

## GEOG 1100 – Fundamentals of Geography Course Outline: Section 001

### 1. Course Information

#### 1.1. Classroom Location:

Tuesdays 7-10pm, SEB 2200 (Spencer Engineering Building)

#### 1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Denise Grafton

Office Hours/Location: will be announced in class and on OWL

Email: [dgrafton@uwo.ca](mailto:dgrafton@uwo.ca)

In addition to Dr. Grafton, there are a number of Graduate Teaching Assistants assigned to this course. 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.

### 2. Calendar Description

#### 2.1. Course Description

A systematic descriptive introduction to the diverse elements of landscape including geomorphic, climatic, and biotic elements, human settlement and land-use patterns; cartographic approaches to the analysis of selected processes of landscape change; an introduction to the synthesis of elements and processes in spatial systems models.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

#### 2.2. Senate Regulations

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

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 in 2016-17)

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.

#### 4. Course Overview

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?

#### 5. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Important Dates
Lab assignment – provided early October	15%	October 30, 2018
Mid-term Quizzes (in class)	15% each (30%)	October 16/18, February 12/19
Mid-term Exam (in class)	20%	November 27, 2018
Discussion forum in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> term in OWL	5%	Forum #1 due January 28/19 Forum #2 due February 25/19
GeoConcepts photovoice (minimum 2 contributions, 1 each term)	5%	Term 1, due November 20/18 Term 2, due April 2/19
Final Exam	25%	TBA – during scheduled exam period

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). *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 above components (A-F) sums to 100%, therefore there is no option for doing additional assignments to further improve your grades.

The Geography Department follows the University of Western Ontario grading guidelines: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/evaluation\\_undergrad.pdf](https://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

## 6. Accommodation Policy

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed assignments or exams must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home faculty and provide documentation to that office. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed quizzes must provide documentation to the instructor. 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

There are two grade items in the course that are **worth less than 10%**. 1) The photovoice assignment has a final due date each TERM and is, therefore, **already** very flexible. If accommodation is requested when the student has failed to miss the final deadline due to legitimate medical/personal reasons, appropriate documentation must be submitted to the Academic counseling office of the student's home faculty. 2) The second item, discussion forums, are time-limited participation sessions with peers. Each session lasts for ONE week, again, providing ample time to participate and achieve the allocated grades. Without appropriate documentation for illness/personal reasons (again, please submit this documentation to your home faculty), *no late forum contributions will be accepted.*

**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.** If you have

problems with the course, please seek assistance from me or one of the Teaching Assistant (email: [dgrafton@uwo.ca](mailto:dgrafton@uwo.ca)).

## 7. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero. The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

## 8. Use of Electronic Devices

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

## 9. 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/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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 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>).

## 10. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography 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: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>

## 11. Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read

about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

[http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

## 12. 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/>.

## 13. Support Services

Student Support Services can be reached at: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

## 14. Housekeeping Items

### 14.1. Questions

Asking questions during lecture is an extremely important part of learning. 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.

*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, particularly the ANNOUNCEMENTS section.

### 14.2. Classroom Conduct

Class is scheduled from 7-10pm on Tuesday evening. The lecture will start promptly at 7pm. 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.

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

### 14.3. 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> editions of the text book are available in OWL.

#### 14.4. 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.

You will be expected to know both the assigned readings and material in the lectures. 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. 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, you are essentially NOT present.

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. The notes are provided as a courtesy to students – faculty are not obligated to do so. **Please be advised that notes will not be reflective of EVERYTHING covered in class, so if you are away, please find someone to be your eyes and ears for you. If you miss class, I will NOT use office hours to re-teach you the lecture.**

Typing up everything I say in a lecture, while flattering, 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.

#### 14.5. 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.

#### 14.6. Appeals

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.

#### 14.7. Fire or emergency

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

### **15. Important Dates**

September 6: Classes resume

September 14: Last day to add a full course or a second term half course

October 8: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 9-13: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty

December 7: Classes end

December 8 and 9: Study days

December 10-21: Examination Period

December 21: Fall term ends