

Geography of the United States and Canada

GEO305: Spring 2013, Section 201, CRN 3544

No prerequisites, 3 credit hours

Instructor: James Leonard, Ph.D.	Time: Mon., Wed., Fri. 12:00-12:50pm
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Hello, and welcome to our tour of North America (Canada, USA, and a bit of Mexico). I hope that GEO305 United States and Canada will surprise, entertain, and enlighten you while you learn about the people and places of North America. I enjoy learning as I teach this class. GEO305 starts on 14 Jan. and ends 3 May. Please check the university academic calendar for the course drop dates.

Description from catalog:

Survey of physical, historical, population, economic, political, cultural, and regional geographies of Canada and the United States. International issues involving Mexico also considered. No prerequisites. 3 credit hours.

Course objectives:

This course meets General Education Core requirement: International Studies (3 credit hours). This course meets General Education Core requirement: Writing Intensive (3 credit hours).

Course Learning Outcomes	How students will practice each outcome	How student achievement will be assessed
Students will write to learn.	Reading journals, in-class writings	Reading journals, participation assignments
Students will improve their writing.	Reading journals, in-class writings, annotated atlas project	Essay exams, annotated atlas project
Students will recall the locations of states, territories, provinces, important cities, and important physical features of North America.	Assigned readings, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software exercises, textbook exercises, class discussion, annotated atlas project, and participation	Map quizzes
Students will analyze the interactions (such as economic, political, and immigration) among the United States and Canada and their peoples .	Critical thinking exercises, class discussion, map exercises, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software exercises, annotated atlas project, and readings	Essay exams, annotated atlas project
Students will distinguish cultures within and between the countries considered in this course.	Critical thinking exercises, textbook exercises, class discussion, annotated atlas project, and readings	Textbook exercises, annotated atlas project, essay exams
Students will describe the urban, cultural, economic, political, and physical geography of the United States and Canada.	Critical thinking exercises, reading journals, class discussion, map exercises, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software exercises, and readings	Textbook exercises, annotated atlas project

Required readings:

1. Bennett, D.Gordon, Jeffrey C. Patton, and James M. Leonard. 2011. *The United States and Canada: A Systematic Approach*, 5th ed. Salem, Wisconsin: Sheffield Publishing. This book costs about \$35. Do not use earlier editions. If you want to re-sell this textbook, do not write on the exercise pages.

2. Bone, Robert. 2011. *The Regional Geography of Canada*, 5th edition, Oxford UP Canada. Do not use earlier editions. The book costs about \$75 for a new one, but used ones can be found for half this cost.
3. Readings distributed in class (free for use in GEO305).
 - Bennett, D.Gordon, Jeffrey C. Patton, and James M. Leonard. 2013. "Part III Cities and Towns" from *Applied Human Geography*, 8th ed., Kendall Hunt.
 - Bennett, D.Gordon, Jeffrey C. Patton, and James M. Leonard. 2013. "Part IV Livelihoods" from *Applied Human Geography*, 8th ed., Kendall Hunt.

Bring the readings to every class. We will often refer to maps and figures and will use the texts for exercises.

Time Inside and Outside of Class:

Class time will consist of one or more of the following: 1) slideshow presentations of relevant topics of United States' and Canadian geography, generally following the readings; 2) writing exercises; 3) textbook and computer exercises; 4) discussion of readings and geography topics; 5) videos illustrating geography in action; 6) field research. You must attend every class! This class consists of more than class attendance. Expect to spend six hours outside class each week to get a grade of C.

Structure of the course:

This course is divided into three Units. Each Unit consists of:

- Class attendance, in-class writing, short assignments, and participation
- Readings completed outside class time
- Reading journals completed outside class time
- In-class lectures, discussions, and exercises
- Annotated Atlas of Canada work
- A map quiz
- An exam

Grading:

Your grade in this class will consist of:

- one map quiz will count for 30 points
- contributions to an Annotated Atlas of Canada for 100 points (about 60 points from writing and revision)
- ten reading journals for 170 points (170 points from low-stakes writing to learn)
- three unit exams completed during class time (30 multiple choice points + 30 essay points = 60 points each) for 180 points (90 points from high-stakes writing)
- class participation, in-class writing, and short assignments for 120 points (about 70 points from low-stakes writing to learn)

Your final grade will be calculated using the following scale, based on the total number of points you have accumulated:

- A = 600 - 546 points (100-91%)
- B = 545 - 486 (90-81%)
- C = 485 - 426 (80-71%)
- D = 425 - 390 (70-65%)
- F = 389 and below (less than 65%)

To check most grades, please use MUOnline. Multiple choice quiz and exam grades are available there immediately upon completion. For written work such as exam essays, reading journals, and elements of the Atlas, I will post grades within about one week of submission. Check with me anytime for your in-class activity and participation grade, which

won't get posted until final exam week. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades in this class and rectify any problems immediately. Make the best use of assigned class material, because no grades will be scaled or curved and no extra credit assignments are given.

Reading journals

Reading journals are low-stakes write-to-learn assignments. By low-stakes, I mean that you complete them on your own time without the pressure of, say, an essay exam. By write-to-learn, I mean that you will be summarizing your assigned readings and reflecting on the readings. The reading journals take the place of multiple choice quizzes. In addition, they allow you to interact with the course material in a way that promotes active learning.

Annotated Atlas of Canada

You will contribute to an Annotated Atlas of Canada, which will blend reading summaries, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps, and photos with their captions. By “contribute” I mean that you will work independently and your work will be incorporated with others’ final products to create an Annotated Atlas with a variety of maps, photos/captions, and annotation. Your writing for the Atlas will be revised and will count for about 60% of the grade for the Atlas. Extensive instructions will be given in class.

Quiz and Exams

An unannounced map quiz comes right at the beginning of the course to set a benchmark for recalling the locations of states, territories, provinces, important cities, and important physical features of North America. Don't panic about this pop quiz. The quiz will be repeated and unannounced in Unit two and again in Unit three. Your highest grade, which I assume will be the last one, will count. Unit exams are completed during class time and consist of two equal parts: 1) multiple choice and true/false questions using MUOnline; 2) essay.

Class participation, in-class writing, and short assignments

Class attendance is a must to accumulate these points. We engage in a variety of activities from textbook and computer exercises, to short writing-to-learn papers and field research.

Schedule

Each Unit of the course has deadlines for finishing the material. You will have items to complete each week. Class participation and short assignments are not listed below. Deadlines for them will be given in class. Homework submissions are due at the beginning of class on the day listed. Exams are completed during class time. Please consult the *Schedule* on a regular basis to check the deadlines for all material. No work may be submitted after the deadlines.

Class topic or Assignment	Deadline
<i>Unit 1</i>	
Introduction lecture	
Reading journal 1 (<i>The United States and Canada: A Systematic Approach</i> ch. 1)	Wed., 23 Jan.
Google Earth ch. 1	????
Canadian regions lecture	
Reading journal 2 (<i>The Regional Geography of Canada</i> ch. 1)	Wed., 30 Jan.
Landforms and Natural Resources lecture	
Google Earth ch. 2 - ?????	?????
Reading journal 3 (<i>The United States and Canada: A Systematic Approach</i> ch. 2)	Wed., 6 Feb.
Climate, Vegetation, Soils lecture	
	Mon., 11

Reading journal 4 (<i>The United States and Canada: A Systematic Approach</i> ch. 3)	Feb.
Google Earth ch. 3 - Mon., 11 Feb.	Wed., 13 Feb.
Annotated Atlas of Canada - GIS Warm Up activity - Wed., 13 Feb.; followed by quiz	Fri., 15 Feb.
Exam 1 (Reading Journal <i>The Regional Geography of Canada</i> ch. 2; plus multiple choice)	Mon., 18 Feb.
Unit 2	
Annotated Atlas of Canada - map creation - Wed., 20 Feb.	Fri., 22 Feb.
Settlement and Expansion lecture	
Reading journal 5 (read <i>The United States and Canada: A Systematic Approach</i> ch. 4)	Wed., 27 Feb.
Google Earth ch. 4 - Wed., 27 Feb.	Fri., 1 Mar.
Annotated Atlas of Canada - annotation - Mon., 4 Mar.	Fri., 8 Mar.
Government, Canadian faultlines, culture, and population lecture	
Annotated Atlas of Canada - peer review	Wed., 13 Mar.
Reading journal 6 (<i>The Regional Geography of Canada</i> ch. 3)	Fri., 15 Mar.
Instructor conference, no class meeting	Fri., 15 Mar.
Annotated Atlas of Canada - photos/captions - Mon., 25 Mar.	Wed., 27 Mar.
Annotated Atlas of Canada - annotation revision due	Wed., 27 Mar.
Reading journal 7 (<i>The United States and Canada: A Systematic Approach</i> ch. 5)	Mon., 1 Apr.
Google Earth ch. 5 - Mon., 1 Apr.	Wed., 3 Apr.
Exam 2 (Reading Journal <i>The Regional Geography of Canada</i> ch. 4 up to Economy; plus multiple choice)	Fri., 5 Apr.
Unit 3	
Urban geography lecture	
Reading journal 8 ("Part III: Cities and Towns" from <i>Applied Human Geography</i>)	Fri., 12 Apr.
Urban geography field work - Fri., 12 Apr.; followed by presentations	Mon., 15 Apr.
Urban geography field work - Wed., 17 Apr.; followed by presentations	Fri., 19 Apr.
Economic geography lecture	
Reading journal 9 (<i>The United States and Canada: A Systematic Approach</i> ch. 6 AND <i>The Regional Geography of Canada</i> ch. 4 Economy to the end)	Mon., 22 Apr.

Economic geography fieldwork - Mon., 22 Apr.; followed by presentations	Wed., 24 Apr.
Reading journal 10 ("Part IV: Livelihoods" from <i>Applied Human Geography</i>)	Mon., 29 Apr.
Exam 3 (multiple choice)	Fri., 3 May

Academic Honesty

University policy states that any act of a dishonorable nature which gives the student engaged in it an unfair advantage over others engaged in the same or similar course of study is prohibited. You must do your own work inside and outside of this class. Cheating in this class is prohibited. Plagiarism is the use of another's thoughts, ideas, sentences, illustrations, pictures, usw., without giving credit to the originator. Please read the information about Marshall's policy on cheating and plagiarism by searching <http://www.marshall.edu>. If you do not understand what plagiarism or cheating are, please consult appropriate sources for more information. If you are still unsure, ask me in advance!

Jesus said: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." By that quote I mean that in my class, you will receive a severe penalty for cheating or plagiarism, however minor, ranging from assignment grade of zero and one letter course grade reduction for cheating or plagiarizing on a reading journal or exercise to a final grade of F for cheating or plagiarizing on an exam or the Annotated Atlas. In addition, University sanctions for academic dishonesty include a permanent record of your dishonesty, suspension from the institution for one year for the second offense, and dismissal from the institution for the third offense. Please read more about my policies on MUOnline.

Attendance Policy:

Absences threaten your chance of success in this class. You must attend every class. Class participation will count for part of your grade. You are solely responsible for your attendance and participation. I do not accept unexcused absences. I follow University policy for excused absences. You must provide adequate documentation for any excused absence. Missing two weeks or more (excused or unexcused) probably means failure in this class. You will be held to the highest standards in regard to attendance, participation, and punctuality. Please read more about my policies on MUOnline.

University policies:

By enrolling in this course, you agree to these University Policies: Academic Dishonesty, Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates, Computing Services Acceptable Use, Inclement Weather, Dead Week, Students with Disabilities, Academic Forgiveness, Academic Probation and Suspension, Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students, Affirmative Action, and Sexual Harassment. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on "Marshall University Policies."