

GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: SUMMER 2022

GEOGRAPHY 434 GFC HOURS (3-0)

Field Studies in Social and Economic Geography

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01			TRAVEL STUDY

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Burns	Email: ryan.burns1@ucalgary.ca
Program Assistant: Dr. Mónica Farías	Email: monicaifarias@gmail.com
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Official Course Description

An introduction to the major concepts of human geography including political geography, economic geography, the uneven distribution of development across the surface of the Earth, and the urbanization of the developed and developing world.

Unofficial title

Urban Political Economies in the Southern Cone: A feminist and post/de-colonial analysis of Buenos Aires

Course Objectives

In this program, students will undertake deep theoretical and empirical analysis of the interplay between the neoliberal reform enforcement and civil society's resistance, in an urban setting in the "Southern Cone" region of South America. The Southern Cone has been since the 1970s a test bed for neoliberalism, but the 1990s marked a turning point of privatization and deregulation that led to political instability and fierce organized civil resistance. The focus of this course is on the aftermath of the financial and social crisis of 2001 that stemmed from these prior decades' transformations.

This program will explore urban space as an evolving, complex and contested landscape shaped by — and with the power to shape— neoliberal measures and policies: a landscape crisscrossed by a multiplicity of social and political movements that contest and question the legitimacy of the social, economic and political neoliberal agenda. Over the last four decades, Buenos Aires —and Argentina as a whole— has experienced successive rounds of socioeconomic reforms that have greatly impacted not only the materiality of the city, but also the balance of power between different actors and the kind of contestations taking place around what kind of city Buenos Aires should be, and for whom. These culminated in immense social and political turmoil in the 2001 crisis, which will shape the city and the region for generations. These dynamics make Buenos Aires an ideal site for students to immerse themselves in the consequences of neoliberalism and its critiques.

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 this course, students should be able to:

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Explain the scalar political and economic causes of poverty and inequality (in Buenos Aires and Argentina), supported by theoretical and empirical evidence.	1,2,4,5,7,8	2
Evaluate how diverse social actors struggle for political and economic power within cities, and the implications of those struggles.	2,4,7,8	2
Critique the ways that poverty and inequality are framed in both Argentinian and Canadian popular discourse, reflecting vernacular knowledges and deep-rooted beliefs.	1,2,4,5,7,8	2
Compare and contrast the different types of urban social movements in Argentina, their main claims, particular forms of organizing, and the strategies they put forward.	1,2,4,5,7,8	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:

None. A working knowledge of Spanish is desirable but not necessary.

Learning Resources

Required readings will be posted to the course D2L.

Grading (Weighting)

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
48 %	Reflection Letters (3)	Aug 2, 16, 23. Each exercise submission is worth 16% of the final evaluation.
20	Olla (participation in the soup-kitchen at the Asamblea)	End of term.
22	Think pieces (4)	Immediately before seminar discussions.
10	Course participation	Evaluated as a sustained contribution to seminar discussions throughout the term

There is no final exam for this course.

Reflection Letters

For each module, you will be writing a letter to a social actor/agent of your choice: human or non-human. Your reflection should incorporate course material from lectures and readings, but, rather than using formal academic citation, this course material will become the framework and toolkit that allows you to correspond with the actor you have chosen.

The central objective of these reflection letters is to creatively combine theoretical and historical material from readings and course lectures with your own embodied experience of this learning material as you inhabit the city and the distinct spaces conformed and contested through the processes we are studying. These letters will receive credit for completion, but the bar for credit is quite high, so you will be asked to revise and resubmit your letters to meet the expectations for intellectual engagement and creativity.

Olla (participation in the soup-kitchen at the Asamblea)

Each of you will collaborate in the activities of the Olla Popular (Soup Kitchen) of the Asamblea de Plaza Dorrego during your time in Buenos Aires. You will record notes during and after the work. Afterwards, you will submit a reflection on social engagement in horizontal political spaces, drawing from your observations and embodied experience of the day’s events.

Think pieces

Before each seminar topic discussion, you will submit a 1-page think piece reflecting on the topic’s readings. These are spaces for you to creatively engage, interpret, and reflect on that topic’s readings.

These will be important for launching classroom discussions, and will provide a space for you to internalize and work through some of the difficult material.

Course Participation

Unlike regular coursework on campus, all study abroad activities are mandatory. Participation, therefore, is not just showing up — it is showing up prepared and engaging thoughtfully and generously in all activities and with one another in the collective learning experience. What you learn in this study abroad is directly related to your willingness to engage wholeheartedly with the material, the assignments, and with one another. We expect you to come to each class meeting and activity on-time and prepared, and work to cultivate an intellectual community in our time together.

This study abroad is designed to enable learning inside and outside the classroom, during every single moment of your time in Argentina. The experience of learning through constant engagement in a new setting, through your embodied experience and your own discomfort, can be intense and exhausting. To assist you in this process, the study abroad coursework includes time to examine what comes up for you and what you notice about yourself. For each seminar you will answer a few questions as part of a personal reflection on your learning process (a “metacognitive awareness exercise” in pedagogical terms). We will also often ask you to take a few minutes to have an individual conversation with one of the Program Directors to reflect on your experience more broadly.

Additionally, remember to keep a diary of your daily experiences. While the Program Directors will never look at this diary, it will provide you with material for your blog posts and other writing exercises. It will also serve as a record of your experiences and your own growth throughout the program.

Participation in the course may also include other reflection assignments and discussions following course activities, so be open to sharing your thoughts!

- It is essential to pass all components to pass the course as whole.
- Given the intensive timeline of this course, your punctual submission of assignments is crucial, and the late penalty proportionally steep. We will allow one (and only one) chance to re-submit work throughout the course. This late assignment will be penalized 10% per 24 hours of tardiness.

Grading System

96 – 100	A+	77 – 80	B	59 – 61	C-
90 – 95	A	71 – 76	B-	55 – 58	D+
86 – 89	A-	65 – 70	C+	50 – 54	D
81 – 85	B+	62 – 64	C	0 – 49	F

In the event that a student misses any course work due to illness, supporting documentation, such as a medical note or a statutory declaration will be required see:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>. We will accommodate reasonable unexpected difficulties related to health and wellbeing.

Please refer to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq> for frequently asked questions concerning the provision of a medical note/statutory declaration.

Supplementary Fees

No supplementary fees will be assessed.

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

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf>

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.

Human subjects

Students in the course will not be expected to participate as subjects or researchers when research on human subjects may take place.

Internet and electronic communication device information

There are not restrictions on the use of laptops and tablets in class 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.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, 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.

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 their instructor or the Department Head (email: david.goldblum@ucalgary.ca).

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) 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.

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/>).

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/

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.

