



Spring 2016  
T,W,F 11:30=12:20  
CLE A308

# Geog 355

## Coastal Communities

Tentative course outline subject to change. See course spaces site for updates.

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Office: DTB B210

Office hrs: W 4-5:30 pm

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### Policies:

1. Contact instructor before midterm, presentation or field trips if you must miss (for legitimate, documented reason). Zero tolerance for missing the final exam.
2. Plagiarism – zero tolerance (see UVic's [academic integrity policy](#))
3. Accessibility – please meet with instructor and the [Resource Centre for Students with a Disability](#) early if you may need accommodation
4. Do your part to ensure an engaging classroom. Be punctual, respectful, compassionate and attentive.

### Course Overview

This course explores two interrelated themes:

- 1) the concept of **sense of place** with respect to coastal communities (including island communities)
- 2) the unique **threats** to and **opportunities** for building **resilience** in coastal communities.

While examples from around the world will be investigated, a prime objective of the course is to afford you the opportunity to learn about local coastal communities including Indigenous communities of the northwest coast. Students will have a choice of undertaking a project that makes a direct contribution to local coastal resilience supporting research needs of a community partner or exploring their more artistic side through a digital story that expresses some element of coastal sense of place. Either way, these projects will be presented in class sometime in March. We will also get out of the classroom on field excursions.

### Assessment

You will be assessed on the following:

1. **Participation** (10%) – contribution to class discussion & field trips
2. **Midterm** (30%) - on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>
3. **Student projects and presentation** (30%) – undertaking a project with 1-2 partners and presenting in class sometime in March
4. **Final Exam** (30%) - take home written answer questions given on Mar 29<sup>th</sup> and due on Apr 7<sup>th</sup>.

Note on marks: A-level marks (80%+) reflect exceptional (beyond expectations), outstanding, or at least highly competent efforts. B+/B level marks (73-79%) reflect good or at least acceptable efforts (usually above the class average). B-/C+ level marks (65-72%) represent average efforts, showing some understanding but deficient in some way. C/D level marks (50-64%) represent passable but largely insufficient efforts, while F marks (<50%) represent failing the course.

Sustainability is about living in a place as if you intend to be there forever.

- Anonymous  
Coastal BC  
Indigenous  
Elder

It happened at a meeting between an Indian community in northwest BC and some government officials. The officials claimed the land for the government. The natives were astonished by the claim... Finally one of the Elders put what was bothering them in the form of a question. "If this is your land", he asked, "where are your stories?"

- Harrington & Stevenson  
"Islands of the Salish Sea"

## Course readings

There are no texts for this course however mandatory readings, around which the course is has been designed, will be posted on the Course Spaces site. Reading - and engaging with the readings (highlighting, underlining, taking good notes etc.) – is essential for your enjoyment of and success in this course.

## Notes on learning expectations

1. Think deeply about why you are here and what you want to get out of your experience at UVic in the short time you'll be here. Use this time wisely to develop skills and good habits around critical thinking\*, effective written and visual communication, working with others, , problem solving, empathic listening, organization, perseverance, and initiative.
2. I consider such skill development and good habit formation as being at least as important as content mastery in this course. While I want you to learn important things about coastal communities, sense of place and resilience, I also want you to develop particular skills and habits. Keep in mind employers are just as concerned with your skills and habits as your marks.
3. Effective learning involves recognizing how the course material is directly relevant to your life – in this case how your own story is weaved into the story of our coastal communities. Rather than think of classes as irrelevant drudgery that you have to get through, think of them as unique opportunities for personal transformation.
4. \*Note: critical thinking is often misrepresented as cynical, pessimistic, or "being against things". In this class it should rather be understood in terms of healthy skepticism with received wisdom recognizing the things could /should be otherwise; ceaseless, piercing questioning of status quo "common sense"; trying to make important linkages and connections; recognizing and evaluating multiple perspectives and the values and assumptions underlying each (including our own); evaluating evidence and arguments (while recognizing power relations in knowledge claims), arriving at defensible positions on issues and working towards a more respectful, inclusive, just, and fair world.

All the diamonds  
in this world that  
mean anything to  
me are conjured up  
by wind and  
sunlight sparkling  
on the sea.

- Bruce  
Cockburn

You fill up my  
senses like a night  
in a forest, like the  
mountains in  
springtime, like a  
walk in the rain,  
like a storm in the  
desert, like a  
sleepy blue ocean.  
You fill up my  
senses. Come fill  
me again.

- John Denver

Summer skies, stars  
are falling all  
along the injured  
coast.

- Paul Simon

And so castles  
made of sand melt  
into the sea  
eventually.

- Jimi Hendrix

## Course Experience Survey

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

## Tentative Schedule

The schedule is subject to change but gives you a sense of how the course will progress. Consult the Course Spaces site for updates as well as the required weekly readings.

Week	Topic
1 (Jan 5-8)	The study of coastal communities
2 (Jan 12-15)	The study of coastal communities: sense of place
3 (Jan 19-22)	The study of coastal communities: resilience
4 (Jan 26-29)	Islands & bridges
5 (Feb 1-4)	Islands & bridges → Indigenous communities of the NW Coast
6 (Feb 8-11)	NO CLASSES (Reading Week)
7 (Feb 16-19)	Indigenous communities of the NW Coast
8 (Feb 23-26)	MIDTERM (Feb 23)
9 (Mar 1-4)	Fossil fuel development and coastal resilience
10 (Mar 8-11)	Student presentations
11 (Mar 22-25)	Student presentations
12 (Mar 22-25)	Final reflections
13 (Mar 29-Apr 1)	Last class (Mar 29)

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