



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2018

GEOGRAPHY 697.02 H(3-0)

Seminar in the Philosophy and Nature of Human Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	We	14:00 – 16:45	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 poststructuralism); 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

Required Texts:

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.

Additional articles will be posted to D2L.

Grading (Weighting):

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

A passing grade is required for all components.

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

Human subjects

No interaction with human research subjects is expected or allowed.

Supplementary Fees

None.

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.

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. 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.

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).

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.

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: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html.

Internet and electronic communication device information:

The use of laptops and tablets in class is allowed 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.

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 during scheduled class time, 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. 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
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: arts1@ucalgary.ca
- The students ombudsman office information can be found at: 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). Your responses make a difference, so please participate in USRI surveys.