



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

**Course Outline
GEOG 324 Directions in Geography**

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Jutta Gutberlet	Lectures:	Monday & Thursday
Office:	DTB B-312		10:00 to 11:30am
Phone:	472 4537	Location:	Cornett Building B111
E-mail:	gutber@uvic.ca	Office Hours:	Monday 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines geographic thoughts and practices. We will critically review early developments in the discipline and will then focus on contemporary Geography, by identifying a broad spectrum of different approaches and methods applied within Geography. What differentiates Geographers from other scholars? What specific contributions can the discipline make? What are the tools and methods Geographers use? We will discuss diverse ways of doing Geography, from physical to human and the in-betweens.

The proposed readings focus on contentious contemporary themes, ranging from indigenous Geography to Geographies of waste, applying different lenses to analyze various aspects and diverse questions related to these themes. Students will apply their own geographic interests in their individual research project, focused on one of the multiple approaches in geography. A field-visit and guest speakers will provide hands-on and in-depth information related to the topics. The student project will involve literature review and discussions on how geography contributes to the debate of relevant contemporary issues.

Throughout the course, we will identify and review the students' perspectives and main interests within geography. There will be room for reflections and discussions on specific questions as to how knowledge is created in Geography, how it is disseminated and who benefits from it? The course format comprehends lectures, in class discussions, and debates, film screenings, student presentations and a one-day field trip. In class participation is key to thrive in this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course seeks to provide the students with insights on the history, development and contemporary thoughts related to geography. The students will be exposed to diverse perspectives and approaches within physical and human geography. By examining specific topics, we will learn about academic writing and the application of particular research methods for the inquiries under study. The course aims at promoting creativity and reflections on the students' own research interests, by critically assessing geographical scholarship in different areas. In this course, the students will be engaged in presenting, discussing and producing essays.

"We acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSANEC peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day."

SEMINAR TOPICS AND SELECTED READINGS

Week	Dates	READINGS
1	04.01	Introduction to the course and content. What are your specific interests?
2	08.01.	What does it mean to be a Geographer?
	11.01.	Defining the field of Geography.
3	15.01.	Research traditions and philosophy in Geography and evolution of geographic thought
	18.01.	Methods applied in researching and explaining geographical phenomena in Geography
4	22.01.	Why we need to indigenize Geography
	25.01.	White supremacy and masculinity
5	29.01.	Spatial representation, cartography and community mapping
	01.02.	Critical GIS
6	05.02	Geographies of Waste
	08.02.	Field trip: Introduction to Waste Geographies
7	12.2.-16.2.	No classes Reading break
8	19.02.	Social Geography of Waste
	22.02.	Cultural Geography of Waste
9	26.02.	Alternative economies
	01.03.	Economic Geography of reuse and repair
10	05.03.	Environmental Geography
	08.03.	
11	12.03.	Political Geography
	15.03.	Governance

12	19.03.	Challenges and directions in geography
	22.03.	The Anthropocene Geography without scale?
13	26.03.	Student Presentations
	29.03.	Student Presentations
14	02.04.	Holiday No Class
	05.04.	Group discussion: Geography moving forward to address the <i>big questions</i>

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no required course text. The required weekly readings will be uploaded to Course Space for easy access.

FIELD TRIP

There will be a **mandatory** half-day field trip on February 8th. Students should arrange their schedule early on in order to be able to participate. Further information will be provided in class.

MARK ALLOCATION

Discussion leader	10%
Written responses to the weekly reading	30%
Concept paper	40%
Paper presentation	10%
Attendance and class participation	10%

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

I. Discussion leader (once or twice during the term, depending on enrolment) 10%

During Week 2 students have to sign up for their role as discussion leader throughout the course. Students will prepare a 10-15 minutes presentation on one of the weekly reading. The student will lead the in-class discussion for one to two classes (depending on enrollment). The discussion leader summarizes the reading and offers critical reflections on the reading. The discussion leader will engage the class with questions and thoughtful provocations that have emerged when doing the reading. At the end of each class the discussion leaders must submit the following: (1) a short commentary on the reading (maximum 1 page) and (2) a list of at least 5 questions planned to ask during the class.

II. Written responses to the weekly readings (5% each and 6 responses = 30%)

All students have to provide questions, comments, and/or criticisms on the assigned readings for the weekly class meetings and elaborate on them. Each student is responsible to hand in a total of 6 responses on both readings covered during that week. Even if you opt not to write a written response that week you are still required to do the readings and are responsible for coming to class prepared and contribute to the discussion. Each assignment is expected to be of a maximum 2 pages of length (spaced 1.5). The responses are due on Thursdays at the end of class, throughout the term.

III. Concept paper (40%)

You will develop a specific idea that interests you within Geography. You will revise the existing literature for the topic and elaborate on a specific, real world experience related to your research idea and you will discuss the topic (based on literature and own ideas). In your research paper, you should engage in answering the questions as to why geography and what kind of geography you are building on in your theoretical discussion. What is the particular lens you are taking in geography? You have to provide key references demonstrating engagement with the literature. The concept paper should be around 10 pages long (approximately 5000 words, including references). **The paper is due in class in Week 13.**

IV. Individual paper presentation (10%)

In Week 13, students will give a presentation on their research and the findings discussed in the concept paper. Students can use PowerPoint or any other related computer software as a visual supplement to the oral presentation. Ideally, we will schedule approximately 10 minutes for each presentation, plus an additional 5 minutes for a questions/answers session. This may be change depending on how many students enrol in the course.

V. Attendance and Participation (10%)

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes. To achieve full participation marks means that the student engages in the discussion and actively listens, poses questions and provides answers or contributions when possible. This is an easy mark to get, by regularly attending class and coming prepared.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom policies

- Please turn **cell phones off** during class—ringers, earphones and texting are disruptive and unacceptable.
- Students are expected to do the assigned readings in advance and be prepared to participate in class discussions and in-class activities.

Written assignments

- **Formatting:** Coursework must be word-processed, 1.5-spaced, 12-point font size. Assignments should be proofread prior to submission to ensure that they are free of grammatical and spelling errors and must include a list of all references cited in the text, using the APA citation style. All coursework should include the student's name and student number, the course's code and name, and that of the instructor, in order to avoid loss or improper identification. No need to use a cover page.
- **Submission guidelines:** All assignments must be submitted on the date specified. And must be done **exclusively** for this course.
- **Late submissions:** Work submitted late will be accepted with a 5% daily reduction (including weekend days), up to seven days after the due date. If needed, you may submit your assignment during the weekend as a way to minimize late penalties. In case of an outstanding valid situation you must contact me, preferably in advance. I cannot consider a particular situation unless I know about it, so do not wait until the end of the term to communicate if something did come up. For health reasons, a doctor's certificate must be submitted. No extensions will be granted unless you have communicated with me and your reasons have been deemed valid.

Plagiarism

It is your responsibility to be familiar with and understand the information on plagiarism. Read carefully the sections "Avenues of Appeal" (p. 17), "Plagiarism and Cheating" (p. 19), and "Evaluation of Student Achievement" (pp. 21-22), in the *UVic Calendar*. Also see UVic Libraries' plagiarism policy at <http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/plagiarism.html>.

Students are reminded that submitting for credit any academic work which has been submitted (or where credit has already been obtained) in another course, is listed among academic offences.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. For more information see: <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. Please notify me immediately if any date proposed for assignments or papers conflicts with dates of special significance in your religion/culture. I will arrange alternative dates to accommodate these individual needs.

Geography grading system

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
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90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	0-49%
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Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, 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 your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

“The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.”