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## COURSE OUTLINE

# GEOGRAPHY OF CANADA

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LECTURES: Mondays and Thursdays, 13:00-14:20, in room COR B107

Office Hours: Thursdays, 14:00-16:00

Office Location: DTB B210

Contact: [camo@uvic.ca](mailto:camo@uvic.ca)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the physical, cultural, and political geography of Canada through a focus on the concept of *place* or “meaningful space”. Each class uses particular places as jumping off points for students to develop their skills and competencies in geographical inquiry while learning tons about Canada and Canadians. In the first half of the course, students will focus on the physical geographic setting and the complexity of human / environment relationships (i.e. settlement and development patterns, environmental and climate change, “natural hazards”). In the second half, we turn to explore complex questions around the promotion and contestation of Canadian national identity as it plays out on the ground in various places of various scales. We identify how the complex historical and contemporary social setting characterized by a diverse population, strong regional identification, polarized politics, and the ongoing legacy of colonialism and Indigenous resurgence, confounds simple, agreed upon understandings of what Canada is, who Canadians are, who Canadian spaces are for, and what our collective future trajectory should be. The course involves lectures, videos, representations of Canadian art and music, group discussions, and at least one field excursion. Intending neither to be bombastically patriotic nor treasonously cynical, this course will inspire important new ways of seeing “Canada” and being “Canadian”.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course presents an opportunity to learn about the geography of Canada, but more importantly an opportunity to develop certain skills and cultivate good habits. Specifically, disciplined and focused students will leave this course:

1. Recognizing the value of geographic inquiry and the ability to marshal geographic concepts and approaches to understanding Canada (and the world more generally).
2. With a more nuanced understanding of the concept of “place” and how places shape and our shaped and contested through our collective lived experiences.
3. With a more nuanced understanding of how the physical environment along with other

9. A better appreciation of the importance of a critical education for one's own well-being and civic responsibility (i.e. recognition of one's own linkages to Canadian concerns and solutions).
10. Better habits in terms of discipline, focus, intentionality, consistency, organization, confidence, courage, conscientiousness, empathy, and dedication.

KEY THEMES: Canada, Canadians, physical geography, human geography, environment, settlement, development, nationalism, regionalism, social faultlines, identity/ies, art, sovereignty, Indigenous resurgence

#### REQUIRED AND / OR RECOMMENDED TEXT(S)

There are no required texts for this course. A series of required readings (journal articles, book chapters, actual assessment documents and other sources) will be available online (for example through the UVic Library or posted on [CourseSpaces](#)) and should be read thoroughly and brought to your class. Reading effectively is absolutely essential for success in this course. Along with lecture material, assigned readings will be tested on

## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

Geography Department website: [uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/](http://uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/)

## NOTES ON SELF-CARE:

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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

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| Week 1 | Jan 6 - Course overview<br>Jan 9 - Place, Places, & Canada's Place |
| Week 2 |  |