

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Department of Geography

GEOGRAPHY 1100 Section 001
An Introduction to Geography
Fundamentals of Geography

2017-2018

COURSE OUTLINE

This course has been designed particularly for those students who have little or no background in Secondary School geography but wish to have the opportunity to take at least an introductory course at university. This course does not have a prerequisite; successful completion of this course will permit you, however, to continue your studies in other areas of Geography/courses at Western.

As with most first-year subjects, the content of Geography 1100 has been arranged to provide students with an overview of the discipline. The overall objective is to introduce you to many different areas of geographical inquiry and in the process, provide you with the means to develop a broad and intelligent awareness of the dynamic world we live in. What sets Geography *apart from other areas* of studies is its focus on 1) space, 2) time, 3) patterns, and 4) processes. Using these four basic concepts, Geographers seek answers to three broad questions: Where is it? Why is it there? Why is it important?

Some scheduled lecture time in the first term will be devoted to tutorial (lab) times, which will cover techniques that are important to Geographers. There is NO SEPARATE/ADDITIONAL lab time required in this course.

Teaching Staff:

Instructor Dr. Denise Grafton
Office 2221 Social Science Centre
Office hours will be announced in class and in OWL
Email: dgrafton@uwo.ca

Class times (section 001): Tuesday, 7:00 – 10:00 pm
Room Number: SEB 1200 (Spencer Engineering Building)

In addition to Dr. Grafton, there are a number of Graduate Teaching Assistants assigned to this course. At least one Teaching Assistant will typically be present in class before, during, and after class time. Please feel free to address any questions about the lecture, or geography in general to the TAs as well as to Dr. Grafton. The TAs also will hold office hours during the week in their offices in Social Science Centre. For TAs office locations, and times please see the help folder posted in our course's OWL site. Please drop by and see them.

To be successful in Geography 1100 attendance at lectures is required.

To help you with this course I will also be using an OWL class site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Required Textbook:

You will need a textbook - pick either of the following (I would suggest the least costly):

Getis, A., Bjelland, M., and Getis, V., *Introduction to Geography* 15th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers, New York, NY 2017. (This is the newest version!)

OR

Getis, A., Bjelland, M., and Getis, V., *Introduction to Geography* 14th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers, New York, NY 2014. (This edition was used last year.)

OR

Getis, A. Getis, J., Bjelland, M., and Fellmann, J., *Introduction to Geography* 13th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers, New York, NY 2011. (This edition was used prior to the 2016-17 academic year.)

You will find assigned readings for all THREE versions of the text under the “RESOURCES” section in OWL.

NB*: The most recent edition of the text (i.e. 15th edition) will be available in traditional format or loose leaf (i.e. 3-ring note book), the latter includes the suite of online resources. Purchase of the online resource package is NOT MANDATORY, but it is recommended if you find that the additional supports provided will help you achieve your academic goals.

Additionally, some students find this optional textbook useful: Christopherson, R.W., Birkeland, G., Byrne, M.L., and Giles, P., *GEOSYSTEMS*, Fourth Canadian Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, Toronto 2016.

GRADES FOR THIS COURSE WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

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| A. Lab assignment given out in October and due two weeks later (due date in OWL) | 10% |
| B. [2] Mid term Quizzes (2 x 10%) (in class) (dates: October 17th and February 13th) | 20% |
| C. Mid-Term Exam (November 28th) in class | 30% |
| D. Discussion forum in the second term in OWL | 5% |
| E. Final Exam (in April Final Exam Period) | 35% |

The examinations (Mid-Term and Final) will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer/ diagram questions; the mid-term will be held during CLASS TIME, however, the final exam (in April) will be held during the regular exam period.

The midterm exam will cover concepts to-exam-date in the first half, and the remainder will be covered in the final exam (i.e. the final is not cumulative).

Quizzes will be constructed with multiple-choice questions, and will occur in class time about half way through the first and second terms. As you can see, the above components (A-E) sums

to 100%, therefore there is no option for doing additional assignments to further improve your grades.

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

The Geography Department follows the University of Western Ontario grading guidelines, which are as follows (see

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf

Grade	Expectation	
A+ 90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level	
A 80-89	Superior work that 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	

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests (quizzes) and examinations.

Questions

Asking questions during lecture is an extremely important part of learning. My goal for you is to be a successful learner. Research strongly suggests that your reflections about the topics been discussed greatly improves your success. Please feel free to ask a question whenever you require clarification on an issue, or have an observation or experience that you would like to share. Sometimes a topic or something that I might discuss will generate so many questions that I have to limit the amount of time on any particular issue. If you do not get a chance to ask your question, please use the discussion forum on OWL to post and I or a TA will address the raised issues on-line or at the beginning of next lecture.

Note: Many routine questions such as “Where is the exam?”; “When do the exams occur?”; “What chapters are covered for the quiz?”, etc. may already be addressed on the “FAQ” portion of the course OWL page or posted there as announcements, or in the Help discussion postings. I do make use of the course website so you should make it a regular practice to check the class’s OWL site.

Classroom Conduct

1. Class is scheduled from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening. The lecture will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. If you must come late, please use the doors on the SIDE of the classroom (at the end of the hall) so as to minimize disruption. The Lecture will end by 9:45 p.m. at the latest. A break will be offered at a convenient time mid-way through the class session.

2. The potential noise level generated by hundreds of people "whispering" to one another is quite high. In order that everyone can hear the lecture, please do not talk to your neighbours during lecture. If the noise level starts to climb, one of the teaching staff will remind you not to

talk. If the noise level continues to climb, you may be asked to leave the room. Please remember that there are many other people in the room and we all must be sensitive to everyone's concerns. Also, please turn off your cell phone when you enter the classroom. While I am sure you have the best ring tone ever, it still is very distracting to your fellow students.

Course Content, Readings and Topic Schedules

In OWL you will find an outline of the general topics of the material covered throughout the course. Note the numbering of the topics do NOT reflect the weeks in the course, only the order of discussion, as some topics will require several weeks others much less.

PLEASE NOTE Course content and order of presentations may deviate from this general outline due to unforeseen circumstances. A copy of this outline, along with the assigned page numbers from the 13th, 14th and 15th editions of the text book are available in OWL.

Covering material for quizzes and exams:

A common question I hear is “will this be on the exam?” or “do we have to know the readings for the exam” or even, “will there be more emphasis on the lectures than the text book readings?” The answer is EVERYTHING is fair game, however, if you regularly attend the lecture and listen/take notes (don't transcribe) you will quickly learn what areas are more important than others.

- 1) You will be expected to know both the assigned readings and material in the lectures very well. To be able to answer questions during the quizzes and exams you will need to understand the concepts, associations, and processes as discussed in the textbook and lectures. This means that you have read the assigned readings, **but reading is not enough**. For almost all of us reading something once or twice is not enough. You have to use active reading and learning strategies. Such as: Pre-read – learn the headings, subheadings, **bold text** (key terms); then read for comprehension – in small chunks read and summarize, and write notes to yourself; then post read - with a self test. The textbook provides review questions and highlights key terms at the ends of chapters. I would recommend **READING THE CHAPTER SUMMARY BEFORE** you read the chapter. This way, you will know what is important before you start reading.
- 2) Lectures are **very** important. When we look at successful students we find that they attend lectures. Research data have shown that attending classes are directly related to learning success, and therefore, grades in the course. There is one more piece related to attending classes. You have to be present; your mind must be there. It entirely possible for your body to be in class while your mind is on something else or somewhere else. If you are going to come to class and use your laptop to chat with friends or to read the latest on CNN, you are essentially NOT present.
- 3) A skeletal version of class notes will be posted before each class. This will give you the key points we will be covering as well as any charts/images/maps, etc. Typing up everything I say in a lecture is **not recommended**. Not only will you end up with WAY more notes than the instructor has prepared (and this will make you unhappy at exam time), it has been demonstrated that you don't learn anything in class when you attempt to capture every word. Research shows that students have greater success in courses

where they listen, process and write down key points from a lecture. The instructor will permit ample time for you to copy something down in full if absolutely necessary.

Support Services

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

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

EXTENSIONS, PLAGIARISM, ADDS/DROPS, APPEALS

You are advised to read the academic calendar to familiarize yourself with the University's regulations and procedures concerning grades, regulations, penalties and appeals. Please read the Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf

Statement on 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/appealsundergrad.pdf

Plagiarism or copying is unacceptable and those who tempt fate will be persecuted to the fullest extent allowed under the University's regulations. Please avoid this experience and do your own work.

The lab work must be your own work and unique to you.

All required papers (Labs) may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

The date of the final examinations will be set by the Office of the Registrar and will not be changed. **Note:** trips home are not sufficient grounds for a make-up examination. If you consider that you have grounds to write the mid term or final examination on an alternate date, you must follow the procedure established by your Dean's Office and complete the appropriate forms. The same holds for dropping the course.

Should you feel that your final grade in the course is biased, inaccurate or unfair, you do have the right to appeal your mark. Please refer to the *Western Calendar*, prior to doing so. In an attempt to avoid such time-consuming and stressful procedures, be assured that each and every piece of work is graded carefully. It is very much in your own interest to seek assistance, adjustments and exemptions as early as possible, and always in advance of the event.

LATE PENALTY:

Assignments that are handed in late will be penalized 10% per day, with a 5% penalty on the FIRST DAY ONLY.

If you have problems with the course, please seek assistance from me (email: dgrifton@uwo.ca). I am approachable; I welcome your comments and your questions.

In case of fire: All students are required to evacuate the building when the fire alarm is activated.

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/>.

SHORT ABSENCES

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. See the notes posted on the OWL site.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks, before you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed of your difficulties.

Non-medical Absences

Non-medical absence from graded course material requires prior approval of the instructor or approval by the Dean's office (appropriate documentation will be required by the Faculty Dean's Office for approval).

Medical Absences

Students are referred to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness.

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

When medical illness affects work worth less than 10% of the total course grade (i.e. discussion postings), medical documentation will be required for illnesses that affect completion of more than one discussion post during the term. Appropriate documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. For a *downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC)*:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

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.

The following is a code of conduct for all members of the Department of Geography. As a Geography 1100 student you are a member of the Department:

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, 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 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.

Intellectual Property

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to OWL, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act.

Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Western University.