

GEOG 390 International Field Studies

3 Units, GFC Hours: 1-3
Summer 2024 classes: July 29-August 24

Section	Days	Time	Location
Lec 01	July 29-Aug 24	9:00-5:00	ES 324/Barbados

Instructor: Dr. Brian Moorman	Office: ES324
Telephone: 403-220-4835	Email: moorman@ucalgary.ca

The **Department of Geography** condemns the longstanding and continued injustices against those marginalized by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, xenophobia, able-bodied normativity, mental health profiling, and other forms of prejudice. We are pained by the fact that injustices are unevenly borne. <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/news/anti-racism-statement>

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Department of Geography would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-protocol>

Official Course Description

An introduction to conducting international reconnaissance research in geography. Provides a background in various aspects of ethical research practices, qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Course Objectives

To provide multiple views and topics related to international fieldwork and research. The objective will be facilitated by providing numerous themes, topics, locations, and guest speakers relating to the international academic experience. Geography 390, International field studies 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. A primary focus of the course is how to approach geographic and environmental fieldwork in an overseas setting. 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 subject matter in the field. Students will complete virtual field trip assignments using video clips of different foreign environments. Students are required to answer questions that forces them to interpret what is happening in these environments, what the economy is, questions on resource use, and most importantly how they can relate and compare these locations to where they are from. Students also review important literature and other important information on our destination. 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.

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 to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLOs*	Level**
A skillset for the interpretation of the human and physical environments applying comparative approaches	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
Students should be able to comprehend their positionality when entering and evaluating urban and natural landscapes different than their own	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
Students should be able to undertake fieldwork in an overseas setting with an appreciation of cultural differences, group dynamics and understanding the rigours of overseas fieldwork	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
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, and 3 = Advanced.*

Pre-trip Activity Schedule

Date	Time	Activity
Monday July 29	9:00-12:00	Module 1: Field school introduction and expectations Module 2: Effective fieldwork, data acquisition and documentation
	13:00-16:00	Module 3: Exercise #1 – Exploring and observing campus
Tuesday July 30	9:00-12:00	Module 4: Cultural awareness in the Caribbean setting Module 5: Background info, ancillary data and observations
	13:00-16:00	Module 6: Exercise #2 – Photo essays with a purpose
Wednesday July 31	9:00-12:00	Module 7: Field preparation and travel considerations Module 8: Awareness, safety and teamwork
	13:00-16:00	Module 9: Exercise #3 – Project management and team building
Thursday August 1	9:00-12:00	Module 10: Using ArcGIS and Collector Module 11: Organizing data and story maps
	13:00-16:00	Module 12: Exercise #4 – Story map compilation
August 2	9:00-12:00	Module 11: Field research purpose, design and execution Module 12: Interdisciplinary research
	13:00-16:00	Module 13: Exercise #5 – exploring ideas for research projects

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning Resources

There is not a required textbook. Readings and links to other supplemental materials will be provided in D2L.

Assessment Methods

Pre-trip exercises (5 x 15%)

Weight

75%

Date

August 2

In-field assignments

25%

August 24

It is **not** essential to pass all components to pass the course as whole

Grading System

Letter grade	Grade point	Meaning
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Missed Course Assessments

If you miss one of the course assessments, and possess a legitimate excuse (doctor's note or Statutory Declaration – see "*Documentation for Absences or Missed Course Assessments*" section below for details), contact Dr. Moorman as soon as possible.

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

Resources and Writing support

Please note writing support resources provided by the Student Success Centre <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support> and the library <https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/>

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. 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.

[University of Calgary : K. Integrity and Conduct \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://ucalgary.ca/k-integrity-and-conduct)

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta regulates the return of term assessments. 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. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office and assignments cannot be dropped off at the Department Office.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be made available electronically through the course D2L webpage.

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

Within the first week of classes, students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should register with Student Accessibility Services [Accessibility | Home | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](#) Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: freeman@ucalgary.ca).

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updates web browser
- Broadband internet connection

Course evaluations and student feedback

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Research

This course does not include research involving human subjects.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

Mental health plays a pivotal role 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/>).

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the **Student at Risk line** if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Sexual Violence Policy

All members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management> Please note your room's Muster Point.

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.