

## GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2021

### GEOGRAPHY 565 GFC HOURS (3-0)

#### Spaces of Urban Politics

Section	Location	Meeting Time	Meeting Day
LEC 01	Web Based Course	11:00 – 12:15	TuTh

Instructor: Byron Miller	Office: ES 328
Telephone: 403 220 7321	Email: <a href="mailto:bavrmill@ucalgary.ca">bavrmill@ucalgary.ca</a>

#### Official Course Description

An examination of how urban spatial relations shape, and are shaped by, political institutions, organizations, and social movements. Themes may include the politics of urban growth, urban environmental justice, urban sustainability, place-based politics, and multi-scalar politics.

#### Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of, and the ability to analyze, the political forces shaping North American cities and their relationship to the changing nature of urban space. Students should be able to identify and evaluate possibilities for building more just, inclusive and sustainable cities.

#### 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 theories toward explaining urban political-geographic phenomena	1,4	3
Construct creative and compelling arguments about an urban political phenomenon using established and emerging urban political geography theoretical frameworks	1,4,5,8	3
Synthesize across diverse thought to reflect and act on unequal power relations within cities	1,2,5	3
Compose oral and written educational materials related to urban political geography	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. Academic writing skills are essential.

## Learning Resources

Two books are **Required**:

Rossi, U., & Vanolo, A. (2012). *Urban Political Geographies: A global perspective* (1st ed.). London, Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Jonas, A., & Wilson, D., (eds) (1999) *The Urban Growth Machine: Critical Perspectives Two Decades Later*, Albany: SUNY Press.

Other required course readings will be posted to D2L. While a complete set of readings is posted at the beginning of the semester, it is subject to change as the focus of class discussion and student interests evolve.

## Optional Readings

There are many additional books 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)

Rob Krueger and David Gibbs (eds) (2007) *The Sustainable Development Paradox: Urban Political Economy in the United States and Europe*, New York: Guilford Press.

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.

Mustafa Dikec (2007) *Badlands of the Republic: Space, Politics, and Urban Policy*, Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

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

## 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 updated web browser
- Webcam (built in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection

## Grading (Weighting)

Grades will be based on:

Midterm Exam:	100 points
Final Exam:	100
Term Paper:	100
Presentation:	33
	333 total points

Up to 10 additional class participation bonus points may be added to your point total, depending on the frequency and quality of your participation.

Both exams will be take-home and open-book; they must be turned in, typed, via the D2L Dropbox. The midterm exam will be available on D2L, as will the final exam. The midterm exam will be available just before the midterm break, on February 11, and must be uploaded before the start of class (11 am) on February 23. The final exam will be available on the last day of class (April 15) and be due April 22, 4 pm. (There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam.)

The term paper assignment will be a literature-based research paper of approximately twelve to fifteen pages, plus bibliography. Details of the term paper assignment will be posted on D2L.

I will organize class presentations around core readings focused on a particular topic. After we cover basic concepts in the first few weeks of the semester, I will continue to present material on Tuesdays while Thursdays will focus on student-led presentations of supplemental readings. Each student will choose, from the supplemental reading list, one lengthy article or two shorter articles to present. Presentations should be approximately 15-20 minutes in length. Participation in class discussion is encouraged (and expected) in both Tuesday and Thursday classes. Completing the assigned readings before class will make our discussions more lively and interesting.

All assignments must be completed and a passing grade is required on all components of the course. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late, in the absence of a valid excuse. On take-home, written assignments writing competency (organization, grammar, spelling, word choice, etc.) will count for 20% of the grade. The Writing Centre (part of the Student Success Centre) can help you with any writing issues you might have.

## Grading System

Grades will be based on the following grading scale:

**A+** (98-100) **A** (92-97.9); **A-** (88-91.9); **B+** (85-87.9); **B** (82-84.9); **B-** (78-81.9); **C+** (75-77.9); **C** (70-74.9); **C-** (62-69.9); **D+** (58-61.9); **D** (52-57.9); **F** (0-51.9)

## Exams

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 are unable to complete a component of this course on time, please contact me as soon as possible. Valid reasons for not meeting course requirements in a timely fashion will be considered.

### **Supplementary Fees**

There are no supplementary fees.

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

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **Principles of Conduct**

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](http://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](http://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://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf>

### **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 or permitted to conduct research involving human subjects.

### **Guidelines for Zoom Sessions**

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video

conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

Graded assignments will be made available electronically through the course D2L webpage. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography main 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/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.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: [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).

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: [david.goldblum@ucalgary.ca](mailto:david.goldblum@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>

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/>).

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, [suwpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suwpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, [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)
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://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.