

## GEOG3770 / ENVR3000 Special Topics What is North? Geographic and Environmental Concepts

Department of Environment and Geography  
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources  
University of Manitoba

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### Contact Information

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*Depending on day/time, appointments may be held in either 224 St John's OR 444 Wallace.*  
Course time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-3:45pm  
Room: 125 St John's College

Style Guide Preference: APA style and formatting. For reference please go to:  
<http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/c.php?g=298394>

### Course Description and Delivery

How we think about a place is influenced by many sources of information: e.g., formal education, traditional knowledge, myths and fables, family/community stories, creativeimagery/art, novels and films, as well as direct experience. Conceptions of place evolveand change with new information and over time, both for individuals and for communities/societies. Some views may become dominant and have greater influence, for example, on social movements, on political action, or environmental policy, at particular points in time or in specific locales. As such – how we think about a place like 'The North' shapes our individual and, perhaps more importantly, *collective* understanding of this environment, its resources, wildlife, and the people who live there. This course is an exploration of this changeable '*geographical imagination of the North*', and how this 'imagined North' influences actions in, and uses made of, northern environments. While the predominant focus will be on the Canadian North, scholarship and examples from other regions will be included as appropriate.

This course will develop in each student a greater depth and breadth of understanding appropriate to an upper-level undergraduate course in geographic and environmental scholarship. It requires a mature approach and positive commitment to reviewing the assigned materials and coming to class prepared for discussion. Generally, the first meetingof the week will be a discussion/ presentation facilitated by the instructor but reliant on student preparation and active engagement. Normally the second meeting of the week will be a discussion of materials made available for review via UMLearn, which for any given week/topic may include assigned academic readings, on-line materials such as reports and news articles, film, video and some literature and/or art (e.g., poems, short stories, maps, paintings and sculpture, and photography).

### Course Objectives

- To provide a critical overview and examination of scholarship from a variety of perspectives in order to develop a more detailed and nuanced conception of 'the North' for each student
- To increase students' overall understanding of methods, concepts andinformation sources used in geographic/environmental research.
- To increase students' skills in the analysis, critique and writing of scholarly papers.
- To increase students' public speaking and presentation skills

\*\*\* A detailed weekly Course Schedule indicating required readings and other materials will be distributed at the first meeting of class and is also available on UMLearn

### Student Evaluation

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Participation</b>               | <b>10%</b>                    |
| <b>Quizzes</b>                     | <b>4 x 10% (40% in total)</b> |
| <b>Term Research Paper</b>         | <b>30%</b>                    |
| <b>Research Paper Presentation</b> | <b>20%</b>                    |

**Participation – Class Attendance and Contribution – 10%**

Your presence and participation in the course is vital to your success. While materials are posted to UMLearn, this is NOT a replacement for attending lectures, discussions, and showing of media, that can only occur when we are together in the classroom. This mark is based on attendance checks and participation in discussion.

**Quizzes – 4x10% (40%)**

Reading and critically evaluating the assigned readings (and associated web resources and media) are also central to your success in the course. Materials accessed via UMLearn, as well as class, are the basis for quizzes that will be held 4 times through the term (see Course Schedule for dates).

The quizzes are designed to ensure familiarity with the class materials and resources, and to help guide your analysis of the readings/resources themselves.

Evaluative Feedback: Written comments at times, and the quiz grade. At least one quiz will be complete and feedback received before the term VW deadline.

\*\*\*Missed quizzes generally cannot be made up and students will normally receive a zero on any missed quiz.

**Term Research Paper - 30%**

- 8-10 pages of text (does not include references, tables etc.,)
- 12-point font, double-spaced, approved style.
- 10 references minimum (scholarly sources are required: e.g., journal articles, books, chapters in books, relevant web-articles or website information from reputable sources).
- Students select the topic and are strongly encouraged to discuss their choice with the instructor before committing to their topic.
- Papers will be submitted to the UMLearn Dropbox. Evaluative feedback will be returned via UMLearn.
- A late penalty of 2% of the earned grade will be in effect for each day the paper is late, unless an extension has been granted prior to the due date. No extensions will be given after the assignment due date.

**Research Paper Presentation - 20%: To be scheduled during the final 2 weeks of class**

This presentation is based the research paper produced for this course.

Think of it as an opportunity to creatively share what you have investigated with your colleagues. The presentation can take any one of the following forms:

1. A lecture-style oral presentation: traditional public speaking; should include some form of audio-visual aide (e.g., handouts, overheads); may include some kind of activity for the audience.
  2. A PowerPoint presentation: flexible - can be stand-alone or interactive; opportunity to easily use multi-media (images, text, music etc.,) to convey information.
  3. A video presentation: creative possibilities are expanded re: conveying what you learned in your term paper; possibility to convey experiences or conditions on film that are more difficult to do in the other two presentation forms.
  4. Other forms of creative communication. Please discuss with the instructor well ahead for approval.
- Each presentation, regardless of format, will be no more than 15 minutes in length, and will: 1) demonstrate the purpose of, or position taken in, your research paper; 2) provide meaningful, relevant information to support the purpose of, or position taken in your paper; 3) provide information in a well-organized and meaningful manner; and, 4) encourage classmates to ask questions.

Evaluative feedback will be sent individually to each student via UMLearn. All students are required to give a presentation – failing to do so will mean a loss of this 20% of the course grade. Please see below re: Student Accessibility Services regarding any need for accommodations for an oral presentation requirement.

**Grades**

The grades for each quiz will be available as soon as possible (normally about 1 week). All quiz papers will be returned to students with the grade clearly noted, and with some commentary (as necessary) from the instructor.

The following is the standard grade scheme used in the Department of Environment and Geography:

A+ = 90 % +  
A = 80-89%  
B+ = 75-79%  
B = 70-74%  
C+ = 65-69%  
C = 60-64%  
D = 50-59%  
F = < 50%

*What if Something Goes Wrong?*

Students are responsible for any missed information or materials. The instructor does not have notes available for students. The instructor is available to answer questions – make an appointment and come see me. If you will miss a quiz date or paper due-date, you MUST contact the instructor PRIOR to the date and make arrangements for an extension or make-up quiz. Reasonable requests will be accommodated.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and Cheating

Academic dishonesty is an offense to the goals and purposes of a university education, and is taken very seriously. It is strongly recommended that students review the online Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Tutorials

[http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/AI-and-Student-Conduct-Tutorials.html](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/AI-and-Student-Conduct-Tutorials.html)

The tutorials will refresh your knowledge of how to stay on the right side of Academic Integrity. Of particular import to this course is the correct use of sources and citation of resources used in writing research papers/essays. This includes the use of figures and images in both written work and in media such as PowerPoint presentations.

Penalties for engaging in academic dishonesty can include F-grades on assignments or the course, suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or from all courses taught in a Faculty. Faculty members have the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to programs and sites designed to detect plagiarism.

**Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) Date:** This is the last date, each term, for the withdrawal from a course without academic penalty. The VW date is the 48<sup>th</sup> class day, NOVEMBER 17th in Fall 2017. A new Voluntary Withdrawal Policy is now in effect which may influence your choice to VW a course or not. You are encouraged to review these policies: [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Voluntary\\_Withdrawal\\_Policy\\_-\\_2016\\_09\\_01.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Voluntary_Withdrawal_Policy_-_2016_09_01.pdf) and to speak to your instructor and/or an academic advisor for any needed clarification.

### Course Technology and Electronic Devices

As this course requires access to UMLearn, students are expected to have a laptop or other computer and reliable Internet service, to access course information as posted to the course UMLearn site. Students are allowed to bring laptops into the classroom for note taking, however the instructor reserves the right to withdraw this privilege if students are found to be off task (e.g., surfing the Net, catching up on Snapchat etc.,). Cellphones are to be silenced/off during class time. Students who do not do so may be asked to leave the room.

Recording of classes is generally not permitted, unless this is an approved accommodation for a student registered with Student Accessibility Services (see below).

### Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and Accommodations

Students with any form of disability are strongly encouraged to register with and use the services offered by SAS. As your instructor, I am always available to you to discuss implementation of accommodations as recommended by SAS.

### Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment (RWLE) Policy

The University of Manitoba supports equity, diversity and the dignity of all people, and promotes equity in all learning programs, in employment and in the conduct of the affairs of the University. Every individual has the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices. The University is committed to an inclusive and respectful work and learning environment, free from: a) discrimination or harassment as prohibited by the Manitoba Human Rights Code; b) sexual harassment; and c) personal harassment. As members of this University community, we all share in the responsibility of establishing and maintaining a climate of respect. As a faculty member, it is my duty to address any situations in which respect is lacking. For additional information please review the RWLE policy:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Respectful\\_Work\\_and\\_Learning\\_Environment\\_RWLE\\_Policy\\_-\\_2009\\_01\\_27.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Respectful_Work_and_Learning_Environment_RWLE_Policy_-_2009_01_27.pdf)

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html)

### University Support Offices and Policies

#### *Writing and Learning Support*

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you throughout your academic program. Through the ALC, you can meet with a learning specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, learning strategies, and test-taking strategies. The ALC also offers peer supported study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In these study groups, students have opportunities to ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

You can also meet one-to-one with a writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. If you are interested in meeting with a writing tutor, reserve your appointment two to three days in advance of the time you would like to meet. Also, plan to meet with a writing tutor a few days before your paper is due so that you have time to work with the tutor's feedback.

These Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/> You can also contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or by visiting 201 Tier Building.

### *University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)*

As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, and will address any other concerns you may have, regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you in person.

A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject: <http://bit.ly/WcEbA1> or name: <http://bit.ly/1tJ0bB4>. In addition, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: <http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA>. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries' homepage: [www.umanitoba.ca/libraries](http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries).

### *Health and Wellness Support*

For 24/7 mental health supports, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781. Student Counseling Centre (SCC) Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counseling.

Student Counseling Centre:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

474 University Centre or S207 Medical Services

(204) 474-8592

### *Student Support Case Management*

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. Student Support Intake Assistant <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>  
520 University Centre (204) 474-7423

### *University Health Service*

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. University Health Service <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>  
104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus  
(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

### *Health and Wellness*

Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, and sexual assault.

Health and Wellness Educator <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome.html>

[Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca)

469 University Centre

(204) 295-9032

Live Well @ UofM

For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html>

### *Copyright Compliance*

All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's Copyright Act. Staff and students play a key role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community.

Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright> for more information.

### *University Policies and Important Information*

Your rights and responsibilities: As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The [Academic Calendar](http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html) <http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is one important source of information. View the sections University Policies and Procedures and General Academic Regulations.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final grade appeals . Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the Academic Integrity regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the Student Academic Misconduct procedure for more information.
- The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected conduct yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior include:

#### Student Discipline

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/students/student\\_discipline.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html) and,  
Violent or Threatening Behaviour

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/669.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html)

- If you experience Sexual Assault or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The Sexual Assault policy may be found at:

[http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/230.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html) More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>

- For information about rights and responsibilities regarding Intellectual Property view the policy [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual\\_Property\\_Policy\\_-\\_2013\\_10\\_01.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy_-_2013_10_01.pdf)

For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school web site <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>

Contact an Academic Advisor within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

#### *Student Advocacy*

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

[student\\_advocacy@umanitoba.ca](mailto:student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca)