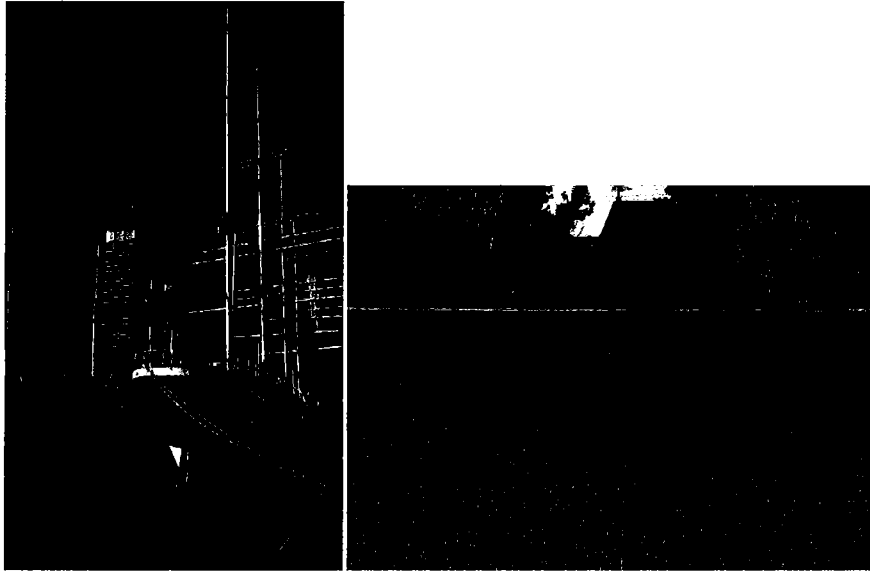


Department of Geography
University of Oregon

GEOG 208: Geography of the United States and Canada

Winter, 2012 MW 10-11:20 a.m. in PAC 123
CRN: 22787



GEOG 208 Instructional Team:

Prof. Susan W. Hardwick (susanh@uoregon.edu)
Office hours - MW 3:30-4:30 p.m. and by appointment

Graduate Teaching Fellows:

Anna Moore, Graduate Student, Dept. of Geography
Christine Carolan, Graduate Student, Dept. of Geography

Goals of the course:

This class provides a broad-based regional approach to understanding the physical and human processes shaping the geography of North America. We hope you will emerge from the class with an awareness of the importance of using the geographic perspective and geographic concepts and skills to help solve 'real world' problems. Emphasis is on understanding various local to global case studies of comparative North American regions using key geographic concepts, themes, and geospatial technologies. Discussion sections each week will help you master the use of maps, fieldwork, and other interactive learning approaches to understand the various geographic concepts, themes, and issues discussed in lectures.

Course objectives:

- Identify and understand local, regional, and national processes of environmental and human change.
- Learn more about the role of geographic analysis in explaining the occurrences and interrelationships of economic, cultural, social, and physical elements in the landscape.

- Enhance your skills in thinking, writing, and speaking critically about issues that affect people and places in the United States and Canada.
- Improve your ability to think spatially and analyze and compare sets of geospatial graphics that apply to 'real world' problem solving.

Textbook: *The Geography of North America: Environment, Political Economy and Culture* (Prentice Hall, 2008) - available in the Duck Store on 13th St. and on reserve in Knight Library.

Requirements for earning your final grade:

Two exams (100 pts each):	200
Weekly discussion section assignments: (7 X 20 pts each)	140
In class writing assignments and participation points (unannounced):	20
Final collaborative project	40 pts
Total points possible:	400

How to be successful in GEOG 208:

- **Class Attendance**

This course involves active discussions of assigned readings, issues, projects, and interactive learning activities. So it's essential to keep up with reading assignments, attend class regularly, and participate in lecture and discussion sections. You will semi-regularly be asked to complete (unannounced) in-class writing assignments and other participatory activities to document your class participation for a total of 20 points credit at the end of the term.

- **Midterm and Final Exams**

Each of the two exams in this course is worth 100 points. The questions will be a combination of multiple choice, true-false, concepts to define, and short essay questions. The midterm exam will cover selected information from content covered in your text and during lectures and discussions during Weeks 1-5. The final exam will include information discussed in class and in readings during Weeks 6-10 and is not comprehensive.

- **Weekly Discussion Section Assignments**

Our class will meet twice each week for lecture and discussions of reading assignments and other information on the U.S. and Canada and one additional hour per week for a required discussion section led by your assigned Graduate Teaching Fellow. In most of these discussion sections, you will complete a 20 pt. interactive assignment based on topics and assigned readings listed in this syllabus for that particular week. Some of these activities will be done individually and others will be completed collaboratively with other students in the class. You will also complete a final group project in your discussion section to present during the last week of the course.

Classroom Conduct and Academic Honesty:

ALL SUBMITTED WORK MUST BE ORIGINAL. All sources must be cited. Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. Engaging in either will result in an immediate failing grade in this course and a referral to the Office of Student Affairs, which may culminate in proceedings to expel the student from the University for academic dishonesty.

If you have any questions about this policy or what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please contact the professor or GTF. They will be glad to clarify.

ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF WHEN ENTERING THE CLASSROOM. Text messaging, talking on your cell, using your iPad, Facebook, etc. is strictly prohibited. Not only is it disrespectful to the instructor, but it is disrespectful and disruptive to your fellow students who don't want to hear your phone vibrating.

The only exception to this policy is for laptop computers used for taking notes. Anyone wishing to use laptops for this purpose must receive explicit permission from Dr. Hardwick or one of the GTFs for our class.

And please, no reading of magazines, books, newspapers, or any other non-assigned materials during lecture or discussion section activities.

Other:

- Please do not consistently wander into class late.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless by prior arrangement.
- Attendance is not mandatory, but consistent absences will be noticed.

In short: This is an academic environment and we expect you to act accordingly.

Reading Assignments and Lecture/Discussion Topics:

Week 1: Introduction to the Geography of North America

1/2/12: Course requirements; discussion of the geographic perspective, regional approach and regional methods; and overview of comparative North American identities.

Read: Chapter 1 in your text

1/4: Boundaries, mental maps, perception, and sense of place in North America (and viewing of excerpts from the student-produced documentary, *Project Canada*)

Review: Text, Ch. 1

Week 2: North America's Physical Environments

1/9: North American landform regions; weather and climate, vegetation patterns

Read: Text, Ch.2

1/11: Environmental issues in North America

Week 3: Population, settlement, and cultural landscapes in North America

1/16: Historical settlement patterns and landscapes

Read: Text, Ch. 3

1/18 Contemporary demographic patterns and issues in the US and Canada

Review Ch. 3

Week 4: Political Economy and the North American City

1/23: Urban patterns and processes in North America

Read: Text, Ch. 4

1/25: Political economy of the U.S. and Canada
Review Ch. 4

Week 5: The Atlantic Periphery and Quebec

1/30: North America's Atlantic Periphery
Read: Text, Ch. 5

2/1: French Canada
Read: Text, Ch. 6

Week 6: North America's Megalopolis

2/6: **Midterm Exam (Chapters 1 through 6)**

2/8: A region called Megalopolis
Read: Text, Ch. 7

Week 7: Great Lakes and Corn Belt region and the American South

2/13: Agricultural issues in the Heartland
Read: Text, Ch. 8 and 11

2/15: Inland and Coastal South regions
Read: Ch. Text, 9 and 10

Week 8: Rocky Mountains, Intermontane West, and Mexamerica

2/20: Exploring the Rocky Mountains and Intermontane West regions
Read: Text, Ch.12 and 13

2/22: Understanding the geography of Mexamerica
Read: Ch. 14

Week 9: Life and Landscape on the Pacific Coast

3/27: California: Continuity and Change
Read: Text, Ch. 15

3/29: The Pacific Northwest
Read: Ch. 16

Week 10: The outer edges of North America: Hawai'i and the Far North

3/5: People and place in Hawai'i; Recap of major course themes and issues in the context of the Far North
Read: Text, Ch. 17 and 18

3/7: **Final exam** (Chapters 7-18)