



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2018**  
**GEOGRAPHY 647**  
**H(3-3)**

**Advanced Research and Applications in Geographic Information Systems**

| Section | Days | Times         | Location |
|---------|------|---------------|----------|
| LEC01   | TuTh | 11:00 – 12:15 | ES 342   |
| LAB01   | We   | 09:00 – 11:45 | ES 415   |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Instructor: Ryan Burns | Office: ES 448  |
| Telephone: 220 7846    | Email: <a href="mailto:Ryan.burns1@ucalgary.ca">Ryan.burns1@ucalgary.ca</a> |
| TA:                    | Office:   |
| Telephone:             | Email:  |

**Please note:** *The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly points for all classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.*

**Official Course Description:**

Focus on advanced GIS applications in core areas; methodological developments in GIS and current research directions in GIS.

**Course Objectives**

Spatial data help us tell stories about the world around us, and in 2017, our lives are increasingly oriented around these data: when will the bus arrive at my stop? Where can I go to get supplies during a flood or blizzard? How certain are we that a policy is having its intended impact? Geographers, researchers, and GIS practitioners now have unprecedented amounts of data available to us in the form of open data platforms, social media, and volunteered geographic information. However, these data introduce new analytic, theoretical, and conceptual challenges to traditional GIS approaches.

In this course we will explore some of these emergent transformations in GIS research and practice. How can we use new sources of data, with new uncertainties, and new methodological approaches? Driving this course will be the question: what new spatial stories can we tell using emerging data sources and processing tools? As a primarily student-driven graduate course, the content and navigation will be highly tailored to individual interests.

**Prerequisite:** Consent of the Department. Students are expected to have a thorough working and detailed knowledge of a major GIS software platform, preferably the ESRI ArcGIS suite of software.

**Learning Resources:**

There is no required textbook for this course. Course readings will be chosen by that topic's discussion lead, drawn from academic journals reporting on current research in the field of GIS. The required readings will be available on the course D2L site. Lab materials will be distributed on D2L as well.

To improve your communication skills across diverse audiences, I recommend reading Randy Olson's *Don't Be Such a Scientist* (2009; Island Press).

For examples of good literature reviews, see:

Sieber, R. 2006. Public Participation Geographic Information Systems: A Literature Review and Framework. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 96 (3):491–507.  
 Attard, J., F. Orlandi, S. Scerri, and S. Auer. 2015. A systematic review of open government data initiatives. *Government Information Quarterly* 32 (4):399–418.

For guidance on how to write one, see:

<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/literature-reviews/>

**Grading/Weighting**

Geography 647 Assignments and Weighting

- **4 Lab Exercises (40 each)** **160 points**
- **Discussion lead** **80 points**
  - Literature review 40 points
  - Lead classroom discussion 40 points
- **Term project** **120 points**
  - Project proposal 20 points
  - Project presentation 40 points
  - Final written report 60 points
- **Class participation** **40 points**

Total 400 points

There will be no final examination other than the final project presentations.

**Grading System**

|           |         |            |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| <b>A+</b> | 96-100% | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>A</b>  | 90-95.9 | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>A-</b> | 86-89.9 | <b>3.7</b> |
| <b>B+</b> | 81-85.9 | <b>3.3</b> |
| <b>B</b>  | 77-80.9 | <b>3.0</b> |
| <b>B-</b> | 71-76.9 | <b>2.7</b> |
| <b>C+</b> | 65-70.9 | <b>2.3</b> |
| <b>C</b>  | 62-64.9 | <b>2.0</b> |
| <b>C-</b> | 59.61.9 | <b>1.7</b> |
| <b>D+</b> | 55-58.9 | <b>1.3</b> |
| <b>D</b>  | 50-54.9 | <b>1.0</b> |
| <b>F</b>  | <50     | <b>0.0</b> |

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

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **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, faculty members can and should consider quality of writing as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance: [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing\\_support/overview](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview).

### **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: [www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy). 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](http://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 the Department Head (email: [geograph@ucalgary.ca](mailto:geograph@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html).

**Internet and electronic communication device information:**

There will be occasional 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. The use of any calculators and/or devices during examinations will be allowed.

**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.

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

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during schedule 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.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580, or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which provides detailed information about common academic concerns.

For guidance on course registration (add, drop, swap), information about paying fees, and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

**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: [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/)

**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/>).

**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.

**USRI Surveys**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference, so please participate in USRI surveys.