GEOG 436.XX LEC01 Field Studies in Physical and Environmental Geography
Tentative (Subject to Change before May 1st 2026)
GFC Hours (3-0)

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01		TBA	Southeast Asia

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Williams	Office: Field Course
Telephone: Accessible through TEAMS	Email: awill@ucalgary.ca
Email communication will be through your UCalgary email address.	Office hours: TBA

*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 focuses on the physical/environmental context of select locations in Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia. The tremendous variety of physical landscapes included in this itinerary provides spatial settings for diverse studies and comparative analyses. Topics will include climate, climate, regional biogeography, mountain building and degradation, soils of the region, natural resources, fluvial geomorphology, karstic topography, shore line geomorphology, natural hazards and disasters. The course focuses on recourses, environmental problems relating to both natural and human landscapes. This itinerary provides spatial settings for diverse studies and comparative analyses. Topics will include impacts of climate change, land degradation, deforestation, human's current and historical effects on landscapes, water issues, power generation, geothermal and hydrocarbon recourses, natural environmental disturbances, air pollution, and an examination of different agricultural practices. Topics will include the construction of Dams; coal fire power; the impacts of climate change on tropical and subtropical ecosystems; the management of Dams and other river systems; specific environmental problems that have emerged from development; soil management, degradation, and agricultural practices and environmental impacts of tourism development and expansion throughout the region. This course also focuses on the urban environment. Within cities, the main objectives are to provide a geological, climatologic, and hydrologic setting within which the cities exist, to illustrate how historical urbanization has modified this environment, to explore how the historical & contemporary urbanization impacted, and is impacting, vulnerability to climate change, and hazards posed by natural processes, and to assess the urban environment, population, resources, and greenspaces as a functioning ecosystem.

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	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Explain the geological, climatologic, and hydrologic setting of cities	1,2,4	2
Explain how the physical setting partly controls urbanization	1,2,4	2
Explain how historical urbanization has modified the natural environment	1,2,4	2
Evaluate how urbanization has increased or decreased vulnerability to hazards	1,2,4	1
Evaluate the effectiveness of hazards mitigation strategies	5	1
Evaluate information from different sources	8	2
Collect topically relevant spatial data	3	2
Create multimedia and written presentations using GIS software	3,6,7,8	2
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
Consent from the department

Learning Resources
Readings will be assigned throughout the course. Bibliography and accessible links will be posted on TEAMS.

Important Dates
TBA

Assessment Methods

Grading (weighting)
In-field project (1)
   Story Maps   30%
 Field notebook
   Mini assignments   30%
   Daily Field entries   30%
Final reflection for Field Notebook   20%
It is **not** necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course.
There will **not** be a final exam in this course.

Exemptions to the Examination and Tests Regulations
- There **will not** be a scheduled final exam by the Registrar's Office.
- It is not essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.
- Late assignment policy: Late assignments not subject to being excused with a valid medical/emergency will be assessed a 15% penalty per day.

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

All grades will be given in numerical form posted in TEAMS. The final weighted average will be converted into letter grades using the grade conversion chart above.

Additional Course Information

Communication and course etiquette:
Regarding e-mail and other communication with the Instructor and other students. Please make sure your e-mails are polite and respectful. Any abusive or disrespectful e-mails or other communication deemed so will be reported and you may face non-academic or academic misconduct if they are deemed to be abusive or bullying in nature.

The Instructor expects students to show up for class and field excursions. If you missed important information it is best that you attempt to obtain that information from your peers. If it because of illness or other extenuating circumstances contact through TEAMS, or set up an alternate time to meet. Sending e-mails expecting long responses from your Instructor because of your absence may go unanswered. This is especially true immediately before exams or when an assignment is due when the information has been given multiple times in class through TEAMS to the class.

It is a student's responsibility to follow the course schedule and the readings that have been detailed in the course schedule in the outline. This schedule might change through the term so make sure you follow these changes that may be outlined in class. The material in the readings, field excursions, videos and the lectures **are all** testable material regardless if the material in the readings or videos were not covered in the lecture or the lecture covered different material that is not in the readings or videos. You will need to take notes to understand the material. If you have questions about the assignments or course material please see the Instructor through TEAMS.

Academic Accommodations
It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar. In this field study course we may not be able to accommodate your accommodation due to facilities and the nature of the program. Please check with the instructor regarding any accommodation requests.
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 the Department Head (email: geograph@ucalgary.ca).

Referencing Standard
In written work presented in this class, the accepted method for referencing the work of others will be in APA format. Please see
https://apastyle.apa.org or
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Resources and Writing support
Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The university supports the belief that throughout their university careers students should be taught how to write well, so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their university courses and, where appropriate, faculty members can and should consider quality of writing as a factor in the evaluation of student work. 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)

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

NOTICES TO STUDENTS REGARDING USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) APPLICATIONS AND TOOLS IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
Many students and instructors are curious about the use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, and their impacts on their courses. The following sample syllabus statements have been adapted from McMaster University (https://mi.mcmaster.ca/generative-artificial-intelligence-in-teaching-and-learning/#tab-content-provisional-guidelines) as examples for various use permissions in academic courses.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)
Students may use generative AI tools throughout in this course to enhance their learning within reason. **Students MAY NOT use AI for generating answers for assignments, assessments, field notes, project submissions or any other academic submissions for this course**. Students are responsible for citing and referencing all work generated by AI tools as outlined by the course instructor. Students must be accountable for their submissions. AI generated answers to assignments will be assigned a zero grade and may be referred to the Faculty of Arts for academic misconduct discipline.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta regulates the return of term assessments. All assignments will be submitted on D2L in the format outlined in the term assignment. Assignments will be graded as a group, however if there are discrepancies in peer evaluations within the group, assignment grades may be provided on an individual bases.

Research

Human subjects
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.

Department of Geography
Faculty of Arts

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments
All assignments will be submitted on TEAMS.

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 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 updates web browser
- Broadband internet connection
- Optional technology: webcam (built in or external) / microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone

Use of internet and electronic devices in class
There are no 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. **Students may not record in-person lectures or tutorials unless they have an academic accommodation and/or have been given permission by the Instructor or Teaching Assistant**. Phones must be turned to silent mode during class, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional. The use of any calculators and/or devices during examinations will not be allowed.

Guidelines for Video Sessions
Video sessions maybe used in the event of instructor absence, for work within peer groups, or for other communication related to course obligations. To help ensure video sessions are private, do not share link or password with others via any medium, including social media platforms. Links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Recordings and materials presented, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering video conferencing sessions, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment.

Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to us names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your sessions visit: eLearn @ UCalgary

If you are unable to attend a session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a class session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Media Recording (if applicable)
https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

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.

Accessibility
Students will need to visualize portions of the lecture material and assignments in the form of maps and other geographic information. Yuja captions will be available for most but not all online lectures. Note, Yuja captions are often mis-interpreted by the speech filter used in Yuja so be aware of mispronunciations misspellings or other errors in the captions.
https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/yuja/getting-started-yuja/

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 disciplines under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

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/