

Geography 3800-100: U.S and Canada

Course Syllabus, Fall Semester 2008

CNR 46096

Instructor: Dr. Lucius Hallett IV

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Office Hours: M/W 3:30-4:30, Thurs. 2-4

Thursday 4:00-6:30

Rood Hall 3309

Course Overview and Objectives

This course examines the significance of cultural and physical phenomena of the U.S. and Canada. Various geographic themes such as *migration*, *urbanization*, *globalization*, *NAFTA*, *transportation*, *tourism*, etc. will be addressed within the context of selected regions (i.e. The Great Plains, The North Pacific Coast, Appalachia, etc.) to provide a broader understanding of the interrelationships between physical and cultural landscapes. It is hoped that students will come away from the course with a greater appreciation for the discipline of geography and be able to view the somewhat familiar landscapes of the U.S. and Canada with a newfound interest and the tools necessary to understand the differences and similarities found in this corner of the world.

Required Materials

Birdsall, S., E. J. Palka, J. Malinowski, M. Price. *Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada*, 7th ed. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 2009.

Additional material will be posted to Blackboard (eLearning)

Optional Materials

A World Atlas such as Goodes World Atlas, 21st ed. New York: John Wiley & Sons

Grading

This is a course which meets only once a week, or 15 times this semester, thus it becomes very hard to test your comprehension of the material in a way that is both fair, and allows me to respond to problems. I do not wish to test you at the start of a new class period because this requires those of you who finish early to leave and then come back at a prescribed time. Nor do I wish to test you at the end of a class period because you will be thinking of the material on the exam and not on that of the lecture. What to do?..... We will have **FOUR** quizzes, **ONE MID-TERM**, and **ONE COMPREHENSIVE FINAL!!** Class participation will play a role as well as map exercises and commentary on several issues of importance.

MID-TERM

FINAL

QUIZZES

PARTICIPATION ETC.

100 POINTS

200 POINTS

25 POINTS EACH

100 Points

500 TOTAL POINTS

There will also be opportunity for extra credit. **BUT..... NO MISSED MATERIAL CAN BE MADE-UP!! EXCEPTIONS ONLY FOR UNIVERSITY EXCUSED ABSENCE!** If you wish to know your grade to date, check your portal under my grades. The letter grading scale for the course is as follows:

A	93.0 percent or more
BA	88.0 – 92.9
B	83.0 – 87.9
CB	78.0 – 82.9
C	72.0 – 77.9
DC	68.0 – 71.9
D	60.0 – 67.9
E (Fail)	Below 59.9

September 4	Class overview, Introduction, Regions and Themes	Chapter One
September 11	Regions and Themes Physical Geography of US and Canada	Chapter One Chapter Two
September 18	Foundations of Human Activity- Quiz 1	Chapter Three
September 25	Megalopolis	Chapter Four
October 2	Manufacturing Core - Quiz 2	Chapter Five
October 9	Canada's National Core The Bypassed East	Chapter Six Chapter Seven
October 16	Mid-term	
October 23	Appalachia and the Ozarks	Chapter Eight
October 30	The changing South The Southern Coastlands: on the subtropical margins	Chapter Nine Chapter Ten
November 6	The Agricultural Core- Quiz 3	Chapter Eleven
November 13	The Great Plains and Prairies	Chapter Twelve
November 20	The Empty Interior – Quiz 4	Chapter Thirteen
November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday- NO Class	
December 4	The Southwest Border Area: Tricultural Development California	Chapter Fourteen Chapter Fifteen
December 11	FINAL EXAM - 5:00 – 7:00 Comprehensive Chapters One - Fifteen	REGULAR CLASSROOM

A Quick note on cheating

The Faculty Senate Executive Board has suggested that the following statement regarding academic integrity be included in all syllabi:

“You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include

cheating, fabricating, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse [policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is a reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge (s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.” Please don’t do it!!

Course background

As a student, I most respected those teachers who seemed organized, but also allowed time and opportunities for discussion. I very much hope that this course will meet these dual goals. The syllabus is intended to let you know where we are at and where we are going during the course year, but I also want students to feel free to ask questions and share opinions in every class. If discussions take us a bit off schedule, that is fine. I have responsibilities to the class as a whole. I will be well prepared and open to discussion at any time in the lecture, right after class, or during office hours. You can raise your hand at any time. I will also spend as much time as you wish out of class helping you in any way I can to help you master the material. It is far better to spend some moments with me early than to get lost and struggle, so feel free to speak with me.

Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact Ms. Beth Denhartigh at 387-2116 or email beth.denhartigh@wmich at the beginning of the semester. That office must make a disability determination before the instructor provides any accommodations.

Library assistance:

For assistance in locating articles, books and additional reference materials relevant to the class contact Michael McDonnell, Library Liaison to the Geography Department. Phone: 387-5208. Email: Michael.McDonnell@wmich.edu, Room 2030, Second Floor, Waldo Library.

Please refer to the general academic rules for the University, available in the Code of Student Conflict <http://www.osc.wmich.edu/studentcode/>.