a required component of the course, please contact Professor Miller as soon as possible. In the event that you miss a midterm or any course work due to illness, you must provide a valid reason with supporting documentation such as a medical note or statutory declaration:

<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. Professor Miller will make accommodations, as appropriate.

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

Supplementary Fees

There are no supplementary fees for this course.

Exams & Deferrals <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams>

Referencing Standard

The APA (American Psychological Association) is preferred for all written work presented in this class:

<https://www.mendeley.com/guides/apa-citation-guide> However, any commonly used academic reference format will be accepted, e.g., Chicago Manual of Style: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

Principles of Conduct

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 Research

Students are not expected or permitted to conduct research involving human subjects.

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).

Use of internet and electronic devices in class

Use of electronic devices and the internet is permitted in class only for the purposes of taking notes or for finding information relevant to the lecture and discussion topic.

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://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>

and requirements of the copyright act (<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.

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/>).

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/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suypaca@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/

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.