

GEOG390 (International Field Studies)
Tentative (Subject to Change before May 1st 2026)
 Spring 2026 L01

Section	Modality	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	In class	May 1-5	9am-5pm	ES 407

Instructor: Andrea Freeman	Office: ES 356b
Telephone:	Email: freeman@ucalgary.ca
Email communication will be through your UCalgary email address.	Office hours: TBA
Course Assistants: Zoe Walker, Chelsea Fitzpatrick	Email:

*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-teachings/territorial-land-acknowledgement>

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 Learning Outcomes

International fieldwork is a required preparation for students going on field study programs in Geography and Urban Studies. It is designed to provide students with approaches to completing field work/assignments in an overseas setting and to introduce students to a different form of learning outside the conventional classroom. Lectures will engage students through examples of data collection, analysis, and dissemination helping to develop critical thinking, verbal, spatial, and communication skills through the use of conventional and digital note taking/data capture. Considerations around culture shock, cultural awareness, and positionality are also covered in course materials. Technical preparation in this course will involve the use of ArcGIS online, ESRI Field Maps, and ESRI Story Maps.

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	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Apply field techniques in an overseas setting	1, 2	1
Recognize the importance of fieldwork in geography	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1
Observe, synthesize, collect, and record meaningful geographic data	3, 5	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 group settings	1, 8	1
Exhibit cultural awareness and recognize the rigor of working in an overseas setting		
Demonstrate sensitivity toward individual and cultural differences		

**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.*

Class Schedule

Most of the course work will be conducted in and out of the classroom on campus from 9am to 5 pm May 1-5

There will be occasional homework required during the evenings.

This is an intensive period of activity and you should set aside the full day and evening for completion of the course.

Prerequisites

Consent of Department

Course Format/Instruction Mode

Classes are offered synchronously

Learning Resources

No required textbook.

Materials posted to Teams.

Microsoft Teams will replace D2L for the entire course.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses 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 updated web browser
- Broadband internet connection
- Smartphone with working camera –GNSS enabled.
- ArcGIS – ESRI account (please see teams for instruction), registered by April 27.
- MS Teams: Students must enable MFA on their UCalgary Office365 account – recommend use of Authenticator due to home phone number being disabled overseas.

Important Dates

This course follows the rules for Group Study regarding registration withdrawal and drop deadlines. Please consult staff at UC International for more information.

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

Grading (Weighting)

ESRI Web Training (Assignments 2 and 4)	10% total
Assignments 1, 3, 5, and 6 (15% each)	60% total
Pre-departure exam questions	15%
Final reflection essay	15%

There is no final exam scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Please amend the list below as necessary.

- ESRI registration must be completed by April 27, 2026 to pass the course
- Late assignment policy: Late assignments will be assessed a 20% penalty per day.
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Exemptions to the Examination and Tests Regulations (if applicable)

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

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade)

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/0580689351e34c009e4fcc5b57a50764>

Documentation for Absences or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/additional-regulations>

In the event that a student misses a midterm or any course work due to illness, supporting documentation, such as a medical note or a statutory declaration will be required see <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/jyekfh6xwhoHwxcetCi1>

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.

Exams & Deferrals

Exam deferrals are granted with a legitimate reason, e.g., illness and scheduling conflicts due to work and/or extra-curricular activities. Please inform the instructor in advance via e-mail or in person to reschedule.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams>

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/>

Supplementary Fees

Supplementary fees have been assessed and taken by UC International

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

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices **is/not** acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>. Phones must be turned off during class, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional.

Referencing Standard

In written work presented in this class, the two accepted methods for referencing the work of others will be (1) Chicago Manual of Style: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html> or (2) American Psychological Association: <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition>.

Course evaluations and student feedback

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Course Experience Survey (UCES) and Faculty feedback forms. A midterm survey may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

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:

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/eb50d7931bba4da5942de21f51d1f514>. 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 the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

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

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

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. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/integrity-conduct>.

For students wishing to know more about 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>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability, or medical concerns should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing to the designated contact person in their faculty either instructor or the Department Head. The course outline should clearly list the appropriate Faculty contact person(s) and their contact details. For further information see E.1 C. Course Policies and Procedures

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/a89ecfbf758841b5983c4b67746e7846>

RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)

Students are advised that any research with human participants – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (<https://research.ucalgary.ca/conduct-research/ethics-compliance/human-research-ethics/conjoint-faculties-research-ethics-board-cfreb>) or the Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board <https://research.ucalgary.ca/conduct-research/ethics-compliance/human-research-ethics/conjoint-health-research-ethics-board-chreb>)

In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required. Some courses will include assignments that involve conducting research with human participants; in these cases, the instructor will have applied for and received ethics approval for the course assignment. The instructor will discuss the ethical requirements for the assignment with the students.

For further information see E.5 Ethics of Human Studies

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/627ed88eb4b041b7a2e8155effac350>

As part of a desire to improve the quality of the student experience, you will be asked to participate in a survey and interviews focusing on the efficacy of the methods used in the course, and the effectiveness of the teaching pedagogy developed for the course. Your participation in the research is entirely voluntary and will not play a role in determining

your grade in the course. The surveys and interviews will be conducted by a university employee who is not involved in the course. Participation in the surveys and interviews are completely anonymous. The teaching staff will not have the ability to view surveys or interview until after one month after the grades appeal period. A detailed description of the research being conducted will be provided to you prior to leaving Calgary. You may withdraw from the study at any time during the program without penalty.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary. For more information, please see:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/hr/work-compensation/working-ucalgary/freedom-information-and-privacy-act>

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

Restricted use

The use of generative AI, including the use of work created by generative AI tools and applications in course assignments and assessments may be considered in accordance with the university's academic misconduct policy.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf>

If you are in doubt as to the use of generative AI tools in this course, please discuss your situation with the course instructor. Example statements:

- AI tools can be used for learning course material but not for completing assignments.
- The use of AI tools for assignments may be considered an academic offense.
- Students must not copy or paraphrase from AI applications for assignments.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy

The University recognizes that 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. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

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/>).

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.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suypaca@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>. In case of emergencies and fire drills, please note the _ICT food court__ as the assembly/muster point.

Campus Safe walk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safe walk 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 Safe walkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional essential information.