

Geography 2011A: Ontario and the Great Lakes

Syllabus – Fall 2016

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Introduction:

Geography 2011 will provide students with an overview of the physical, social, economic, environmental and political geography of Ontario and the Great Lakes Region. Given the broad nature of the course topic the focus of the lectures and required readings will be quite varied and rely on multiple sources from various disciplines. For more detail, please see the attached lecture and reading schedule. Students will be expected to have a good understanding of both lecture material and required readings for the midterm tests and in class assignment.

Class Time and Location:

- Wednesdays 7:00 – 9:00 pm in SSC 2050
- Office Hours in SCC 2050 after class

Course Requirements:

- Test 1: Ontario - October 12, 2016 -- 40%.
- Test 2: Great Lakes - November 23, 2016 -- 40%
- Assignment: Northern Ontario - due December 7, 2016 -- 10%
- Map Quiz: - December 7, 2016 -- 10%

Course Resources:

- All readings as listed in this syllabus are available on line or on the course webpage.
- Course webpage: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Email:

- You must ensure your UWO email account is active.
- I will read and reply to email in a reasonable time frame. Be cautioned that while you will get a response, it may not be immediate.
- All email messages must have the course name or number in the subject heading to ensure they there are read.
- All email messages should be sent from your UWO account as hotmail and gmail addresses may be filtered as spam.

Review of Test or Assignment Marks:

- All tests and assignments returned during the course should be retained until the final grade in the course has been issued. In the case of a disagreement regarding the recorded marks it will be necessary to produce the graded item in order for a change to be made. There will be no extra assignments to make up marks.

Course Schedule:

PART ONE -- THE GEOGRAPHY OF ONTARIO – TEST ONE – October 12, 2016

Required Readings: Links will be posted on OWL

Ontario Profile: Geography <http://allontario.ca/2012/05/ontario-profile-geography/>

Ontario in the Creative Age by the Martin Prosperity Group (2009).

Ontario we stand on guard for thee: Has Upper Canada become a North American region-state? By Reg Whitaker from The Ottawa Citizen July 1, 2001.

“Is Ontario turning into a country? : A new book suggesting Ontario has enough economic clout to fly on its own causes a stir in political circles” by John Ibbitson from the The Windsor Star, Jan. 31, 1998.

“Ontario's marriage of convenience” by Robert Benzie from the National Post, May 19, 2001.

Understanding Urban Sprawl: A Citizen’s Guide by the David Suzuki Foundation (2003) http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/downloads/2003/Understanding_Sprawl.pdf

PART TWO -- THE GREAT LAKES – TEST TWO – November 23, 2016

Required Readings: Links will be posted on OWL

The Great Lakes: An Environmental Atlas and Resource Book, Jointly produced by the Government of Canada and United States Environmental Protection Agency, Third Edition, 1995 [Link to be posted on OWL](#) Chapters 1 - 5.

“Harmful Algae Blooms Plague Lake Erie Again”, by Lisa Borre in [Water Currents](#) on April 24, 2013.

“Keeping Remedial Action Plans on Target: Lessons Learned from Collingwood Harbour” by G. Krantzberg from [Journal of Great Lakes Research](#) 29 (4): 641-651 (2003).

“Renegotiation of Great Lakes”, by Ralph Pentland from [Americas Quarterly](#), Fall 2009.

“Great Lakes Blueprint: A Canadian Vision for Protecting and Restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Ecosystem”, by Ecodefence (2007).

“A Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for the 21st Century” by Lyndon Valicenti. February, 2013.

“Water Level Fact Sheet” by Environment Canada.

PART THREE -- NORTHERN ONTARIO – ASSIGNMENT – December 7, 2016

Ontario's North: A Land Apart (Hinterland in the Heartland?)

Required Readings: Links will be posted on OWL

“Innovation and Creativity on the Periphery: Challenges and Opportunities in Northern Ontario” by H. Hall and B. Donald (2009).

“Rethinking Northern Ontario: the Province gets in the Game” by Michael Atkins, posted online July 25, 2007.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

- Absolutely no electronic devices may be used during the tests, quiz, in-class assignment, or final exam.

Academic Integrity:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Final Grades:

Students should be aware that the mark awarded by an instructor in a course at UWO is only final when they receive it from the Registrar. Even then, final grades can be changed on receipt by the Registrar of a Marks Revision Form. In all cases the final marks are not final until the department chair has signed off.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.