



## COURSE OUTLINE

### Space, Place and Society: An Introduction to Human Geography

<b>Instructor</b>	Professor Teresa Dawson, tdawson@uvic.ca
<b>Lab Assistants</b>	Kinga Menu (Senior Laboratory Instructor) kmenu@uvic.ca Chanho Kim, chanhokim@uvic.ca ; James Roszel jroszel@uvic.ca
<b>Class time</b>	Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 -11:20 AM (followed by office hours—please see below)
<b>Location</b>	DTB A102. NOTE: It is REALLY IMPORTANT TO YOUR SUCCESS THAT YOU ATTEND CLASS.
<b>Office Hours</b>	DTB B316. Mon + Thurs 11:30-12:30 and by appointment if those times do not work for you.
<b>Lab times/links:</b>	Please check the Calendar/Registration to determine your lab section and times. You should only attend the lab for which you are registered.

#### Please kindly...

- Remember that all lecture and lab notes, course materials, exams and quizzes are my intellectual property, and are for instructional purposes only. You should not share them with anyone else without my prior written permission.
- Do not record (audio or video) or take photos of any aspects of the course such as labs or lectures without first having written permission from me. It is important we respect privacy and safety of others in the course.

**Brightspace site:** There is a **Brightspace** site for this course called **GEOG 101B A01 - B01 - B05 X**. It is best accessed through your UVic page and SSO. Please go to the site often.

#### Communications:

- *Course information, tips, reminders, lab outlines, FAQs, all notices:* The Brightspace site is where I will put anything I think might help you. Please check your preferred email address is correct, so you do not miss anything. Please check you have the correct site.
- *Emailing me:* [tdawson@uvic.ca](mailto:tdawson@uvic.ca). Please put <Geog101b: your name: brief subject> in the heading. This allows me to sort at the end of each day to check for emails and not miss anything.
- *Making an appointment:* I welcome you to discuss your geography ideas and questions at times other than office hours. However, I am often in meetings or teaching other courses, so I do not want to miss you. Please email [tdawson@uvic.ca](mailto:tdawson@uvic.ca) minimally before 4:00pm the night before to make an appointment for the next day (more time is appreciated). Please also make sure you cancel the appointment if you are not coming to allow someone else to benefit from the slot.

#### Description

Human geographers have a special way of looking at the world. We are curious as to how “where” things happen influences the “how” and “why” of them happening. We explore the relationship between humans and our environment at different scales (from the personal to the global). We search for knowledge and understanding that allows us to advocate for a better, more just society and we argue respectfully about what that means! We ask challenging questions. Why do some people have more and some less? What do healthy societies look like? How do you “read” an urban landscape to understand what is occurring in it? What role can each of us play in making a better world?

My goal during this course is to convince you of the value of human geography in understanding the world around you. I hope that by the end you will be able to “think like a geographer” and “see geography all around you” by knowing the kinds of questions human geographers ask to understand and address the issues they encounter. Of course, I also hope you will want to go on and study more geography. Along the way we will look at what human geographers do, explore some approaches and concepts they find useful in analysing issues, learn some concrete skills useful in any future context, and think about why scale matters.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES AND THEMES

- Know why human geography is important and how human geographers can make a difference. This means being able to explain to others why the relationships between “space,” “place” and “society” really matter to people and being able to give real world examples to support your points.
- Build a strong knowledge foundation on which you can rely for success in future geography courses or wherever your related interests may take you. This means learning about some of the most important ideas, techniques, concepts and questions in human geography and knowing when and how to use them appropriately. It also means developing an appreciation of the breadth and depth of interests that human geographers have.
- Learn to critically assess the validity of geographical data or images that are presented to you in the public arena. This means knowing enough about mapping and data representation skills to know what questions to ask to determine when the “facts” might not be the “facts.”
- Begin to develop your own sense of global citizenship that works for you (note: a lifelong process).
- Acquire a strong academic skills foundation on which you can rely for any future goals you may have. This means learning: excellent communications skills (in writing for different audiences, speaking/ presenting, advocating, listening, and working collaboratively in teams); strong research skills (to find the resources you need, to analyse data and to present it effectively); and how to ask really good questions, as well as to determine what evidence you need to answer them
- Get into the habit of being curious about things and challenging yourself to take learning risks.
- Love geography just a bit more at the end than you did at the beginning.

### Building Community

We have a challenge in this course. There are a lot of us! However, to succeed collectively we have to build an academic community. This means sharing with each other and being prepared to reach out to, talk to, and help, people we do not know in order to create “connections in a crowd.” This is much harder with a large number of people but I also know it is essential to everyone’s success so I hope you will help me do it. Please bring your ideas to class...and share them. Please check in on your neighbour. Please speak up when it matters.

### How to Prepare for Class (these are tips based on the current research into learning)

Before each class:

- Go to the Brightspace site for this course. Download the “lecture outline” for the next class and read it over. Make a note of the learning goals to see what you will be looking to learn in the next lecture and make a note of any additional learning goals or questions you have personally.
- I suggest printing out the lecture outline and having it on the desk in front of you to write on OR having the outline ready on a separate device for you to type into.
- Look up in the textbook any concepts or terms you don’t recognise or are unsure of in the outline.
- Read the pages I have assigned you from the textbook and/or other assigned resources and write down on the session outline your answers to the questions I have written to help guide your reading.

The day of:

- Come to class with all aspects of your being (show up, mentally engage, think of questions to ask, answer the questions I ask you, help others). I really mean it. Showing up is the greatest predictor of success in class.
- Consider having a small snack/drink handy. I know you have a long day. I have no problem with people needing to eat/drink to stay engaged. Just no nuts please in case people have allergies.

Ongoing follow up:

- Find Saturday’s *Globe and Mail* online and get into the lifelong learning habit of searching for geography concepts, terms and ideas anywhere in the pages. Identify your favourite articles. Talk to your friends about them. This will help you to see how current events relate to class materials.

### REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:

Mercier, M. (2024). *Human Geography* (11th ed.). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

This text is available via the bookstore <https://www.uvicbookstore.ca/text/>. There are at least two options: e-version, and hardcopy. E-text is cheapest. Both can also be accessed from the publisher or other sellers directly.

**Globe and Mail.** You will need to read the G&M at least once a week. You can get it online. You might treat yourself to a student subscription for the three months of the course or you can get it free online from the Library. Ask your TA to show you how. Regardless, make sure you get the full articles version not the short/limited version.

**Other brief readings or resources** as well as optional recommended readings provided on Brightspace as needed to support key concepts or ideas of interest.

## COURSE COMPONENTS

The course is designed to achieve the learning goals and outcomes stated above. Each component is specifically designed to achieve a particular outcome and collectively they will give you a strong foundation in human geography. All aspects of the course will be assessed on tests and exams.

**Class Meetings**—We will all meet together in lecture twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays). Lectures will include class activities, in order to ensure that you understand the really important concepts. Lectures will also introduce lab assignments and help you to understand how they relate to other aspects of the course.

**Labs**—Labs are once per week starting Week 2 taught by our geography teaching assistants (TAs) overseen by our Senior Lab Instructor. I really encourage you to get to know your TA. They are an invaluable resource for you. Lab sessions form an integral part of the course. You will be able to explore concepts from lecture in more depth, learn new ideas, and practice geographic and academic skills in a variety of formats including discussions, reports, presentations, and videos. Attendance in labs is mandatory. Lab material is examinable in the midterm and final. All gradable assignments (which may be both individual and group based) will be handed in and handed back using Brightspace drop boxes. Detailed instructions provided.

**Fieldtrip**—One of the signature ways of learning in geography is the fieldtrip. They are such an important (and fun) part of geography learning that we have designed a fieldtrip (in lab time) to give you a taste.

## GRADE BREAKDOWN FOR EVALUATION OF GEOG 101B

	Marks	Important Dates
Lab assignments	45*	Due on dates provided by your TA.
Engagement	5	Throughout the term (labs and lectures)
Midterm	20	Thursday Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> in-class. Instructions provided.
Final Exam	30	Timed in University Exam Period.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

\*The exact breakdown of lab marks and scheduled activities will be provided by your TA in Lab 1.

## Undergraduate Grading Standards (per the Academic Calendar)

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b>	9	90-100%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent</b> performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
<b>A</b>	8	85-89%	
<b>A-</b>	7	80-84%	
<b>B+</b>	6	77-79%	<b>Very good, good and solid</b> performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
<b>B</b>	5	73-76%	
<b>B-</b>	4	70-72%	
<b>C+</b>	3	65-69%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>C</b>	2	60-64%	
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
<b>N</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</b>

**Important notes regarding overall grades:**

- All students are required to show a UVic ID before taking exams.
- **You must take both exams (midterm and the final) and submit all lab assignments minimally within 5 business days of the deadline (see below) to pass the course.** Even if you are too late to get a grade for an assignment, you must still submit it to pass. This is because the assignments build your learning in the course. **Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.**  
If you are considering a deferral, please understand that certain essential components of this course cannot be completed after the course ends despite the “N” grade. Always check with me first.
- **Even if you join the course late, you are still expected to catch up with the Lab assignments and Lecture materials.** You will need to quickly develop a plan and communicate this to your TA to make up the work missed.
- If at any time for any reason you are not able to fulfill your obligations to your lab team in a timely manner you must email all team members to let them know immediately and must copy your TA on the note. Failure to do this can negatively impact the grades of other students and hence your own.

**Policy on late assignments**

Deadlines for lab assignments will be given in Lab 1. Assignments are due before your lab begins on the day of your lab. To be fair to everyone, if you submit an assignment late, the penalty is 20% per day. **All assignments must be submitted to pass the course, but after 5 days you will receive no grade.** Exceptions can only be granted by Prof. Dawson, not your TA.

**GENERAL LECTURE AND LAB SCHEDULE (detailed outlines will be provided each week) Fall 2025**

Week of	Concepts and Ideas that start this week.	Text and other Readings (M = Mercier, 2024 text)	In-class Activities/Notes
Week 1 Jan 5	The questions human geographers ask	M Chapter 1, Section 1.1, pp. 2-8. Also check out the rest of the textbook and see what looks particularly interesting to you.	<b>NOTE: LABS START NEXT WEEK.</b>  <b>ACTIVITY (take home)</b> <b>Getting-to-know-you Questionnaire</b> Submit your questionnaire in >Brightspace> course tools>assignments> questionnaire
Week 2	Considering the power of maps: histories of cartography, Indigenous Geographies and place naming.	M Chapter 1, Section 1.2, pp 8-18 and Sections 1.4 and 1.5 pp. 22-39.  Solving the cholera mystery reading. (Brightspace)  Indigenous Place Names. <i>Arbutus Review</i> Fall 2014, Vol.5, No.1, pp.1-19. <a href="http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/arbutus">http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/arbutus</a> (Brightspace).	<b>ACTIVITY (in-class and take home)</b> Learn how to draw a Concept Map to prepare for Lab 1. <b>Instructions will be given in lecture on Monday.</b> <b>Due: Concept Map to share in lab.</b>
Week 3	Social Geography: exploring identity	M Chapter 7, Sections 7.1-7.8, pp. 262-296	
Week 4	Cultural Geography: reading human landscapes	M Chapter 6, pp. 220-261 and Chapter 7, Sections 7.9 -7.10 , pp. 296-307	
Week 5	Political Geography: understanding nations and their role in international relations	M Chapter 8, pp. 308-351	<b>Study for mid-term exam.</b>
Week 6	Integrated case studies and completion of course concepts required	Brightspace readings	

	for the midterm; exam practice and tips.  <b>MID-TERM EXAM THURSDAY Feb 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Full details will be provided ahead of time</i> <b>Please remember to bring your ID.</b>	<b>In-class</b>	
Week 7	<b>READING BREAK</b>		
Week 8	Population Geography: anticipating demographic trends  <i>NOTE: last day for dropping courses without penalty Feb 28</i>	M Chapter 4, Sections 4.1-4.9, pp. 118-150	<b>ACTIVITY (in-class)</b> Learn to draw a population pyramid  <i>Please bring the materials you need (see outline for instructions)</i>
Week 9	Migration and Diffusion: voluntary migrants, victims of forced relocation, and refugees	M Chapter 4, Sections 4.10-and 4.11, pp. 150-171 Chapter 5, Section 5.5, pp.195-203 Chapter 1, Section 1.3, pp. 18-22.	<b>ACTIVITY (in-class)</b>
Wk 10	Urban geography: the role and power of cities	M Chapters 9 and 10.pp. 352-435.	<b>ACTIVITY (in-class)</b> Learn to graph the rank-size rule.  <i>Please bring the materials you need to calculate the data points and draw the rank-size rule graph.</i>
Wk 11	Economic Geography: It's all about location	M Chapter 11, Sections 11.1 and 11.2, pp. 436-447. Chapter 12, Sections 12.1 and 12.2, pp. 478-486, and Section 12.5 pp. 498-506	
Wk 12	Perspectives on models of progress and development	Chapter 12, Sections 12.6 and 12.7, pp. 506-519 Chapter 5, Sections 5.1 and 5.2, pp. 172-186	
Wk 13	Globalisation Human Geography revisited: review using course concept map Geography matters: where do we go from here?	Return to Chapter 1. Complete any missing readings.  <b>NOTE: Be sure you have completed and submitted all Lab Assignments from the term (check on Brightspace), so you are eligible to pass the course.</b>	<b>ACTIVITY (take home and in-class)</b> <i>Draw a course concept map to help you study for the final exam and show you how much you have learned.</i>
TBA	<b>FINAL EXAM in University Exam Period</b> <i>Full details provided</i>	Exam is scheduled by the University Registrar's Office and is 3 hours, in-person.	

**Note:** While every effort will be made to maintain the above schedule, policies, procedures, assignments, labs and exams, as outlined in this syllabus, they may be subject to change in extenuating circumstances.

### Acknowledging our presence on the land

UVic's Territory Acknowledgement reads as the following. "We acknowledge and respect the Lək̓ʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱sepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples

whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.” I hope each of us, whether from here locally or from far away in lands with other colonial histories, will think about how we can make real meaning from this statement in our own contexts and lives. This is a theme we will return to often in this course.

### **Accessibility**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. Please do not worry; I am fully able to implement their recommendations regarding accommodations such as differences in length of timed exams.

### **A note about triggering and self-care**

In many ways, the most important pre-requisites for this course are an open heart and an open mind, as well as a willingness to engage thoughtfully with challenging or difficult material. Each of us brings our unique passions, experiences and histories with us to the class. We have no idea what others have struggled with, or overcome, to join us. For this reason, kindness to each other will be imperative if we are all to succeed. Diversity of knowledge and backgrounds can only enhance the learning for all of us. However, each of us can inadvertently be triggered by a topic, a phrase, a reference, an image, an association, and so on. While I do everything I can to prevent us from experiencing any kind of trauma in this class, and would never intentionally cause anyone harm, I acknowledge that triggers are many and varied and often unpredictable for each and every one of us, particularly at present. For this reason, please have a plan to cope should something arise for you, by for example stepping away, having a cup of tea, or going for a walk. As always, do not hesitate to contact me if I can help or support you in any way, and as the need arises. If you would like me to be aware of something you are struggling with in the course material or approach, please don't hesitate to let me or your TA know.

### **Masking and health**

We do not know peoples' personal situations or individual needs, as well as who may be living with vulnerable individuals, so we will respect everyone's choices to wear or not wear a mask in lecture and lab. We will also follow University Policies and Guidelines on health matters. If you feel seriously unwell, obviously you should stay home and not attend class. Any questions don't hesitate to ask me or your TA.

### **Making sure you retain your academic integrity in this course**

*Policy on Academic Integrity:* [web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat. In plain language, usually problems arise if you try to submit work that you did not create, if you copy someone else's answers or if you use someone else's words without using quotation marks and giving proper credit to the person who wrote them. If you have any questions or doubts, please talk to me. For more information, see [uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php).

### **Providing feedback via the Course Experience Survey (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. At the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience in this course (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the Department of Geography improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via [ces.uvic.ca](http://ces.uvic.ca) and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time, and it will be one of our in-class activities, but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOUR SUCCESS**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. Remember to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many resources available to support your success, so make sure you know where to go when you need help. The following are some examples:

**Academic Advising** <http://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/>

**Academic Calendar** (including key dates such as add and drop deadlines) <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/>

**Centre for Academic Communication (the Writing Centre)** <https://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/>

### **Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL)**

The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>. Please note I am able to implement their recommendations regarding accommodations such as differences in length of timed exams using the online system.

**Coop and Career Services** <https://www.uvic.ca/coopandcareer/>

**Counselling Services** offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students <https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>

**Elders' Voices** The Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being [uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)

**Geography Department** <https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/>

- Geography Undergraduate advising and registration [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca).
- Geography Department Chair [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)

**Health Services** - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/health/>

### **International Students and the UVic Global Community**

The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Geography Department are also encouraged to meet with the Geography Undergraduate Advisor ([geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#). International students are also encouraged to contact the International Student Liaison in Geography (Prof. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, [cindyann@uvic.ca](mailto:cindyann@uvic.ca)), who can assist in making connections with other international and domestic students in the Geography Department and share opportunities for getting involved in departmental activities more broadly.

**MacPherson Library** <http://www.uvic.ca/library/>

### **Math and Stats Assistance Centre**

<https://www.uvic.ca/science/math-statistics/current-students/undergraduate/msac/index.php>

**Plagiarism Guide** (how not to...) from the Library online <https://www.uvic.ca/library/help/citation/plagiarism/>

### **Positivity and Safety and Professional Code of Conduct for Students**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. The January 2021 *Tri-faculty code of conduct for students* can be found here and is useful to review. <https://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/assets/docs/tri-fac-student-code-of-conduct.pdf>

**Sexualized violence resource office, EQHR; Sedgewick C119**, <https://uvic.ca/svp>

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, contact: 250.721.8021, [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca)

**Undergraduate Calendar** (includes policies and regulations such as: **academic integrity** at Section 7, **academic concessions** at Sections 10 and 11)

<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/content/62daf5e88b7d47001d0fc385>

Key academic dates are here: <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/>

**University Health Services (UHS)** provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. <http://uvic.ca/services/health/>