

Geography 2011a: Ontario and the Great Lakes

Syllabus – Fall 2015

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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 after class

Course Requirements:

- Test 1: Ontario - Oct. 14, 2015 -- 40%.
- Test 2: Great Lakes - Nov. 25, 2015 -- 40%
- Assignment: Northern Ontario - due Dec. 9, 2015 -- 10%
- Map Quiz: - Dec. 9, 2015 -- 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:

- 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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Support Services: http://accessibility.uwo.ca/resources/support_services.html

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.

Course Schedule:

PART ONE -- THE GEOGRAPHY OF ONTARIO – TEST ONE -- October 14, 2015

Required Readings:

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

Suggested Reading:

“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.

PART TWO -- THE GREAT LAKES – TEST TWO – November 25, 2015

Required Readings:

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> Chapters 1 - 5.

“A Late Great Lake”, by W. Stewart from *Canadian Geographic*, <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/so03/deadzone.asp>

“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 – IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT – December 9, 2015

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

Required Readings:

“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://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
http://accessibility.uwo.ca/resources/support_services.html
Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>