



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2015

GEOGRAPHY 697.01 H(3-0)

Seminar in the Philosophy and Nature of Human Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	We	14:00 – 16:50	ES 332

Instructor: Byron Miller	Office: ES 328
Telephone: 220 7321	Email: bavrmill@ucalgary.ca

Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for courses taught in Earth Sciences is the ICT Food Court.

Official Course Description:

The course will be structured as follows:

- I. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science: *what is science?* Inductive reasoning and its place in science; theory as the base for method (deduction); theory and validation (verification and falsification); dialectical reasoning, hermeneutics.
- II. Conceptions of Social Science: *a science of human behavior?* Human nature; materialism and idealism; approaches to social science (positivism, realism and conventionalism); understanding and explaining human action.
- III. The Basic Forms of Geographical Inquiry: *are space and spatial differences important?* The meanings of space and spatiality; basic and distinct forms geographical study.
- IV. Objectivity and Values in Social Science: *should the social sciences seek to be objective?* The meanings of objectivity and the role of subjectivity; social justice and values, ethical standpoints.
- V. Can Geography be considered a unified discipline?

Prerequisite:

Consent of the Department

MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT

Supplementary Fees:

N/A

Text(s)/Readings:

Hollis M (2008) *The Philosophy of Social Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sayer, A (1992) *Method in Social Science: A Realist Approach*. London: Hutchinson.

Peet, Richard (1998) *Modern Geographical Thought*, Oxford and Malden: Blackwell.

Grading (Weighting):

Participation in Seminar Discussions:	20%	
Weekly Reaction Papers:		40%
Seminar Paper	40%	

Grading System:

The official grading scheme of the university will be used (Course Information Section in the University Calendar):

A+ 4.00 Outstanding performance

A 4.00 Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject

A- 3.70

B+ 3.30

B 3.00 Good - clearly above average performance

B- 2.70

C+ 2.30

C 2.00 Satisfactory performance – basic understanding of the subject

C- 1.70

D+ 1.30

D 1.00 Minimal Pass-marginal performance

F 0 Fail - - poor performance

USRI

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). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

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, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Principles of Conduct

The University of Calgary 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 the University's property. This statement applies in all situations where the members of the University community are acting in their University capacities. All Members of the University Community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with this statement which is available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j-2.html>

Plagiarism

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. Quite 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 proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/plagiarism>

Academic Accommodations:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the university policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.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. The procedure can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, in writing, to "(Instructor).

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

FOIP: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside 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 provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handled through D2L or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on D2L by password access. Grades will not be available at Geography's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: arts1@ucalgary.ca

The students ombudsman office information can be found at:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>

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, 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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new 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 you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210 7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca