

# Geography of the United States and Canada

GEO305: Spring 2013, Section 201, CRN 2\_\_\_\_\_

No prerequisites, 3 credit hours

Instructor: James Leonard, Ph.D.	Time: Mon., Wed. 3:00-4:15pm
Phone: (304) 696-4626	Place: HH236
Office HH208: Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30-11:00am; M 5:30-6:30pm; or by appointment	email: <a href="mailto:leonard@marshall.edu">leonard@marshall.edu</a>

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 6 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 counts for 3 credit hours of International Studies. This course counts for 3 credits of Writing Intensive. As you complete the course material, you will be asked to:

- Write to learn
- Improve your writing
- Recall the locations of states, territories, provinces, important cities, and important physical features of North America.
- Analyze the interactions (such as economic, political, and immigration) among the United States and Canada and their peoples using critical thinking skills and geographic tools such as maps, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, and readings.
- Distinguish cultures within and between the countries considered in this course.
- Describe the urban, cultural, economic, political, and physical geography of the United States and Canada.
- Contribute to an atlas of Canada created by this class.

## 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. You may use either the 4th or 5th edition for this course. Do not use earlier editions. Prices range from \$1 for used copies of the 4th edition to \$85 for a new 5th edition.
3. A course packet of readings (about \$35).
  - o Kuby, M., J. Harner, and P. Gober, Chapter 9 "Take Me Out to the Ballgame: Market Areas and the Urban Hierarchy" from *Human Geography in Action*, 5th ed. Wiley, 2010.
  - o Kuby, M., J. Harner, and P. Gober, Chapter 10 "Reading the Urban Landscape: Census Data and Field Observation" from *Human Geography in Action*, 5th ed. Wiley, 2010.

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) presentations of relevant topics of United States' and Canadian geography, generally following the readings; 2) textbook, written and computer exercises; 3) discussion of readings and geography topics; 4) videos illustrating geography in action; 5) possible field trip/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
- An exam

Unit one (only) has a map quiz.

### **Grading:**

Your grade in this class will consist of:

- one map quiz for 30 points
- contributions to an Annotated Atlas of Canada for 100 points (about 60 points from writing and revision)
- ten reading journals for 70 points (70 points from low-stakes writing to learn)
- three unit exams completed during class time (60 points each) for 180 points
- 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 = 500 - 460 points (100-92%)
- B = 459 - 415 (91-83%)
- C = 414 - 370 (82-74%)
- D = 369 - 325 (73-65%)
- F = 324 and below (less than 65%)

To check most grades, please use MUOnline. Quiz and exam grades are available upon completion. I will post reading journals grades within about one week of submission. I will post Atlas grades about one week after final revisions. Check with me anytime for your participation and Atlas grade. 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 that promotes active learning.

### *Annotated Atlas of Canada*

As one part of this course, you will contribute to an Annotated Atlas of Canada. The Annotated Atlas will blend reading summaries, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps, and photos with their captions. By “contribute to an Atlas” 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*

The map quiz comes right at the beginning of the course to set the geographic context for the remainder of the course. You may take it using MUOnline as often as you like before the deadline; the highest

grade will count. Unit exams consist of multiple choice and true/false questions using MUOnline during class time.

### *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. Please consult the *Schedule* on a regular basis to check the deadlines for all material. No work may be submitted after the deadlines. Exams are completed during class time. Class participation and short assignments are not listed below. Deadlines for them will be given in class.

Assignment	Deadline
<i>Unit 1</i>	
Introduction, Canadian regions (read Bennett, Patton and Leonard ch. 1; Bone ch. 1)	
Reading journal 1	Wed., 23 Jan.
Map Quiz	Wed., 23 Jan.
Reading journal 2	Wed., 30 Jan.
Physical geography (read Bennett, Patton, and Leonard ch. 2 & 3; Bone ch. 2)	
Reading journal 3	Mon., 4 Feb.
Reading journal 4	Wed., 6 Feb.
Annotated Atlas of Canada - GIS Warm Up activity	
Exam 1	Wed., 13 Feb.
<i>Unit 2</i>	
Annotated Atlas of Canada - map creation	
Settlement (read Bennett, Patton, and Leonard ch. 4; Bone ch. 3 up to Faultlines section)	
Reading journal 5	Mon., 25 Feb.
Annotated Atlas of Canada - annotation	

Government, Canadian faultlines, culture, and population (read Bennet, Patton, and Leonard ch. 5; Bone ch. 3 Faultlines to end; Bone ch. 4 up to Economy)	
Reading journal 6	Mon., 4 Mar.
Annotated Atlas of Canada - photos/captions	
Reading journal 7	Mon., 11 Feb.
Field trip to _____, no classes this week	Mon., 25 Mar.
Exam 2	Mon., 1 Apr.
<i>Unit 3</i>	
Cities (read Kuby et al. ch. 9 and 10)	
Reading journal 8	Mon., 8 Apr.
Reading journal 9	Mon., 15 Apr.
Cities field work	
Economy (read Bennett, Patton, and Leonard ch. 6; Bone ch. 4 Economy to the end)	
Reading journal 10	Wed., 27 Feb.
Exam 3	Wed., 1 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, ranging from zero for cheating on a reading journal to a final grade of F for cheating or plagiarism, however minor, 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 4 days 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.

## **Other University policies:**

University policies concerning equal opportunity/affirmative action, students with disabilities, inclement weather, withdrawal and refunds, academic honesty, acceptable computer usage, grade appeals, sexual harassment, and much more are available online at <http://www.marshall.edu>.