

Course Syllabus
Geography of the United States - GEOG 2580 A01
Department of Environment and Geography
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

Instructor: Dr. Janna Wilson
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Office Hours: TBA
Or by appointment (Please email)

Lecture Room: 218 Wallace Building

Lecture Slot: M/W/F: 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Course Dates: Jan. 6 – April 8, 2016

Final Exam: TBA
Examination Period: April 11-25, 2016

**Final Voluntary
Withdrawal Date:** **March 18, 2016**

Required Textbook:

Birdsall, S.S., Palka, E.J., Malinowski, J.C. & Price. (2009). Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada (7th ed.). John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 408 pages.
ISBN-13: 978-0-470-09826-4

Course Description:

A regional study of the United States in which the major regions of the United States are studied with respect to geographical patterns of their physical environment, settlement, culture, economic activity, and land use. Not to be held with GEOG 2560, GEOG 2561 (053.256). Prerequisite: a grade of C or better in a minimum of three credit hours from Geography courses numbered at the 1000 level, or permission of department head.

Method of Evaluation

Student's will be evaluated via two (2) cumulative, in-class tests (collectively 40%), four (4), in-class quizzes (collectively worth 20%) and one (1) cumulative final examination worth 40%.

Test I - Part A: February 3 (50 minutes, worth 20%)

Test II - Part B: March 11 (50 minutes, worth 20%)

Quizzes: Jan. 20; Feb 26; March 25; April 8 (10-15 minutes, worth 4*5% = 20%)

Final Exam: To be schedule by the registrar's office. (2 hours, worth 40%)
Final Examination Period: April 11-25

The **Grade distribution** for this course is as follows:

A+: 90% or above (Exceptional)

A: 80 – 89% (Excellent)

B+: 75 – 79% (Very Good)

B: 70 – 74% (Good)

C+: 65 - 69% (Satisfactory)

C: 60 – 64% (Adequate)

D: 50 – 59% (Marginal)

F ≤ 49% (Failure)

Note: Students are not permitted to submit “bonus assignments” in addition to the regular term tests, quizzes, and final exam to improve their grade.

Test and Exam Format:

- May be a combination of map questions, short answer, multiple choice questions, true and false, and matching questions. These questions will be based on lectures, assigned readings, videos, class discussions and activities, and the corresponding chapters in the course textbook. Approximately 5-10% of the test and final exam questions **may** be directly from the textbook (i.e. material not covered in class).
- The final exam is **cumulative** (approximately 50% of questions from course material covered in Parts A & B, and 50% of questions from material covered in Part C).

Quiz Format:

- Quizzes may be a combination of map questions, short answer, multiple choice questions, true and false, and matching questions and will be based on information covered in the previous classes.

Quiz, Test and Exam Regulations:

- In all tests, exams and quizzes, **no** dictionaries, digital dictionaries, notes, books, textbooks, cell phones, PDAs (such as Palm Pilots) or text messaging devices are allowed.
- Students are responsible for appropriately concealing their test and exam answers in order to prevent copying by other students. Allowing another student to copy off of your test/exam is considered cheating, and therefore academic misconduct.

Grades:

- Students are responsible for ensuring test and quiz grades have been recorded correctly on *UM Learn*.
- Students have one week after the in-class test review/quiz return to discuss any grading concerns.
- Students must ensure that their grades have been recorded in *UM Learn*
- After this one-week period, **no** changes will be made.

Test Review:

- Test questions will **not** be returned or posted on *UM Learn*.
- Tests will be reviewed during lecture, approximately one week after the original in-class test date. While reviewing tests, students are permitted to make **handwritten notes only**. Laptops or any device capable of capturing images are not permitted.
- Only students who attended the in-class review period (as determined by an attendance sheet) will be permitted to review the test within seven days of the in-class review (**by email appointment only**). It is the student's responsibility for signing the attendance sheet during the review class – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Policy Regarding Missed Tests and Quizzes:

- You must inform the instructor promptly (within 24 hours by email).
- Absence from tests must be justified by a medical or personal emergency – appropriate supporting professional documentation must be provided within **48 hours**. Your medical documentation **MUST** be legible and state that you were **UNABLE** to attend class and write the test or exam due to a medical circumstance on the day of the test or exam. A note that you “saw a doctor” is **NOT** considered medical documentation.
- Documentation must be presented within **48 hours** of the missed test/quiz/exam in order to qualify for a make-up test/quiz/exam. Failure to provide this documentation will result in a grade of zero (0) being assigned for the missed test/quiz/exam.
- Please note that “reasonable reasons for missing a test or exam” do **NOT** include: vacations (even with relatives), long weekends away, other course work, etc.
- It is the student’s responsibility to confirm via email the date, time and location of the makeup test/quiz/exam.

Policy Regarding Missed Final Exam

- The preliminary exam schedule is subject to change.
- If you cannot take the final examination due to illness or compassionate distress (documented), you must fill in a request for a deferred examination with your **own faculty** office
- The Department of Environment and Geography schedules deferred exams for this course once the required paper work has been received from the student’s home faculty.
- Students will be notified by the Department of Environment and Geography via email when the deferred exam is scheduled.
- Students must bring student ID or photo identification to the deferred exam.

GEOG 2580 COURSE APPROACH AND POLICIES

Course Delivery:

- Course material will be delivered primarily through lectures, videos, in class discussion and corresponding textbook readings.
- As a courtesy, I will be posting partial course notes (fill in the blank) in PowerPoint format on *UM Learn*. It is your responsibility to access *UM Learn* and download these materials:
<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/home>
 - **Please note that I am under no obligation to post my PowerPoint notes; they are posted as a courtesy and intended to assist you and not replace your personal notes.**
- The pace of the lecture is based on the partial course notes.
- For assistance with *UM Learn*:
 - Client Services Help and Solutions Centre (204.474.8600)
 - Email: servicedesk@umanitoba.ca
- These online materials are not a substitute for coming to class, and you cannot use these notes exclusively as they will need to be supplemented by notes from lecture and the textbook. ***If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the missing notes from a classmate. The instructor will not provide notes for any reason.***
- Students are **NOT** permitted to partially or entirely photograph, audio, or video record lectures.
 - Please use cell phones respectfully.

Communicating with your Instructor:

- **Effective September 1, 2013**, the U of M will only use your university email account for official communications, including messages from your instructors, department or faculty, academic advisors, and other administrative offices. http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/email_policy/
- All communications must be professional and courteous.
- **E-mails** must include:
 - The subject heading (**GEOG 2580**, a salutation (i.e. Dear, Hello, Good Morning . . .), and your full name.
 - Come from a University of Manitoba Account (. . . @myumanitoba.ca).
 - Emails that do not conform to the above will not be returned.
- Allow at least **48 hours** for response (weekdays only).
- Emails requesting notes, information discussed in class or information found in the course syllabus will not be returned.

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend Class
- Be Courteous
- Remain available for all classes and the final exam period
- Inform instructor promptly if you miss a quiz, test, or final exam
- Forward your *UM Learn* email account to an email account that you consult regularly.
- Read the textbook. Not all the textbook will be covered in the lectures but may be covered in the test or exam.
- Not all material covered in the lecture is found in the course textbook.
- A textbook outline of the sections to be covered is available on *UM Learn*
- Disruptive behavior, which includes disrespectful cell phone use, will not be tolerated.

Respectful Work and Learning Environment (RWLE)

RWLE Policy, Section 2.4: The University of Manitoba does not condone behaviour that is likely to undermine the dignity, self-esteem or productivity of any of its members and prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment whether it occurs on University property or in conjunction with University-related activities. Therefore, the University of Manitoba is committed to an inclusive and respectful work and learning environment, free from:

- a. discrimination or harassment as prohibited in the Manitoba Human Rights Code;
- b. sexual harassment; and
- c. personal harassment

RWLE Policy, Section 2.1.4.2: The University does acknowledge the legitimate right and responsibility of academic staff members to correct inappropriate student behaviour, insist on order in the classroom and evict, as necessary, those who disrupt order in the classroom. [See Bylaw: Student Discipline.]

Academic Dishonesty

Students are responsible for ensuring they understand the University of Manitoba's policy on Academic Integrity (plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation). These policies are available in the University Catalog 2012-2013, General Academic Regulations (Section 8: Academic Integrity).

The penalties for plagiarism and cheating are severe and range from receiving a grade of zero on an assignment, to academic suspension. **For more information on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fraud:**

http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html

Other Important Dates

January 6: Lectures Begin

February 15: Louis Riel Day – University Closed

February 15-19: Reading Week – No Lectures

March 18: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal

March 25: Good Friday – University Closed – No Lectures

April 8: Last day of Lectures

April 11-25 Final Exam Period

Course Outline **(subject to change)**

1. Overview of course syllabus
2. Regions and Themes – Chapter 1
3. Geographic Patterns of the Physical Environment – Chapter 2
4. Foundations of Human Activity – Chapter 3
5. Megalopolis – Chapter 4
6. The North American Manufacturing Core – Chapter 5
7. The Bypassed East – Chapter 7
8. Appalachia and the Ozarks – Chapter 8
9. The Changing South – Chapter 9
10. The Southern Coastlands; On the Subtropical Margin – Chapter 10
11. The Agricultural Core – Chapter 11
12. The Great Plains and Prairies – Chapter 12
13. The Empty Interior – Chapter 13
14. The Southwest Border Area: Tricultural Development – Chapter 14
15. California – Chapter 15
16. The North Pacific Coast: Chapter 16