

## **GEOG 2090 – Space Exploration Course Outline**

### **Section: Online**

### **Fall 2019**

#### **1. Course Information**

##### 1.1. Classroom Location:

Class Location and Time: Online (Material typically posted Mondays)

##### 1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Danny Bednar, PhD

Email: [dbednar@uwo.ca](mailto:dbednar@uwo.ca)

Twitter: @DannyBednar

Course Hashtag: #Space2090

Teaching Assistants:

Armin Ahmadi, email: [aahma2@uwo.ca](mailto:aahma2@uwo.ca)

Kristin Painter, email : [kpainte3@uwo.ca](mailto:kpainte3@uwo.ca)

#### **2. Calendar Description**

##### 2.1. Course Description

Survey of human activity in outer space, including history of spaceflight, scientific exploration, economic and military uses of space, natural resources and hazards, legal and ethical implications, and plausible future developments.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): none

Prerequisite(s): none

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

##### 2.2. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

### 3. Textbook

None, select readings will be posted online

### 4. Course Objectives and Format

- The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the history and present of human engagement with space, including the planets, and other bodies throughout our solar system. The course aims to reveal to students the accomplishments of human and robotic spaceflight and introduce them to major issues in space exploration.

### 5. Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the advancement of human engagement with non-Earth spaces and how these engagements have interacted with other processes in society historically and geographically
- Summarize the key discoveries and findings of major space exploration programs and the evolution of humanity's scientific understanding of the solar system
- Evaluate the value and repercussions of past, present, and future space exploration and space technologies to society
- Recognize the challenges associated with human and robotic exploration of our solar system

### 6. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Quiz #1	7%	Sept. 23
Quiz #2	7%	Oct. 7
Forum Posting #1*	15%	Oct. 7
Project Check-in	14%	Oct. 21
Quiz #3	7%	Nov. 11
Quiz #4*	8%*	Nov. 25*
Forum Posting #2*	15%	Nov. 25
Final Project	35%	Dec. 2

- *Forum Post marking may take 2+ weeks due to TA constraints.*

*\*\*Optional Quiz – To be taken if student is dropping Quiz 1, 2, or 3.*

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned readings

Non-medical absences will not be grounds for makeups, unless approved by the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the missed assignment or quiz.

For Western's NEW [Policy on Accommodation for Illnesses](#) please refer to the Academic Calendar' section on [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#).

## Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability. Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

**Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.**

## **7. Make-up Examinations**

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled exam, otherwise the instructor will assign a grade of zero.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

Quizzes will be posted online for 48 hours. If the student does not take the quiz before it expires, there will be no opportunity to retake it unless approved by the Academic Counselling Office.

## **8. Use of Electronic Devices**

As this is an online course, practically everything will be done with an electronic device. So, evidently, electronic devices are allowed.

## **9. Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholastic Offence](#).

Copying and pasting text from a website, verbatim, without quotations and direct reference to the original author is considered plagiarism. The final project must include original writing by the student, with only select, or limited instances, of properly referenced quotations if desired..

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

## **10. Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

## **11. Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

## **12. Support Services**

[Western's Support Services](#)  
[Student Development Centre](#)

## **13. Important Dates**

September 5: Classes resume

September 9" First GEOG: 2090 Class

September 13: Last day to add a first term half course

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 4 to November 10: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without penalty

December 5: Classes end

December 6 and 7: Study days

December 8-19: Examination Period