

GEG 2109 B – Canada and its Regions

Course Syllabus

Winter 2016

Course Instructor	Meghan Brooks MA., PhD.	Email: mbrook2@uottawa.ca
Office	SMD 020	Office Hours: Thursdays 4:30pm-5:30pm And by email anytime
Contact Time	Two 1.5 hour lectures per week	
Course Location	Tabaret Hall 333	
Course Times	Tuesdays 4:00pm to 5:30pm AND Thursdays 2:30pm to 4:00pm	
Format	Lectures, discussions on readings and case studies	
Teaching Assistants	<div> GROUP A Michelle Chaput Office Hours: Fridays 10:00-11:00am Email: mchap036@uottawa.ca Location: SMD 0021C </div> <div> GROUP B Stéphanie Béchard Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm Email: sbech067@uottawa.ca Location: SMD 016 </div>	
Class assessment	Assignment #1: De-coding Regional Identity In-class midterm Assignment #2: Research Paper Final Examination	15% 15% 35% 35%

COURSE DESCRIPTION (CALENDAR)

Introduction to the regional geography of Canada based on physical, historical, economic, social, and political criteria.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Regions have long been a focus of geographers seeking to understand commonalities and differences among people and places. In this course, students will explore Canada's regions and the historical and contemporary forces that give them shape. Through a study of the physical, economic, political, social, and cultural features of various regions, students will build an understanding of the power of place. By comparing and contrasting the six regions in this course—Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Western Canada, Atlantic Canada, and the Territorial North—we will unpack key geographic concepts including region, identity, and place.

The course introduces you to regional geography. To begin, we will review major geographical concepts related to region/place and trace its transformation within the discipline. We will then look at different regions to understand how they are defined, experienced, and contested by various groups of people. We will do so by examining experiences from across Canada with an eye to understanding identity and social change. We will use critical thinking skills to answer highly geographical questions: How is Canadian life changing? Why are some regions economically dependent and others not? How do regions affect what it means to be Canadian? What can regional geography teach us about our past, present and future?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES and OUTCOMES

The objectives of the course are:

- To introduce students to key concepts and issues related to Canada's regional geography;
- To promote an understanding that regions are defined and experienced in different ways;
- To provide an opportunity to improve oral, written, and critical thinking skills.

Upon the completion of this course, students will have:

- Gained a working knowledge of fundamental geographical concepts and theories related to geography, regions, place, and identity;
- Gained a working knowledge of the forces that shape regions and identities in Canada;
- Developed an ability to understand and evaluate academic literature in geography.

COURSE TOPICS

The course covers a range of topics related to Canada's regional geography including: Canada's physical landscape, history and population; the meanings of place and the definition of regions; the relationship between people and place; contemporary and historical issues in each of Canada's six regions; and the role of politics in shaping identity and place.

SELECTED COURSE TEXT

1. Bone, R. 2013. The Regional Geography of Canada 6ed. Don Mills, ON, Oxford.
[Required]

ORGANIZATION of the COURSE

The course is scheduled to meet two times per week. Class meetings involve a combination of formal lectures and discussions to be held in **Tabaret Hall 333**.

COURSE WEBSITE and READING MATERIALS

A course page has been set up using Blackboard. On this site you may access the course syllabus, additional assigned and recommended readings (other than the course texts), lecture notes and/or Power Point slides. Please note that there is no guarantee that lecture notes and/or slides will be posted before lecture. Come to class prepared to engage in the lecture material and take notes.

Getting Access to Required Readings: Weekly readings will mostly consist of selections from the course texts. The course text [Bone, R. 2013. *Regional Geography of Canada 6ed*] is available for purchase at the University of Ottawa Bookstore. Should a student purchase a previous edition of the course text they are responsible for differences in content. A copy of the course text will be available through the Ottawa U Library on four-hour loan. Journal articles assigned as course readings will be available online free of charge. Students must retrieve these articles electronically through the GEG 2109 website site permalinks. To log in to Blackboard students need their Ottawa U ID and password.

****Assigned readings are to be completed during the week of the lecture in which they will be discussed. By completing the assigned readings before the lecture, students will be in a better position to engage in class discussion and understand the course material that is presented.****

RECOMMENDED READING

While these resources are not required for the course, they may be useful to understand key concepts and theories in the field of Geography.

- The Dictionary of Human Geography
- International Encyclopedia of Human Geography (available online)

HOW to CONTACT US

If you have a question the best way to contact us is through e-mail. If the question cannot easily be answered by e-mail, you will be encouraged to meet in person. When you send an e-mail, please be sure that you put GEG 2109 in the subject line and use your uottawa.ca account to guarantee that you will receive a reply.

The instructor and TA's hold regularly scheduled office hours, and we encourage you to stop in with your questions, concerns, or simply to introduce yourself!

Course Deliverables and Evaluation

The course deliverables consist of two assignments, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

<p>Assignment #1: De-coding Regional Identity Due: February 2nd, 2016</p> <p>This assignment requires that you submit a two- to three-page report examining a region of your choice. Students will select a piece of artwork, song, poem or photograph and use it as an entry point for the identification, definition and delimitation of a geographical region in Canada based on its features (physical, economic, political, social and/or cultural). Students are required reference their sources.</p>	15%
<p>Mid-term Exam Date: February 11th, 2016</p> <p>The format of the Midterm Exam will be explained during the midterm review session scheduled during lecture (see Course Schedule). It will be based on what has been covered to date in the course. The Midterm Exam will be held during regular class time.</p>	15%
<p>Assignment #2: Research Paper Due: March 24th, 2016</p> <p>Students will use Assignment #1 to write a term paper between 6-7 pages in length. In this paper you will draw from the theories and case studies presented in the lectures and readings to examine how change in Canada affects everyday life in a particular region. Students will develop an argument in the paper and are required to fully reference sources. Additional information will be made available in lecture.</p>	35%
<p>Final Exam Date: TBD</p> <p>The format of the final exam will be explained during the final lecture. It will be based on material from the entire course and what is cited from the required readings. The Final Exam will be held during the <i>official exam period</i> in April after lectures are over. Please check the official exam schedule once it is posted online.</p>	35%
<p>Total</p>	100%

MARKING and ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

You will be assigned a TA Group at the beginning of term. Your TA will be marking your course assignments and will be your initial point of contact for inquiries about the course. The TA/Instructor team will meet regularly to discuss the assignments and to ensure that marking is fair and consistent. If you would like feedback on your work, please contact your assigned TA. If you would like to request a review of an assignment grade, please email the instructor detailing your concern and cc: your TA on the email. The instructor reserves the right to raise your mark, lower it, or leave it unchanged following the review.

The course assignments will be marked according to marking templates included in the course syllabus. Please make sure you **reference the most up-to-date version** of the course syllabus as you work on your assignments.

Course assignments must be submitted in class on the due date. Electronic copies will not be accepted unless a prior arrangement has been made. If you have any concerns about the timely submission of an assignment, please contact your TA or myself.

LATE POLICY

There are good reasons to request an extension (e.g., illness or family misfortune). Bad planning (e.g., having 3 term papers due in the same week and leaving this one to the last) or confused priorities (e.g., placing your non-academic activities before your academic requirements) are not good reasons to request an extension. People will be treated sympathetically if they have a good reason for an extension and they contact the instructor *prior* to the date assignments are due. In this course, assignments will be accepted after the due date. There will, however, be a penalty of 1 per cent **per** day up to a maximum of 5 per cent deducted from your *final grade* in the course for any assignment that is submitted late without prior permission. Please see the Assignment Descriptions for more information about specific due dates.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity.

The University of Ottawa defines plagiarism as “taking another person’s words, ideas or statistics and passing them off as your own. The complete or partial translation of a text written by someone else also constitutes plagiarism if you do not acknowledge your source.” More information on plagiarism, including the University’s Policy, is available at <https://www.uottawa.ca/about/sites/www.uottawa.ca.about/files/plagiarism.pdf>.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Ottawa U. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

STUDENT ACCOMODATIONS

In lectures and tutorials the instructor, teaching assistants and students will work together to create a culture of inclusion that values and actively incorporates all members of the Ottawa U community without discrimination on the basis of disability. This includes addressing the 5 major environmental barriers identified by the World Health Organization: attitudes and beliefs, policies, services and systems, natural and built environments, products and technology, relationships and supports.

Ottawa U has policies both for accessibility (ensuring that facilities, products, and practices are fully accessible to everyone) and accommodation (providing specific requirements for individuals). Students with “physical or learning disability or any condition that affects their ability to learn” are accommodated through the Access Service (SASS). More information can be found at <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/welcome.php> . Support services for students are also available at the Mentoring Centre (<http://www.arts.uottawa.ca/eng/mentoring/>).

Ottawa U has guidelines pertaining to religious accommodation for students. According to the University’s guidelines, “a student who wishes to make a request for an accommodation based on his or her religious observance must do so by submitting a written or electronic request to the professor responsible for the course or to the appropriate authority designated by the faculty. The request for accommodation must identify the nature of the religious observance and the requested accommodation. The student is expected to assist the professor or designated authority in efforts to implement reasonable accommodation, including in identifying solutions that may be reasonably pursued to address the request” (<http://www.uottawa.ca/governance/regulations>).

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APPENDIX A- Grading Scheme

In this course, some components will be graded using numerical percentage marks.

Official grading system (Approved by the Senate on January 11, 2010)

The University of Ottawa's official grading system is alphanumeric, and it must be applied to all courses except those formally exempt by the University Senate. Indeed, in some instances, the expected learning outcomes for a course require a « Satisfactory/Not satisfactory » or a « Pass/Fail » grading scheme.

Letter grade	Numerical value	Percentage scale value
A+	10	90-100
A	9	85-89
A-	8	80-84
B+	7	75-79
B	6	70-74
C+	5	65-69
C	4	60-64
D+	3	55-59
D	2	50-54
E	1	40-49*
F	0	0-39
ABS	0	Absent
EIN	0	Failure/Incomplete
Other non-numerical grades – do not affect the student's average		
CR	-	Credited Course
NC	-	No Credits
P	-	Pass
S	-	Satisfactory
NS	-	Not satisfactory

Passing grades: At the undergraduate level, the passing grade is usually set at D.

<http://www.uottawa.ca/governance/regulations.html#r29>

APPENDIX B- Course Topics and Readings

Week	Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1	Jan 12	Introduction and Overview	No reading
	2	Jan 14	Canada and Regional Geography: Key Concepts	Chapter 1
2	3	Jan 19	Canada's Physical Geography	Chapter 2
	4	Jan 21	Canada's Historical Geography	Chapter 3 p.67-88
3	5	Jan 26	Regional tensions and Faultlines	Chapter 3 p.88-119
	6	Jan 28	Canada's Changing Demographics Pt1- Population 101	Chapter 4 p.121-141
4	7	Feb 2	Canada's Changing Demographics Pt 2- Multiculturalism & Immigration Assignment #1 Due	Chapter 4 p. 141-163
	8	Feb 4	Ontario	Chapter 5 p.166-198
5	9	Feb 9	Midterm review session	No Reading
	10	Feb 11	Midterm Exam	No Reading
6		Feb 16	READING WEEK- NO LECTURE	
		Feb 18	READING WEEK- NO LECTURE	
7	11	Feb 23	Ontario	Chapter 5 p. 198-213
	12	Feb 25	Quebec	Chapter 6
8	13	Mar 1	Quebec	Chapter 6
	14	Mar 3	British Columbia	Chapter 7
9	15	Mar 8	British Columbia	Chapter 7
	16	Mar 10	Western Canada	Chapter 8
10	17	Mar 15	Western Canada	Chapter 8
	18	Mar 17	Atlantic Canada	Chapter 9
11	19	Mar 22	Atlantic Canada	Chapter 9
	20	Mar 24	Documentary- TBD Research Paper Due	No Reading
12	21	Mar 29	Territorial North	Chapter 10
	22	Mar 31	Territorial North	Chapter 10
13	23	Apr 5	Regions in a Global Perspective	Chapter 11
	24	Apr 7	The Future of Faultlines	TBD
14	25	Apr 12	Course Review	No Reading
		Apr 14-27	UNIVERSITY EXAM PERIOD	

APPENDIX C- Course Schedule Dates

	Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:30 pm	Thursdays 2:30 – 4:00 pm
WEEK 1	January 12 th LECTURE 1	January 14 th LECTURE 2
WEEK 2	January 19 th LECTURE 3	January 21 st LECTURE 4
WEEK 3	January 26 th LECTURE 5	January 28 th LECTURE 6
WEEK 4	February 2 nd LECTURE 7 Assignment #1 Due	February 4 th LECTURE 8
WEEK 5	February 9 th LECTURE 9 Midterm Review	February 11 th LECTURE 10 Midterm Test
WEEK 6	February 16 th READING WEEK	February 18 th READING WEEK
WEEK7	February 23 rd LECTURE 11	February 25 th LECTURE 12
WEEK 8	March 1 st LECTURE 13	March 3 rd LECTURE 14
WEEK 9	March 8 th LECTURE 15	March 10 th LECTURE 16
WEEK 10	March 15 th LECTURE 17	March 17 th LECTURE 18
WEEK 11	March 22 nd LECTURE 19	March 24 th LECTURE 20 Research Paper Due
WEEK 12	March 29 th LECTURE 21	March 31 st LECTURE 22
WEEK 13	April 5 th LECTURE 23	April 7 th LECTURE 24 Exam Review
WEEK 14	April 12 th LECTURE 25	