

Geography 2011a: Ontario and the Great Lakes

Syllabus – Distance Studies Summer 2017

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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.

Course Requirements:

There are 6 modules in this course, each taking place over a 2 week period. There are 10 discussions in which you must participate and 2 assignments to complete (one in Module 2 and one in Module 5). There is a final exam at the end of the course, at a date to be determined by the Office of the Registrar.

- Discussion Questions: 10 questions (3% each)
- Assignment 1: Due at the end of Week 4 (15%) -- June 5, 2017
- Assignment 2: Due at the end of Week 10 (15%) – July 17, 2017
- Final Exam: 40% (July 31 - August 3 TBD by the Office of the Registrar)

Course Resources: Available on line in OWL.

Discussion Questions:

There are 2 Discussion Questions with each module (except for Module 2 and 5, where there is only one Discussion Question. Participation is required in the discussions for each module during the weeks the modules are assigned (for example, the discussions for Module 1 must take place during Weeks 1 and 2). Students are expected to participate actively in the discussions through expressing their own viewpoints about the readings and the discussion topics, by responding to the professor's questions, and commenting on opinions expressed by their classmates. Students will receive 0/3 for no participation, 1/3 for minimal participation, 2/3 for active and informed participation, and 3/3 for active participation that includes substantive ideas, reaction to colleagues' postings, and excellent responses to the professor's questions. *It is essential that you relate comments to course lecture and reading materials.* Discussions will close at midnight on the last day of the Module as listed below.

Overview of Assignment One:

Assignment One is due at the end of Week 4 (15%). You will be best prepared to complete this assignment after completing the readings and lecture material for Module 2.

Overview of Assignment Two:

Assignment Two is due at the end of Week 10 (15%). You will be best prepared to complete this assignment after completing the readings and lecture material for Module 5.

Final Exam:

- Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar in the Final Exam period.
- The exam will be 2 hours in duration.
- There will be a map – students will label or identify items from the list provided online.
- There will be a mix of identification and significance, short/medium answers, and multiple choice or true/ false questions.

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, yahoo, or sympatico addresses may be filtered as spam.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

- Absolutely no electronic devices may be used during the final exam.

Academic Integrity:

Do your own work! This course has a zero-tolerance policy for academic offences. 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.

Medical and Non-Medical Accommodation:

Students will be allowed to write “make-up” exams or submit assignments late **only** under special circumstances. These include medical or compassionate reasons, and **must** be substantiated with proper documentation as soon as possible (e.g., medical certification verifying that you are unable to write an exam; certificates stating “for medical reasons” are not sufficient). **Please note that the documentation must be submitted to (and approved by) an academic counsellor in your Dean’s office.** A student who misses an exam for any other reason, or who is unable to substantiate a claim in a timely fashion, will be assigned a grade of zero for that exam. In fairness to all, **no exceptions** to this policy will be allowed. Please see the POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf for additional information on appropriate documentation.

Mental Health

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

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.

Module Overviews:

Each module has online lecture content and required readings, all of which are either posted on OWL or available through a link posted on OWL. The following is a schedule for the modules and a summary of the required reading for each module.

Module 1: Weeks 1 and 2 (May 8 – 22)

Physical Setting: Ontario and the Great Lakes

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

- Chapter One – Introduction: The Great Lakes (all subsections)
- Chapter Two – Natural Processes in the Great Lakes (just the following subsections)
 - Geology
 - Climate
 - Climate Change and the Great Lakes
 - The Hydrologic Cycle

Ontario Profile: Geography

Module 2: Weeks 3 and 4 (May 22 - June 5)

State of the Great Lakes: Water Quality and Quantity

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

- Chapter Two – Natural Processes in the Great Lakes (just the following subsections)
 - Surface Runoff
 - Wetlands
 - Groundwater
 - Lake Levels
 - Lake Processes
 - Living Resources
- Chapter 4 – The Great Lakes Today – Concerns (the entire chapter)

"A Balanced Diet for Lake Erie: Reducing Phosphorus Loadings and Harmful Algal Blooms"
February, 2014. Pages 1 - 6 only.

Water Level Fact Sheet, from Environment Canada.

"Why the Great Lakes are Slowly Getting Less Great" by Kim Mackrael from The Globe and Mail, August 25, 2012.

Module Three: Weeks 5 and 6 (June 5 – June 19)

Management of the Great Lakes

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

- Chapter 5 – Joint Management of the Great Lakes (the entire chapter)

“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).

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

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

Module Four: Weeks 7 and 8 (June 19 – July 3)

Ontario: Population and Settlement Patterns

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

- Chapter 3 – People and the Great Lakes (the entire chapter)

Understanding Urban Sprawl: A Citizen’s Guide by the David Suzuki Foundation (2003)

Module Five: Weeks 9 and 10 (July 3 – July 17)

Ontario: Economic Development and Future Trends

Ontario in the Creative Age by the Martin Prosperity Group (2009). **Posted on OWL.**

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.

Module Six: Weeks 11 and 12 (July 17- July 31)

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

“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

A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Affiliation with the Department of Geography presumes mutual respect among students, staff, teaching- assistants, and faculty. A positive atmosphere of professionalism and collegiality is essential for everyone to perform to the best of his or her abilities. This requires respect for the opinions and questions of others and behaviour that is, at all times, courteous, and conducive to creating a pleasant and productive environment for learning and working. As members of a Department of Geography, we are expected to show special respect for our environment, being individually responsible for promoting- a clean and safe work environment within the facilities of the Department and the Social Science Centre, including classrooms, laboratories, the Map Library, offices, hallways, washrooms, exterior grounds, and the facilities and vehicles used in field courses and field trips.

It is inevitable that misunderstandings will occur from time to time. However, it is in everyone's interest to try and resolve problems in a non-confrontational manner. Threatening, violent, or abusive behaviour, harassment (including sexual and racial harassment), rudeness (in person, in writing, or on the telephone), and abuse of authority, for whatever reasons, corrode good working and learning conditions.

Incidents that cannot be resolved amicably may be reported to the Chair of the Department (519 661-4004). The Chair will consider appropriate actions for resolving the problem, usually after consultation with the parties involved. If required, contact with university services (e.g. Police, Equity) or civil authorities will be invoked.

Student Use of University Facilities and Classroom Decorum:

- * Students are expected to comply with the authority of University staff and faculty on all matters relating to access to facilities (offices, classrooms, laboratories, and Map Library) and the use of equipment and resources.*
- * Students are expected to attend all lectures and laboratory sessions regularly and punctually.*
- * Instructors are responsible for maintaining an appropriate academic atmosphere in all class activities, students are expected to cooperate in this effort.*
- * Actions that impede instruction, deter the ability of students to learn, or show disrespect for instructors and fellow students, will not be condoned in Geography classrooms and labs. Such actions include reading during lectures, disturbing consumption of food or drink, use of walkmans, Ipods, and radios, or laptops and disruptive conversation. Serious disrespect for classroom decorum should be reported to the instructor and, if required, to the Chair of the Geography Department (SSC 2333, Telephone 519 661-2111 x 83423).*
- * Students are expected to adhere to University standards of academic honesty, as outlined under "Scholastic Offenses" in the Western Calendar. Unacceptable practices include cheating, impersonation, plagiarism, misrepresentation of research, falsification of documents, obstructing the academic activities of another, aiding or abetting academic misconduct, and abuse of confidentiality. In addition to incurring penalties, as outlined in the Calendar, some academic offenses may fall under the Criminal Code of Canada.*

Support Services:

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>