

GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: Spring 2019

Geography 597.23 International Fieldwork in Geography H(3-7)

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Official Course Description:

Field research and reconnaissance survey of techniques applied to regions outside North America. Group travel-study combined with formal instruction and seminars.

MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT.

Course Objectives

To provide multiple views and topics related to international fieldwork and research.

International fieldwork is a required preparation course for students going on field study programs in Geography, Earth Science, and Urban Studies. It is designed to provide students with approaches to doing field work/assignments in an overseas setting. Further it is designed to introduce students to a very different form of learning outside the classroom. Lectures use examples of field notes, pictures of locations, video, virtual field trip assignments, and photo essays to get students to think about how to observe and think critically about environments, cities, and other subject matter in the field. Assignments will employ important literature covered in pre-session and important information on our destinations. Preparations will include downloading and practicing the use of apps and other aspects of digital technology, packing, and deciding which resources or tools are needed. Considerations such as culture shock, positionality, and cultural awareness are also covered in the course material. In addition to virtual fieldtrips, students will complete photo essays on campus to provide them with examples of similar field assignments they will complete in the field overseas. Successful students in this class will be ready to employ experiential learning tools that will not only enhance the learning outcomes for this class, it will allow them to be prepared and up to speed for their upcoming field work on their field study programs.

Prerequisite:

Consent of the department.

Required Text:

There will not be a required text for this course. Required and supplementary readings will be posted on D2L.

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 they facilitate and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Students should be able to apply fieldwork techniques in an overseas setting.	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
A skillset in the spatial interpretation of human, and physical environments	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
Students should be able to apply comparative approaches to urban and physical landscapes	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
An appreciation for the importance of fieldwork in geography and urban studies	1,2,3,4,5,7	2
Students should be able to comprehend their positionality when entering and evaluating urban and natural landscapes different than their own	1,2	2
Comprehension of culture shock, cultural awareness group dynamics, and an understanding of the rigours of working in an overseas setting	1	2
Students will be ready to employ experiential learning tools that will not only enhance the learning outcomes for this class	3,4,5,7	2

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, (3) Advanced.

Course Content:

Course Modules and Learning Outcomes.

1) May 29th Introduction to Field Work and Note Taking

Introduction to critical observation and interpretation of human and physical landscapes. Qualitative and quantitative fieldwork methods and techniques in human and physical geography. Emphasis on methods which can be utilized while in international field settings.

2) May 30th Virtual Fieldtrip (Assignment #1), Using ArcGIS online, and Story Maps

Introduction to travel locations and virtual exploration of travel in Italy. Academic skills essential for exploring and logging locational information during travel field work.

3) May 31st Fieldwork and Photo Essay (Assignment #2)

Introduction to the photo essay assignment, exploring flood mitigation and flood related issues in downtown Calgary. Completion of first photo essay.

4) June 1st Field Preparation and Venice Syndrome Video: Lectures will focus on packing and preparation for travel and fieldwork, group dynamics and personal safety. Movie in second part of day.

5) June 2nd Photo essay proposal (Assignment #2) and Exams

Preparation for conducting the selfie challenges and preparation for Assignment #3. **Pre-departure Tests.**

Grading (Weighting):

Asst. #1: Virtual field trip	20%
Asst. #2: Photo essay	30%
Asst. #3: Photo essay proposal	15%
Predeparture test	15%
Reflective Essay	20%

It is **not** necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course.

The Registrar will **not** schedule the Final Exam: It will be scheduled on the last day of the field program.

Grading System

A+	100-95%	B	79.9-75%	C-	62.9-59%
A	94.9-90%	B-	74.9-71%	D+	58.9-55%
A-	89.9-85%	C+	70.9-67%	D	54.9-50%
B+	84.9-80%	C	66.9-63%	F	49.9% and less

Human subjects

As part of a desire to improve the quality of the student experience, you will be asked to participate in a survey of the efficacy of the methods used in the course. Your participation in the research is entirely voluntary and will not play a role in determining your grade in the course. The surveys will be conducted by a university employee who is not involved in the course. The teaching staff will not see the surveys until after one month after the grades appeal period. You may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

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