

Geography 3750: North America

Spring 2015

Call# 18764: WF 9:35 – 10:55 Bolz Hall 412

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Course Description:

Geography is a multifaceted discipline with close connections to many fields within both the social and physical sciences. Using this integrative, geographic perspective, Geography 3750 addresses the demographic, economic, political, and historical forces that have created today's North America.

The course will be roughly divided into four units. In Unit 1, we will look at issues of settlement and population including past and present immigration attitudes/policies, cultural identities, and general demographic patterns. Unit 2 will focus on economic issues including industrialization, postindustrial change, and the impact of capitalism. In Unit 3, we will explore the topics of political voice and democracy as well as a variety of urban issues such as suburbanization, urban sprawl, urban poverty, gentrification and racial/ethnic segregation. During most of the semester, we will concentrate on the United States, but in Unit 4, we will take a brief look at Canada and Mexico, the other two major countries of North America.

GE Category: Social Diversity in the United States

Goals: Students' understanding of the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States is enhanced.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students describe the roles of such categories as race, gender, class, ethnicity, and religion in the pluralistic institutions and cultures of the United States.
2. Students recognize the role of social diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.

Required Textbook:

This semester, we will use the following custom eBook from McGraw-Hill.

Title: "Geography of North America" ISBN: 9781121618138 You have a few different options:

- Option 1. You can purchase the eBook online with a credit card. A pdf document with instructions for ordering with a credit card is posted on Carmen under the "Content" tab.
- Option 2. To purchase the eBook online through the bookstore, you must first contact Barnes and Noble to purchase an access code. You can reach Barnes and Noble at: <http://ohiostate.bncollege.com/> (they will need the ISBN #). Once you have the access code, refer to the pdf document with instructions for ordering with an access code. This is posted on Carmen under the "Content" tab.
- Option 3. There may be some used hard copies of the book floating around from previous semesters. The course number will say "Geography 400" instead of "Geography 3750" on some of these earlier copies, but they will still have the title "Geography of North America" and the author listed as "Cynthia Chabot." These earlier copies may also have different ISBN numbers than the current eBooks, but older copies have the same content as the current "Geography 3750" version.
- Option 4: There is a hard copy of the book on closed reserve at the 18th Avenue Library available for your use.

Course Website

You will use Carmen to access reading assignments, web assignments, study aids and other important class information. In order to have access to the course information in Carmen, you must have an osu.edu e-mail account and appear on the official class roster. If you are unfamiliar with Carmen, visit <http://telr.osu.edu/carmen/> or call 688-4357 (688-HELP).

Evaluation:

Exam 1	22.5%
Exam 2	22.5%
Exam 3	22.5%
Exam 4 (Final)	22.5%
Critical Thinking Exercise	10%
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	100%

Exams and Assignments:

The exams will consist of both multiple choice and essay questions. The content and format of each exam will be discussed in more detail as exam dates approach.

There will be one critical thinking exercise given during the semester. This will be a written response to information we have discussed in class. More details will be provided on the "Exercise Assigned" date indicated on the syllabus.

Grading Scale:

Your final grade in the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93%+	A
90% - 92.9%	A-
87% - 89.9%	B+
83% - 86.9%	B
80% - 82.9%	B-
77% - 79.9%	C+
73% - 76.9%	C
70% - 72.9%	C-
67% - 69.9%	D+
60% - 66.9%	D
below 60%	E

End Of Semester Grades:

Grades assigned at the end of the semester are not negotiable. There will likely be many instances when a student is within a few tenths of a point from the next grade. I do not round up, nor do I provide opportunity for additional extra credit beyond the extra credit points on the exams. Your grade will be based on the points you have earned according to the scale above, no matter how close you are to the next grade.

Class Protocols:

Use of laptops and tablets is highly discouraged but will be permitted for note taking only. No other electronics of any kind are permitted during class meetings. Please... turn off your cell phone; be on time; be prepared to discuss challenging issues and treat your fellow students with respect.

Do Yourself A Favor; Do Not Miss Class!

Lectures will **NOT** be verbal repetitions of the assigned readings. A significant amount of class time will be devoted to discussions of issues related to the lectures and readings, and video viewing. Information from all of these classroom activities will be covered on exams. Although I will post lecture study questions and some selected graphics (e.g. maps, tables, & diagrams) after every class, these will **NOT** contain all of the details and explanations included with the original lectures presented in class. For all of these reasons, coming to class is essential if you wish to receive a good grade.

If must miss a class, **regardless of the reason**, you are responsible for making arrangements **with a classmate** to get notes and to learn of any announcements that were made in class.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to attend every class from beginning to end. Attendance will be taken at some point during each class session. If you are not present when attendance is taken, you will be recorded as absent. If you miss part of a class session because you arrive late or leave early, you will still be recorded as absent if you are not present in class at the time when attendance is taken. Please be sure that you sign the attendance list every day. You will not be allowed, under any circumstances, to sign the attendance list at a later date.

We have 25 scheduled lecture days (not including exam days). **IF YOU ARE RECORDED AS ABSENT FOR MORE THAN 10 LECTURE DAYS, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR YOUR ABSENCE, YOU HAVE MISSED TOO MUCH MATERIAL TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR THE COURSE AND YOUR GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY ONE FULL LETTER (A to B, C+ to D+, etc.)** Please note that **ALL** absences count, even "excused" absences. If you find that frequent absences are unavoidable because of work schedules, frequent illnesses, etc., you should drop the class.

Makeup Exams:

Dates for exams are listed on the *Course Schedule*; please plan your semester accordingly. **No make-up exams will be given without a signed and verifiable statement from a medical professional explaining that it was impossible for you to attend the exam at the date and time in question.** If you do have a medical excuse (as described in the preceding sentence), you must send me an e-mail message as soon as you know that you will miss the exam, so that we can arrange a time for a makeup.

If you know in advance that you will not be able take an exam at the scheduled time because of a verifiable medical condition (e.g. scheduled medical procedure such as surgery), please inform me of this situation as soon in the semester as possible.

If you are given permission to take a make-up exam, please be aware that it may differ from the original exam in both format and content.

The Final Exam will be given on the date and time that has been established by the University (listed on the *Course Schedule*). **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you leave the campus before this date, regardless of reason (e.g. job, vacation, wedding, family reunion, etc.), **you will not be allowed to take the Final Exam and your exam score will be recorded as “0”.**

Academic Misconduct:

In accordance with Faculty Rule 3335-5-487, all instances of alleged academic misconduct will be reported to the department chairperson and the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Academic misconduct is grounds for failing the course and may be grounds for further sanctions such as dismissal from the University. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, falsifying data, giving or receiving information during an exam, or submitting plagiarized work for academic requirements. Refer to “Academic Misconduct” in section 3335-23-04 of the Code of Student Conduct. You can find it at: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp

Students With Disabilities:

Any student who may need an accommodation because of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at 292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall. If you are a student with a disability, you should also contact me privately so that we can discuss your specific needs and coordinate our efforts with ODS.

General Advice and Comments:

You should use the *Course Schedule* as a guide for studying and planning in this course. I have included the dates for each exam and assignment so that you can plan your time wisely. Remember to make full use of the lecture support materials provided on Carmen with each course topic. These have been created so that you will have a clear roadmap to success in this class.

In order to avoid last minute “cram” sessions, review class material frequently and make a note of anything that is unclear or confusing. Discuss these points with me on a regular basis. This way, you can “study as you go” during the semester and be better prepared on exam days.

I am available during the office hours listed on the syllabus. If necessary, we can also set up individual appointments at times other than “official” office hours. You are highly encouraged to contact me after class or via e-mail if you would like to see me and are unable to meet with me during regular office hours. Sometimes, I do not hear from a student who is having problems until late in the semester; by that time, many of the opportunities for grade improvement have already passed. Please see me **right away** if anything seems to be confusing, unclear, etc.

Please feel free to come to my office any time you like, even if you’re not having any particular problem with the class. I always enjoy getting better acquainted with my students.

Course Schedule

Week		Date	Lecture Topic	Exams & Exercises	
1	UNIT 1	Jan. 14	Introduction / Geographic Perspective		
		Jan. 16	Culture Regions		
2		Jan. 21	Culture Regions		
		Jan. 23	Culture Regions	Exercise Assigned	
3		Jan. 28	Population, Ethnicity, Immigration		
		Jan. 30	Population, Ethnicity, Immigration	Exercise Due 9:00 p.m.	
4		Feb. 4	Population, Ethnicity, Immigration		
		Feb. 6	Population, Ethnicity, Immigration		
5		Feb. 11	EXAM 1	EXAM 1	
		UNIT 2	Feb. 13	Industrial / Post Industrial Economy and Economic Policy	
6			Feb. 18	Industrial / Post Industrial Economy and Economic Policy	
			Feb. 20	Industrial / Post Industrial Economy and Economic Policy	
7			Feb. 25	Industrial / Post Industrial Economy and Economic Policy	
			Feb. 27	Industrial / Post Industrial Economy and Economic Policy	
8			Mar. 4	Industrial / Post Industrial Economy and Economic Policy	
	Mar. 6		EXAM 2	EXAM 2	
9	UNIT 3		Mar. 11	Political Voice / Democracy	
			Mar. 13	Political Voice / Democracy	
10			Mar. 18	SPRING BREAK - - NO CLASS	
			Mar. 20	SPRING BREAK - - NO CLASS	
11			Mar. 25	Political Voice / Democracy	
			Mar. 27	Political Voice / Democracy	
12			Apr. 1	Urban Issues	
			Apr. 3	Urban Issues	
13		Apr. 8	Urban Issues		
		Apr. 10	EXAM 3	EXAM 3	
14		UNIT 4	Apr. 15	Canada	
			Apr. 17	Canada / Mexico	
15			Apr. 22	Mexico	
			Apr. 24	Conclusion	
FINAL EXAM is on Wednesday, April 29, 10:00 - 11:45 a.m. in our regular classroom					

Other Important Dates: Feb 6 (Friday) - - last day to drop without a "W" on your record

Mar. 27 (Friday) - - last day to drop without petitioning

Check Carmen for assigned readings and web materials corresponding with the above lecture topics

Topics, assignment dates, and exam dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

All such changes will be announced in class.

