

GEOGRAPHY COURSE OUTLINE: SPRING 2024

GEOG 390: INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDIES

Instructors:

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Official Course Description (GEOG 390)

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

International fieldwork is a required preparation course for students going on field study programs in Geography and Urban Studies. It is designed to provide students with approaches to doing field work/assignments in an overseas setting and to introduce students to a very different form of learning outside the classroom. Lectures use examples of field notes, pictures of locations, video, virtual field trip assignments, and photo essays to help students to develop observational and critical thinking skills focused on subject matter to be investigated in the field. Considerations such as culture shock, positionality, and cultural awareness are also covered in the course material. Technical preparation will include methods of data collection and using field apps for data collection (ArcGIS Online and Esri's Field Maps), field communication methods, and assignment completion and submission (Esri's Story Maps). Students will become proficient with the software by completing assignments similar to those which they will do in the field. Field assignments will focus on different strategies for collecting data in international settings.

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. By the end of the course students should have achieved each of the learning outcomes.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Apply fieldwork techniques in an overseas setting	1,2	1
Apply comparative approaches to human and natural systems	1,2	1
Recognize the importance of fieldwork in geography	3,4,5,6,7,8	1
Observe, synthesize, and record meaningful geographic data	3,5	1
Collect spatial data	3	1
Explain and apply spatial sampling and analysis techniques	3,6	1
Create multimedia and written presentations using GIS software	3,6,7,8	1
Work effectively in a group setting	1,8	1

Recognize culture shock, cultural awareness, and an understanding of the rigors of working in an overseas setting	1,8	1
Demonstrate sensitivity toward individual and cultural differences	1	1

***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: No prerequisites required.

Grading (Weighting):

Asst. #1: Introduction to fieldwork	15%
Asst. #2: Integrating ArcGIS w/Story Map	20%
Asst. #3: Second Story Map	20%
Pre-departure quiz	15%
Field reflection essay	30%

It is **not** necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course.

There will **not** be a final exam in this course.

Grading System

The following number and letter grade scheme, will be used in this course:

A+	100 – 96%	A	95 – 90%	A-	89 – 85%
B+	84 – 80%	B	79 – 75%	B-	74 – 70%
C+	69 – 65%	C	64 – 60%	C-	59 – 55%
D+	54 – 53%	D	52 – 50%	F	Under 50%

Flexible Grade Option

(CG Grade) <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-3.html> Additional Course Information

Course Format

This is an intensive off-campus field course that consists of a series of learning modules where you will learn theory and undertake experiential learning exercises each day with an assignment to be completed each evening.

A separate packing list will be posted.

Learning Resources

Materials will be posted.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

Students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- *A computer, phone and/or iPad/Tablet with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;*
- *A current and updated web browser;*
- *Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled.*