

GEOG 2011B Ontario and the Great Lakes

Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2026

1. Course Information

	*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6				
	Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
	January 5	February 14-22	April 9	April 10-11	April 12-30
	Tuesday January 13, 2026: Last day to add a second-term half course				
	Monday February 16, 2026: Family Day				

Tuesday January 13, 2026: Last day to add a second-term half course

Monday February 16, 2026: Family Day

Monday March 30, 2026: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Friday April 3, 2026: Good Friday



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Wendy Dickinson	whdickin@uwo.ca	By appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
TBA		

2. Calendar Description

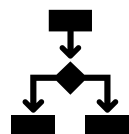
A detailed examination of the province as part of the Great Lakes region, with special reference to its historical development, natural resources and patterns of human and economic activity.

2 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility



Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

3. Textbook

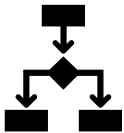


☒ All resources will be posted in OWL/Brightspace

4. Course Objectives and Format

Attendance is required. If you miss class, please review all the materials on OWL and make an effort to share notes with a colleague.

All course material will be posted to the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.



Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled."

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Brightspace Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes from this course include expanded knowledge of the physical, cultural, economic, and political geography of Ontario, an increased understanding of the state of the environment in the Great Lakes region, and improved map reading skills and geographic knowledge. Specifically:



- Develop knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental characteristics, processes, temporal changes and landscapes of social and biophysical systems and their interactions.
- Demonstrate informed awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them spatially and over time.
- Critical and reflective reading, listening, thinking.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic
1	January 6	Physical Geography
2	January 13	Population, Settlement Patterns and Sprawl
3	January 20	ASSESSMENT ON OWL – no class
4	January 27	Economic Geography

Week	Dates	Topic
5	February 3	Heartland, Regionalism, Trade
6	February 10	ASSESSMENT ON OWL – no class
7	February 17	Reading Week
8	February 24	Great Lakes
9	March 3	Great Lakes
10	March 10	ASSESSMENT ON OWL -- no class
11	March 17	No Class
12	March 24	Great Lakes
13	March 31	Great Lakes
14	April 8	GREAT LAKES ASSIGNMENT DUE – no class

7. Communication



- ☒ Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- ☒ Important Announcements will be posted as needed.
- ☒ For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- ☒ Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Ontario 1	Medium answer open book	25%	January 21
Ontario 2	Medium answer open book	25%	February 10
Great Lakes	Medium answer open book	25%	March 10
Great Lakes Assignment	Take home written assignment	25%	April 8



- ☒ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average

B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course. The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Assessment Format:

- Don't come to class. This is to do at home (or wherever). Online open book assessment will be posted under Assignments on OWL/Brightspace from 7 – 9 pm on Tuesdays (our regular class time). Please don't stress out. There will be lots of time and I will be glued to my laptop to answer questions in real time.
- The assessments will open at 7 pm and close at 9 pm. No exceptions. No late submissions will be accepted for any reason.
- Point form answers are encouraged. Preparation should be similar to any exam of this type -- get familiar with the content and overarching themes. We will use the assignment tool for these assessments and you will submit your answers inline with unlimited submissions with the allotted time.
- There will be a strict word limit and you will be assessed on how well you address the question and relate it to our in-class discussion and resources.
- In a regular classroom exam setting, I would allot 45 minutes to complete the assessment. However, seeing the need for accommodation for students with disabilities, those with competing responsibilities (child care etc.) and those who don't

have an ideal environment in which to work (noisy, interrupted, sketchy internet) we will have 2 hours in total so we don't need to worry about anyone being rushed.

Flexibility statements

There will be ONE make up assessment for those who miss one of the scheduled assessments currently booked in class time. That shall take place on April 8, 2025 on OWL. An announcement will be made in advance of that date with details.

Great Lakes Assignment – Due 11:55 pm on April 8, 2025 – submission allowed until 11:55 pm on April 10, 2025

Please note that because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility in the form of – 48-hour submission window, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility. Late submissions shall have 10% deducted per day.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

10. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure The you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

11. Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps unacceptable in this course.

12. 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.

13. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

14. Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

15. Support Services

Office of the Registrar
Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

16. Important Dates

Monday January 5: Classes resume

Tuesday January 13: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 16: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 16-20: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Monday March 30: Last day to drop a second term half course

Thursday April 9: Classes end

April 10 and 11: Study days

April 12-30: Examination Period