



GEOGRAPHY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Monday and Thursday 14:30 p.m. - 15:50 p.m.

Cornett Building A229

A CRITICAL APPROACH TO THE GEOGRAPHIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the physical and human geographies of British Columbia. Conflict or struggle is central to the province's social experience recognized in persistent disputes around such matters as resource exploitation, environmental protection, Indigenous sovereignty, immigration, and urban development. Through engaging lectures, class discussions, videos and texts, this course will carefully analyze historical and present struggles critically interrogating the values and assumptions of different groups vying to define our province and its future. Students should leave with a more sophisticated appreciation both of the field of critical geography and of the province of BC.

Critical geographies, and critical thinking more generally, is often misrepresented as cynical, pessimistic, or "being against things." In this class it should be understood in terms of healthy skepticism and recognizing the world could / should be otherwise. This includes 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 (or province and country in this case).

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings are available through UVic libraries.

EVALUATION

Participation	10%
Midterm (in class)	20%
Infographic (Group)	15%
Short Video on a BC social issue & Reflection (Group)	25%
Take-home Final Exam	30%

PREREQUISITE: One of GEOG 332, 347B, 344 or 386.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 4-5pm

Zoom link will be listed
on Brightspace

Email:

jennifercmateer@gmail.com

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: <https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/index.php>
- Undergraduate Advisor: geogadvising@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

I will post the course syllabus, outlines of slide presentations, and any additional relevant materials on the course's BrightSpace website.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

- Assignments submitted **ON TIME** will receive my full attention & useful feedback.
- Please speak with me well in advance if you anticipate a delay in submitting your work, particularly when dealing with illness or family conflicts.
- 10% per day penalty for late assignments including weekend days. For example, 10% will be deducted from the assignment (due in class) *even if the assignment is submitted later in the day*. If the assignment is submitted the next day, 20% will be deducted from the assigned grade, and so forth.

** All assignments must be done exclusively for this course, and should not be posted publicly online unless specified.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism in writing term papers will not be tolerated. Plagiarism detection software will be used in case of doubt. Plagiarism means representing someone else's work as your own. It is a serious offense, punishable by academic sanctions. When you incorporate the words, ideas, graphics, or other products from someone else's work into your projects, you must give credit by providing a citation and reference to the source work.

It is your responsibility to:

- understand what plagiarism is,
- be familiar with and understand the information on plagiarism outlined in UVic Libraries' plagiarism policy at <http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/plagiarism.html>
- be familiar with UVic's policies on student responsibilities, conduct, discipline, and academic offenses, as described in the Undergraduate Calendar.

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 offenses as academic dishonesty.

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. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

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

Discriminatory language is not welcome or tolerated in lectures, seminars, tutorials, or written work. This includes but is not limited to sexist, racist, ethnocentric, ageist, homophobic, or transphobic language.

GRADING SYSTEM

As per the current Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent 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+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	Very good, good and solid 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.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory , or minimally satisfactory . These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of the 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.

OUTCOMES & RESPONSIBILITIES

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

This course has three primary objectives:

- To gain a deeper understanding of the particular geographies of British Columbia
- To develop a deeper understanding of the key theoretical concerns and debates that inform and continue to shape critical and regional geography.
- To allow students to develop a critical appreciation for the complex roles and multiple ways in which geographies are implicated within and woven through our everyday lives.

You can expect to acquire the following skills:

- Classroom Comportment: Do your part to ensure an engaging classroom. Be punctual, respectful, compassionate and attentive.
 - Critical Thinking: by applying seminar discussions and readings through weekly reflections, students will develop an ability to think critically about the geopolitical ideas that have historically shaped and continue to inform political events.
 - Communication: to develop written communication skills through written work, and to develop verbal communication skills and self-confidence through seminar discussions as well as student presentations.
 - Time Management and Personal Responsibility: by attending seminars and by handing in assignments on time.
 - Research and Community Engagement: by completing a group-based community project
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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attending and participating in seminars
 - Reading the required materials. Seriously, you **MUST** do the readings. Seriously!
 - Actively participating in class discussion, demonstrating your critical thinking skills on the readings
 - Infographic and video creation and presentation to the class
 - Writing a final take-home exam
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ASSESSMENT & ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

PARTICIPATION - (10%) – ONGOING THROUGHOUT TERM

- This includes engaging in discussion, asking questions, offering answers, and active listening. This is not an attendance grade, however, if you don't attend it is impossible to participate.
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MIDTERM EXAM – (20%)

- To be completed in-class
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PROVINCIAL SOCIAL ISSUE PROJECT – (40%)

- For this course, you will have the opportunity to work on a group project related to issues faced in our communities while also being connected to course content. The purpose of this assignment is to apply academic knowledge to real-world issues in a process that can benefit both students and the community.
 - In groups, you will choose and work on increasing awareness on a particular issue or topic. (For example, camping in Meegan, housing affordability and covid-related evictions, old growth logging, pipelines, etc.).
 - You will create both an infographic and short video (youtube, or tiktok series) for public consumption in order to present information to individuals in BC and beyond.
 - You will present on this project during the final weeks of class and submit a reflection document.
 - The group presentation will be 20 minutes long (with an addition 5 minutes for questions)
 - As a group, you will discuss your activities and findings and present your work to the class – share your exciting work with us!
 - The group submissions
 - 1st Deliverable: Brainstorming Document (1 per group)
 - 2nd Deliverable: Reflection Assignment (1 per group)
 - 3rd Deliverable: Video and infographic (1 per group)
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TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM – (30%)

- I will post a .pdf file with a series of short (1-2 paragraphs) answer questions and an essay question that you will have time to complete during the final exam period. Questions will be posted online on the 9th and will be due on the 13th of December.
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IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT NOTES:

Assignment: For all assignments use 12 pt. Font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, number pages, and a list of references using the APA guide posted online. **DO NOT include a title page** (save paper!), but **DO** include your title, your name, my name, the course number, and the date at the top of the first page. Staple your paper in the top left corner (**NO FANCY BINDERS!**). Please follow the word length requirement.

Referencing: Students are required to follow the APA style guide posted on CourseSpaces.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

(Subject to revision as the course proceeds)

WEEK	DATE	SEMINAR TOPICS
1	SEP 9	Course Introduction & Introduction to the Provincial Social Issues Project
2	SEP 13 & 16	Physical Geography and Climate Change
3	SEP 20 & 23	Nature, the Environment, and Climate Action
4	SEP 27 & 30	Race, Migration, and the Making of BC
5	OCT 4 & 7	Agriculture and Food Security
6	OCT 11 & 14	October 11: Thanksgiving, no class October 14: Agriculture and Food Security
7	OCT 18 & 21	October 18: Midterm Exam October 21: Project Session
8	OCT 25 & 28	Urban Geography, Housing, and Neoliberalism October 31: Last day to withdraw without penalty
9	NOV 1 & 4	Gender and Intersectionality
10	NOV 8 & 11	Gender and Intersectionality Continued November 11: No class, reading break
11	NOV 15 & 18	Indigeneity and Decolonization
12	NOV 22 & 25	Indigeneity and Decolonization
13	NOV 29 & DEC 2	Class Presentations
14	December 6th	Class Presentations and Review

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

NOTE:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester 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.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* uvic.ca/services/counselling/

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

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* uvic.ca/services/cal/. *The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and 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