

## **GEOG100 - Fall 2017**

### **On Becoming a Geographer**

#### **Class times and location**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30am - 9:50am, Hagey Hall 334

#### **Instructor**

Daniel Cockayne                      EVI, Room 103A  
E-mail:                                      daniel.cockayne@uwaterloo.ca  
Office hours:                              Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30am - 12:00pm

#### **TAs**

TBD

#### **Course description**

GEOG100 provides an introduction to the variety of themes and methods of inquiry found within the discipline of geography. Emphasis is placed on the practical skills required for success in the Geography and Environmental Management program. These skills include literature searches, citation, reading skills, empirical field observation, scholarly debate, research design, and academic writing. The course provides information to help students navigate and ensure success throughout their undergraduate university experience, including program information and university resources available to students.

#### **Course objectives**

- Develop an appreciation for the variety of approaches to geographic inquiry.
- Understand some of the concepts that unify geography as a discipline—concepts of place, human and physical landscape interpretation, and cartography.
- Appreciate the diversity of human and physical landscapes of the region of Waterloo while developing geographic field research skills.
- Learn key geographic facts and terms.
- Hone academic reading, writing and referencing skills.
- Know how to create an individualized study plan that links with career objectives.

#### **Course modules** (*Subject to change*):

The course is divided into a series of modules, each highlighting a specific strand of geographic knowledge and information to help you succeed in your undergraduate program. The modules are as follows:

*Module 1: Reading, writing, citing.* This module provides students with the resources to develop their writing, research, and referencing skills at the university level. Students will also learn about the resources available through the library and writing center. The information in this module links to the essay writing assessment piece.

*Module 2: Field work in geography.* This module introduces students to the human and physical landscapes of the region, and develops field observation and report writing skills. Students will be expected to begin thinking about the practicalities of empirical research design.

*Module 3: Geography resources.* Students will be provided with practical tips and information on their studying habits, program of study, additional certification options, and access to resources on and off campus that include Career Services and Mental Health Services.

*Module 4: Geography as a discipline.* Lectures will focus on the history of geography as a practice and discipline. Students will be introduced to the key approaches, methods, and scholars within the discipline.

*Module 5: Key ideas in geography.* Lectures will focus on some of the key concepts, ideas, and questions that animate the discipline, including, most foundationally, those of space, place, and landscape.

*Module 6: Debates and methods in geography.* Lectures will focus on the relationship between physical and human geography, nature-society relations, and the relationship between different qualitative and quantitative methods in geography.

*Module 7: Empirical inquiry in geography.* This module integrates field trip with lecture content to examine different topics across physical and human geography, including observing social and cultural phenomena in the field, and physical and geomorphological processes on the landscape.

*Module 8: Geography and the map.* Lecture content will focus on the map as a representational system, aesthetic order and logic, and complex object within geographical thought and practice.

### **Evaluation**

Field trip reports (see weekly schedule for due dates) **(total = 30%)**:

- Field trip #1 (worth 5%)
- Field trip #2 (worth 10%)
- Field trip #3 (worth 10%)
- Field trip #4 (worth 10%)
- Field trip #5 (worth 5%)

Argumentative essay assignment **(total = 25%)**:

- Argumentative essay draft (worth 5%)
- One-on-one discussion about essay with instructor (worth 5%)
- Revised argumentative essay (worth 15%)

Citation exercise **(total = 5%)**:

- To be completed on LEARN.

Term test on selected lecture content **(total = 22%)**:

- Held in class.

Class participation **(total = 8%)**:

- Five activities worth 2% each, top four marks count (see weekly schedule for dates).

Group presentation **(total = 5%)**:

- See schedule for group participation dates.

### **Assessment notes**

Policy for late submission: assignments submitted after the announced deadline will be reduced by five units per day (on a 0-100 grade scale). The instructor reserves the right to waive this deduction if the student presents documentation to support a valid reason for submitting an assignment late. These include medical reasons, personal or family emergency, or other valid reasons beyond the control of the student (to be approved on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor).

All field trips, including reports, and the group presentation require the collaboration of all students in each group; all other elements of student evaluation in this course require independent work by each student.

All sources used in the preparation of student work in this course must be acknowledged through academic citation in an appropriate way. Full detail will be given in class.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Unclaimed assignments

Unclaimed assignments will be retained until one month after term grades become official in quest. After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

### Academic integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. The University's guiding principles on academic integrity can be found here: [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity).

ENV students are strongly encouraged to review the material provided by the university's Academic Integrity office specifically for students: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/Students/index.html>.

Students are also expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their actions. Student who are unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who need help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Students may also visit this webpage: <https://uwaterloo.ca/library/get-assignment-and-research-help/academic-integrity/academicintegrity-tutorial>.

When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70 - Student Grievance: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>.

### Research ethics

Please also note that the University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office's Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines) as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, the please contact the course instructor for guidance and see <https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics>.

### Note for students with disabilities

The AccessAbility Office located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AccessAbility Office at the beginning of each academic term.

### Mental health

The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment, and our Department's consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and/or emotional. **Please note that help is available.** Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services ([www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling))

[services](#)) is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

### **Religion observances**

Student needs to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

### **Grievance**

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

### **Appeals**

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

### **LEARN**

Course information will be accessible on the LEARN platform. Users can login to LEARN via: <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>. Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password. Documentation for LEARN is available at: [http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training\\_documentation/index.html](http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training_documentation/index.html).

LEARN is a web-based course management system that enables instructors to manage course materials (posting of lecture notes etc.), interact with their students (drop boxes for student submissions, on-line quizzes, discussion boards, course e-mail etc.), and provide feedback (grades, assignment comments etc.). The degree to which LEARN is utilized in a particular course is left to the discretion of the instructor and therefore, you may find a large variance in how LEARN is being used from course to another.