

COURSE SYLLABUS: GEOG 306: Geography of the U.S. and Canada

Spring 2018 GE category: D2

Instructor: Dr. Angela Wranic

Thursday 5:30-8:15

Room #: PH1-222

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Office hours: M 2:00-3:30 and Th 4:00-5:30 or by appointment. You are welcome to make an appointment via e mail to see me in person. My office is in PH1-215

Course description: Common social, economic and political interests of the major human use regions of the United States and Canada. Describes and interprets the culture patterns of each region in relation to the natural settings in which they have developed.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a broad survey of the geography of the United States and Canada, this course seeks to impart a sense of the richness, diversity, and complexity of the region from both cultural and environmental contemporary perspectives. It seeks further to identify and interpret the essential characteristics of the major geographical regions of the U.S. and Canada. To achieve these principal goals, a comprehensive, integrative and comparative approach is employed to examine environmental, cultural, social, economic, and political themes. A final objective is to illustrate the methodology and utility of the regional approach as a tool in geographical inquiry and analysis.

SLO 1: To know the characteristics of the major geographical regions of the U.S. and Canada.

SLO 2: To examine the environmental consequences of human activities and how they shape the physical landscape.

SLO 3: To understand the development of socio-economic and cultural similarities and differences across regions

SLO 4: To appreciate the regional approach, its strength and weaknesses. To reflect on regional conditions and dynamics similar and different from you own.

SLO 5: Use the principals of latitude and longitude to identify the location of geographic features on maps at different scales.

SLO 6: Analyze and interpret maps, graphs, and tables used to describe regions.

SLO 7: Identify and locate major landform features, climatic conditions and ecosystems.

SLO 8: Identify and explain distributions of resources, commodities, populations density and other spatial relationships.

SLO 9: The development of two general education skills. These are written communication skills and critical and analytical thinking skills.

Required Text and Materials:

A Regional Geography of the United States and Canada Toward a Sustainable Future by Chris Mayda. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc. 2013. ISBN: 978-0-7425-5689-8 and e book ISBN: 978-0-7425-5730-7. PLEASE NOTE YOUR TEXT IS AVAILABLE AS AN E BOOK FOR FREE THROUGH THE CSULB LIBRARY.

Grading policy:

Your grade is determined by adding the points earned during the course of the semester. The grading scale is: A=90-100% B=89-80% C=79-70 D 69-60 F<59.

Methods of Assessment

Exams (2 @ 150 points each)	300 points
Discussion Groups and map exercises	120 points
Group Presentation	40 points
Total	460 points

The point value for the map exercises and discussion groups is an approximate value and may vary depending on the number of assignments we do. My general policy for turning in any smaller assignments we do in class is as follows. If you miss the class I will allow you to make it up but it needs to be done within 1 week of being assigned in order to receive credit. After the one week you will receive a 0 for that particular assignment. Additionally, there is a 2 point reduction to your total score on the assignment. The exams may include any of the following: multiple choice questions, true/false, matching, map identification, and essay questions. Writing mechanics, such as organization, grammar, spelling, and syntax are assessed on all major writing assignments. Exams will cover content in the book, lecture notes, and videos that are viewed in class.

To be successful in this class you need to read the book, take good notes on the lectures, view and understand the videos in class, complete assignments, participate in discussion groups, and study for exams.

If you are **cheating** on an exam or assignment you will be given an automatic **F**, for that exam or assignment. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and are governed by the [policy on cheating and plagiarism](#) (PS85-19). Penalties will range from a grade of zero on the assignment or exam, to a referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs for possible probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Make up exams are given. I expect you to have a good reason for missing an exam and corresponding written documentation (very sick, religious obligation, problems with work). It is best not to miss exams. If you miss an exam make sure that you discuss it with me.

D. Collegiate Environment

It is important to attend this class. We have many in class assignments and if you begin falling behind on assignments this course can become very difficult. Please remain in the classroom during the entire class time. Take care of all personal matters before or after class. Of course if there is an emergency or dire need you may excuse yourself. **Please put your cell phones into a quiet mode so as not to disturb the class. Also please do not surf the web for material that does not pertain to our course content.** If you are acting immaturely (talking while I lecture, swearing). I will give you 1 warning then I will insist that you leave the class. Please be on time to class. It is very rude to be late. If you are more than 15 minutes you will not be allowed to enter the classroom.

If you wish to drop the class, you must do so through the Admissions and Records office. You will need to do this before the required [semester deadline](#). **If you are a student with a disability this must be verified by the University and it is your responsibility to notify me in advance of your need of accommodation. You will need to complete paperwork with the [Disabled Student Services](#).** More information on the [geography department](#) and [Campus Emergency Procedures](#) are available on the links provided.

I reserve the right to change the calendar or readings at any time. All announcements of changes will be made at the beginning of class and posted on Beachboard; students are responsible for noting these changes.

Tentative Course Outline and important dates

Please note we do chapters out of order so make sure you are reading the correct chapter!!

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Important Dates	Chapter /Topic
August 30	Syllabus and Expectations/Chapter 1 Regions and Ecoregions
Sept. 6	Chapter 1& Chapter 5 The Canadian Corridor
13	Chapters 5 &2 The Nonhuman World
20	Chapters 2 &3 Sustainability
27	Chapters 3 &4 Population and Consumption
October 4th	Chapter 4
11	Chapter 7 Megalopolis
October 18	Exam 1 chapters 1,2,3,4,5,7
25	8-Appalachia
Nov. 1	10-Florida
8	12-The Ozarks
15	13-The Midwest
22	Fall Break
29	19-California
December 06	Group presentations
December 13 5:00-7:00	Final Exam Chapters 8,10,12,13,19