

GEOG 436 Field Studies in Physical and Environmental Geography

3 Units, GFC Hours: 36-48
Summer 2024 classes: August 3-24

Section	Days	Time	Location
Lec 01	Aug 3-24	9:00-5:00	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

Field research and reconnaissance survey techniques. Individual and group travel-study combined with formal instruction and seminars

Course Objectives

This course will provide methodological training and experience in international fieldwork and research. These objectives will be facilitated by introducing students to various methodologies used to study the physical geography and environment of Barbados. Through a series of on-site lectures, seminars and field excursions students learn how to undertake an investigative research project in an international setting.

The focus of the course this term will be on the geomorphology and environment of the island of Barbados. Students will learn about the overall geography, ranging from the island's geologic history to the current day-to-day impact of the island's physical setting on individual's lives and the nation as a whole.

The specific topics covered will include:

- Island emergence processes and the resulting geomorphic terrace formation
- Bedrock composition, karst formation, the impacts on surface hydrology, and the impacts for water use
- The impact of climate and topography on soil development and the relationship with farming practices
- Climate, tropical maritime setting and the resultant landscape morphology, and its impact on land use
- The impact of climate and substrate on terrain stability and the implications to community development

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**
Students should be able to make observations and measurements to interpret the landscape	2,3,4,7	1
A skillset for the measurement of geomorphic and environmental parameters	3,4,5,7	1
Identify and describe major local environmental issues that relate to physical and human environment	1,2,3,4,5,7	1
Students should be able to apply comparative approaches to human and physical landscapes	1,2,3,4,5,7	2
An ability to undertake independent fieldwork in physical geography	1,2,3,4,5,7	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.

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

	Weight	Date
Daily assignments	25%	Various
Daily seminar participation and presentation of observations	25%	Various
Final presentation of daily field observations and interpretation	50%	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 \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://ucalgary.ca/accessibility) 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.