

Department of Geography
Western University

Geography 2010A
The Geography of Canada
Section 001
2012/13

Course Outline

Location:	UCC 146
Days and Hours:	Monday, 9:30 to 11:30 and Wednesday, 9:30 to 10:30

Instructor:

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Dr. S. Greaves

Office: Rm. 1412, SSC

Telephone: Ext. 85028

E-mail: greaves@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Mon. 11:30-1:00, Wed. 10:30–11:30

1. Introduction

This course does not assume a background in geography on the part of you, the student. The course is intended to broaden your knowledge and understanding of Canada and its regions. There will be some emphasis on issues and problems relating to the environment and to resource utilization.

Calendar Description:

"An overview of the regional geography of Canada. Topics considered may include demographics, culture, the economy, resources and environmental issues." (UWO Academic Calendar)

There are no prerequisites or antirequisites for Geography 2010A/B at this time other than second year standing or above.

2. Learning Objectives:

The geographical objectives of this course include (1) an increased awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them and (2) exposure to and practice in thinking spatially.

At the end of this course, you, the student will:

1. have an expanded knowledge of the geography of Canada (e.g. physical, cultural, economic, political)
2. have an increased familiarity with the map of Canada
3. have an increased understanding of the regions of Canada
4. have an appreciation of Canada's diversity (both physical and cultural) and the forces contributing to the country's unity as well as to its disunity
5. have a greater appreciation for the importance of distance, location and the physical environment in influencing the varied character of today's Canada

3. Course Content:

The course will consist broadly of 8 sections of varying lengths. The first will serve as an introduction to the course and the second, to the physical geography of Canada. The next 5 sections will examine the regions of Canada: Central Canada (Ontario, Quebec), Atlantic Canada, British Columbia/Western Mountains, Western Canada/Prairies, the Territorial North and will be followed by a concluding section.

4. Course Text

Required:

Bone, R. The Regional Geography of Canada (5th edition) Oxford University Press, 2011

The Canadian Oxford World Atlas, Oxford University Press will be packaged with the text. It is this atlas that has been used in developing the course. It is possible that you may require resources beyond this. A wide variety of atlases are available in the campus library system for your use. Online atlases may be useful as well but, again, may not provide all the information necessary by themselves.

5. Course Requirements and Grading

Grading in the course will be based on the following:

	<u>Marks</u>
Quizzes (3)	30
Mid Term Test	25
Final Examination	45
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Exam format (this does not include quizzes) will be mixed (i.e. objective, short answer and essay). Quizzes will be map based. Quizzes may also include objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, etc.). No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations. No aids of any kind will be permitted without the specific prior permission of the instructor.

6. Policy on Writing Skills

Writing skills, including grammar and spelling, will be taken into consideration in the grading of all work.

7. Plagiarism:

"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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> ."

8. E-mail Policy:

My general policy regarding the use of e-mail with respect to courses is as follows:

- (a) Please identify yourself and the course you are writing about in all emails.
- (b) I will answer all questions as I am able. Please anticipate a minimum of 24 hours turnaround time.
- (c) I do not normally check email on weekends.
- (d) I do not guarantee responses to emails sent 24 hours (or less) prior to a test, exam or quiz.

9. Website:

We will be using Owl (Sakai) to deliver most "handouts" and lecture outlines, and to post grades (except final grades). It is your responsibility to obtain the necessary information and material, particularly for quizzes, from Owl (Sakai). We will also be using the announcement function as necessary. Please check it regularly.

Sakai is new to most of us this term. "Glitches" are inevitable. Please notify me promptly of any issues that you may be experiencing with our course site. The source of the problem may be the system or it may be me or it may be you. In any case, I can't address a problem of which I am not aware.

10. Please note:

All tests and quizzes 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. Please check your grades on Owl (Sakai).

There will be no extra assignments or reweighting of material to make up marks.

Requests for accommodation regarding missed tests and exams should be directed to your Academic Counselling Office. Accommodation will be arranged at the request of Academic Counselling. If you miss a quiz, you will be expected to provide the reason for missing the quiz to the instructor. You will then be given the opportunity to write the quiz during office hours in the one week following the originally scheduled date. This opportunity ends when the marked quizzes are returned to the class.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

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

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

Your attendance at each and every class is expected as is your attention during those classes. I commit to starting each class at the appointed time and in turn expect punctuality from you. I commit to conducting class in a manner that maintains an academic atmosphere, that is conducive to learning, and that fosters respect. I expect behaviour from you that contributes to the same goals.

11. Please note:

Mental Health Website

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.

Western's commitment to accessibility

Western University 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.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>
Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

12. Topic Schedule and Readings:

N.B. - Time allotments are approximations only.

Week 1 & 2 - Introduction - Chapter 1

Week 2 & 3 - Overview of the Physical and Human Geography of Canada - Chapter 2,
Chapter 3, Chapter 4

Week 4 & 5 - Central Canada - Ontario - Chapter 5

- Quebec - Chapter 6

Week 6 & 7 - Eastern Canada - Chapter 9

Week 8 & 9 - Western Mountains - Chapter 7

Week 10 & 11 - Western Canada/Prairies - Chapter 8

Week 12 - The North - Chapter 10

Week 13 - Conclusion - Chapter 11

13. Evaluation Schedule

Quiz 1 – Monday, October 1, 2012

Midterm – Monday, October 15, 2012

Quiz 2 – Monday, October 29, 2012

Quiz 3 – Monday, November 12, 2012

Final Exam – December Exam Period