

Geography 3750: North America

Spring 2017

Class# 18744: MoWe 2:20 – 3:40 Enarson Classroom Bldg 245

Instructor: Cindy Chabot (pronounced shuh-BO)

Office: 1085 Derby Hall

Phone: 688-5782

Hours: Tues., Wed., 12:30 - 1:30 or by appt.

E-Mail: chabot.7@osu.edu

Geography Department Office: 1036 Derby Hall

292-2514

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, cultural, and historical forces that have created today's North America.

The course will be roughly divided into six modules. **Module 1** will provide us with an introduction to North America through a survey of the region's physical environment and regional diversity. In **Module 2**, we will look at issues of settlement and population including past and present immigration attitudes/policies, cultural identities, and general demographic patterns. **Module 3** will focus on economic issues including industrialization, postindustrial change, and the impact of capitalism. We will then move to **Module 4** which will address a variety of urban issues such as suburbanization, urban sprawl, urban poverty, gentrification and racial/ethnic segregation. In **Module 5**, we will explore the topics of political voice and democracy. During most of the semester, we will concentrate on the United States and incorporate information about Canada and Mexico as we go. In our last module (**Module 6**), we will focus on Canada and Mexico specifically so that we can cover important remaining issues about these two countries that were not addressed earlier in the semester.

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:

Hardwick, et.al. 2013. The Geography of North America: Environment, Culture, Economy, second edition. Boston: Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-321-76967-1 (this is the ISBN for the hard copy version)

The book is available at OSU Barnes and Noble, 1598 N. High Street. As you may know, you can check prices and order through the Barnes and Noble website. Here is the link:

<http://ohiostate.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&langId=-1&storeId=33552>

When you enter the necessary course information on the "Find Course Materials" page that comes up, you will see that you have several choices. You can choose a:

1. hard copy of the book (new or used)
2. digital copy of the book (buy or rent)

Any of these choices will work. Of course many students also choose to purchase the book online from some other source. If you do this, be sure that you get the **second edition** of the book.

Course Website

You will use Carmen to access assignments, study materials for lectures and readings, 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:

Information Sheet	1%
Regions Worksheet	2%
Exercise 1	10%
Exercise 2	5%
North American Odyssey Paper	22%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%

100%

Assignments:

The Information Sheet and Regions Worksheet assignments are quite simple and will be completed during the first week of class. This will allow you to become familiar with the online submission process on Carmen and will also provide a fun way for you to begin thinking about the information that will be covered in the course.

Exercises 1 and 2 will involve your own thoughts and critical analysis of information presented in the course; they are not “research” assignments. More details about each of these exercises will be provided on the “assigned” dates indicated on the syllabus.

The North American Odyssey Paper will require you to use a combination of research, critical thinking, and creative imagination. Essentially, you will design your own journey of geographical discovery through North America. While this assignment will require significant time, it should also be quite informative and fun! Specific details will be given on the “assigned” date indicated on the syllabus.

Exams:

The exams will consist of both multiple choice and essay questions, and there will also be some extra credit points offered. The content and format of each exam will be discussed in more detail as exam dates approach.

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 offered 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 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 26 scheduled lecture days (not including exam days). **If you are recorded as absent for more than 8 lecture days, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR YOUR ABSENCE, you will have missed too much material to receive full credit for the course and your final grade for the course will be reduced by one grade (A to A-, C- to D+, etc.)** The 8 absences are intended to cover illnesses, accidents, and any other legitimate reasons that might require you to miss a class. Please note, therefore, that all absences count toward the maximum, even “excused” absences. If you find that frequent absences are unavoidable because of work schedules, frequent illnesses, etc., you should not take this class.

Makeup Exams:

Dates for exams are listed on the *Course Schedule* found at the end of the syllabus; 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 scheduled date and time.** 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.

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 Student Life Disability Services at 292-3307 or stop in at 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Ave. 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 SLDS.

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 and reading support materials provided on Carmen with each course topic. The materials posted on Carmen are intended to function as your study guides for the exams. They 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 by 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 been missed. Please see me **right away** if anything seems to be confusing, unclear, etc.

Again, 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 becoming better acquainted with my students.

Course Schedule

Important: Please go to Carmen for instructions and more complete information about all tasks and assessments.

Week	Module	Lecture Dates	Lecture Topic*	Tasks for this week*	Assessments* (Exams & Assignments)
1		Jan. 9	Introduction / Geographic Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become familiar with Carmen • Complete Info. Sheet assignment • Complete Regions Worksheet assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Sheet Assignment DUE TUESDAY, JAN. 10, 9:00 p.m. • Regions Worksheet Assignment DUE THURSDAY, JAN. 12, 9:00 p.m.
		Jan. 11	Environmental Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Module 1 reading (Chap 1 & 2) • Work on lecture support materials 	
2	Module 1	Jan. 16	HOLIDAY -- NO CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials 	
		Jan. 18	Environmental Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Chapter 2 reading 	
3		Jan. 23	Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials 	North American Odyssey paper assigned Jan. 25
		Jan. 25	Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Module 1 reading • Begin thinking about Odyssey paper 	
4		Jan. 30	Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials 	Exercise 1 assigned Jan. 30
		Feb. 1	Settlement, Immigration, Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Module 2 reading • Work on Exercise 1 (due next Monday) 	
5		Feb. 6	Settlement, Immigration, Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Exercise 1 by Monday 9:00 p.m. 	Exercise 1 DUE MONDAY, FEB. 6, 9:00 p.m.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Finish Module 2 reading 	
		Feb. 8	Settlement, Immigration, Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review all material in preparation for Exam 1 next week 	
6	Module 2	Feb. 13	Settlement, Immigration, Ethnicity	<p>Before Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials (final update after Monday's lecture) • REVIEW ALL MATERIALS IN PREP. FOR EXAM 1 ON WEDNESDAY 	EXAM 1 - WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15
		Feb. 15	EXAM 1	<p>After Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Module 3 reading • Work on Odyssey paper 	

Course Schedule

Important: Please go to Carmen for instructions and more complete information about all tasks and assessments.

Week	Module	Lecture Dates	Lecture Topic*	Tasks for this week*	Assessments* (Exams & Assignments)
7		Feb. 20	Industrial / Post Ind. Economy & Econ. Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Continue Module 3 reading • Work on Odyssey paper 	
		Feb. 22	Industrial / Post Ind. Economy & Econ. Policy		
8	Module 3	Feb. 27	Industrial / Post Ind. Economy & Econ. Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Continue Module 3 reading • Work on Odyssey paper 	
		Mar. 1	Industrial / Post Ind. Economy & Econ. Policy		
9		Mar. 6	Industrial / Post Ind. Economy & Econ. Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Finish Module 3 reading • Begin Module 4 reading • Work on Odyssey paper 	
		Mar. 8	Industrial / Post Ind. Economy & Econ. Policy		
10		Mar. 13	SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS	RELAX and/or work on Module 4 reading and/or work on Odyssey paper	
		Mar. 15	SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS		
11		Mar. 20	Urbanization and Urban Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Finish Module 4 reading • Review all material in preparation for Exam 2 next week 	
		Mar. 22	Urbanization and Urban Issues		
12	Module 4	Mar. 27	Urbanization and Urban Issues	<p>Before Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials (final update after Monday's lecture) • REVIEW ALL MATERIALS IN PREP. FOR EXAM 2 ON WEDNESDAY <p>After Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Module 5 reading • Work on Odyssey paper 	EXAM 2 - WEDNESDAY, MAR. 29
		Mar. 29	EXAM 2		

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Week	Module	Lecture Dates	Lecture Topic*	Tasks for this week*	Assessments* (Exams & Assignments)
13		Apr. 3	Political Voice / Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Work on Module 5 reading • Work toward completion of Odyssey Paper due next week 	
		Apr. 5	Political Voice / Democracy		
14	Module 5	Apr. 10	Political Voice / Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Finish Module 5 reading • Begin Module 6 reading • FINISH ODYSSEY PAPER (Due Thursday) 	North American Odyssey paper DUE THURSDAY, APR. 13, 9:00 p.m.
		Apr. 12	Political Voice / Democracy		
15		Apr. 17	Canada and Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on lecture support materials • Continue Module 6 reading • Work on Exercise 2 (due next Monday) 	Exercise 2 assigned Apr. 17
		Apr. 19	Canada and Mexico		
16	Module 6			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Exercise 2 by Monday 9:00 p.m. • Work on lecture support materials (final update after Monday's lecture) • Finish Module 6 reading • Review all material in preparation for Exam 3 next week 	Exercise 2 Due Apr. 24, 9:00 p.m.
		Apr. 24	Wrap-up		
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EXAM 3 is on Tuesday, May 2, 4:00 - 5:45 in our regular classroom

Other Important Dates: Feb. 3 (Friday) - - last day to drop without a "W" on your record
Mar. 24 (Friday) - - last day to drop without petitioning

***Topics, weekly tasks, exam dates, and assignment dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. All such changes will be announced in class.**