

Geography 2011a: Ontario and the Great Lakes

Syllabus – Fall 2012

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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 SSC 2050 from 6:15 pm on Wednesdays, or by appointment,

Course Requirements:

- Test 1: October 10, 2012 (in class) 40%.
- Test 2: November 21, 2012 (in class) 40%
- In-Class Assignment: December 5, 2012 10%
- Map Quiz: December 5, 2012 10%

Course Resources:

- Required Text Book – R.M. Bone's The Regional Geography of Canada (5th Edition). Available in the bookstore. Also on 2 hour reserve in Weldon Library.
- Other 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:

- I will review any test or exam resubmitted to me, but please be advised that the grade may increase or decrease.
- 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.

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:

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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.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-ups” **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.** Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. 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 For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

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

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

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.

PART ONE -- THE GEOGRAPHY OF ONTARIO – TEST ONE -- October 10, 2012

Required Readings:

- “**Chapter Five: Ontario**” by Robert M. Bone (2011) from The Regional Geography of Canada (5th Edition). Available in the bookstore. Also on 2 hour reserve in Weldon Library.
- “**Chapter One -- Regions of Canada**” by Robert M. Bone (2011) from The Regional Geography of Canada (5th Edition). Available in the bookstore. Also on 2 hour reserve in Weldon Library.

Topics Covered:

Physical Geography of Ontario

Population and Settlement Patterns

Economic Development and Future Trends

Ontario as Heartland and Region-State

Suggested Readings:

- Understanding Urban Sprawl: A Citizen’s Guide by the David Suzuki Foundation (2003)
(http://www.davidsuzuki.org/files/Climate/Ontario/Understanding_Sprawl.pdf)
- “**The New Ontario: A North American Region State?**” by T. Courchene and C. Telmer (1998) from From Heartland to North American Region State: The Social, Fiscal and Federal Evolution of Ontario.
- “**Is Ontario a Region State?**” by N. Wiseman, et.al. (2000) in Policy Options vol. 21.

PART TWO -- THE GREAT LAKES – TEST TWO – November 21, 2012

Required Readings:

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 (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/index.html>)
 - Chapter One – Introduction: The Great Lakes
 - Chapter Two – Natural Processes in the Great Lakes
 - Chapter Four – The Great Lakes Today – Concerns
- “**A Late Great Lake**”, by W. Stewart from Canadian Geographic, September/October 2003, <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/so03/deadzone.asp>
- **Water Level Fact Sheet**, from Environment Canada.
(http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/factsheets/pdf/waterlevelfactsheet_eng.pdf)

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 (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/atlas/index.html>)
 - Chapter 5 – Joint Management of the Great Lakes
 - Chapter 6 – New Directions for the Great Lakes Community
- “**Renegotiation of Great Lakes**”, by Ralph Pentland from Americas Quarterly, Fall 2009. This article will be posted on the course website.
- “**Great Lakes Blueprint: A Canadian Vision for Protecting and Restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Ecosystem**”, by Ecodefence (2007). This article will be posted on the course website.

PART THREE -- NORTHERN ONTARIO – IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT – December 5, 2012

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

- “**Rethinking Northern Ontario: the Province gets in the Game**” by Michael Atkins, July 25, 2007 -- this article will be posted on the course website.

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/>