



## GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2015

GEOGRAPHY 699.02  
GCF Hours (3-0)

### Seminar in the Philosophy and Nature of Physical Geography

#### Historical & Cont. Perspectives

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC 01	We	14:00 – 16:50	ES 342

<b>Instructor:</b> Shelley Alexander	<b>Office:</b> ES 460
<b>Telephone:</b> 220 5597	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:smalexan@ucalgary.ca">smalexan@ucalgary.ca</a>

***Please note: the appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Social Sciences is Professional Faculties Food Court.***

#### **Official Course Description:**

In the first part of the course, we explore the philosophy and nature of science. Next we review and analyze the history of physical geography and key developments in our discipline. Scientific method is then explored; in particular, we examine how key research issues (spatial/temporal scales, experimental method, modelling etc.) relate to the study of physical geography. Finally, we will investigate the perceived divide between human and physical geography and possibilities for and benefits from closing the divide.

#### **Prerequisite:**

Consent of the Department, May be repeated for Credit

#### **May be repeated for credit**

#### **Text(s)/Readings:**

There is no required text for this course. Required readings will be posted on blackboard and assigned weekly.

#### **Grading (Weighting):**

Reaction Papers	40%
Participation	20%
Essay Final	40%

(Sciences, philosophy and physical geography essay)

***There is no registrar scheduled final examination for this course***

**Grading System:**

92-100 A+	70-73 B	60-62 C-
86-91 A	68-69 B-	55-59 D+
78-85 A-	66-67 C+	50-54 D
74-77 B+	63-65 C	0-49 F

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

**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](http://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 Centre in the Effective Writing Office 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](http://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](http://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 Blackboard or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard 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](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:

<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.

### **Course Format and Grading**

This course revolves around discussion of the assigned readings (listed in weekly schedule). **Prior to each class you will need to read the articles and write a brief (approximately 2-3 page) reaction paper.** Your reaction papers should

- 1) at least touch on the major issues raised in the readings, and
- 2) focus on two or three issues that are of particular interest to you (discussion points for class)

Your reaction papers need not be comprehensive (in fact, they probably can't be comprehensive if you stay within 2 pages single spaced). You will most likely find some of the reading difficult, not unlike your first venture into statistics. Please do not bang your head against the wall! You are not expected to come to class with a perfect understanding of all the nuances of the readings. **Make a good faith effort** to understand the major points of the readings and then come to class prepared to ask questions and

discuss. Your reaction papers will count for 40 per cent of your grade. Your lowest reaction paper score will be dropped. You will also have an opportunity to view one or two popular films, which deal with major issues relevant to physical geography and political ecology. You may write a review of the film, which draws upon and applies concepts covered in the assigned readings, to replace another reaction paper score.

Discussion is extremely important in this seminar. Accordingly, class discussion will be a significant part of your grade (20 per cent).

The remainder of your grade (40 per cent) will be based on a 10 to 15 page seminar paper, due after the end of class. This requirement is designed to address your ability to deeply analyze and integrate the course content in a short (~15 pages maximum) critical essay. You will choose a graduate thesis to critically analyze considering topics discussed in class. While one goal of this essay is to assess your comprehension of the course material, this also provides an opportunity to read a graduate thesis in depth prior to writing your own research thesis.