

GEOG 2011B- Ontario and the Great Lakes Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2023

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information

	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In-person	Tuesdays 7 – 9 pm	UCC 146

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 9	February 18-26	April 10	April 11 & 12	April 13-30

January 17, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 20, 2023: Family Day

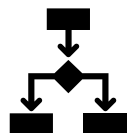
March 7, 2023: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Wendy Dickinson, PhD	whdickin@uwo.ca	By appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
TBA		

2. Calendar Description



A detailed examination of the province as part of the Great Lakes region, with special reference to its historical development, natural resources and patterns of human and economic activity.

2 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

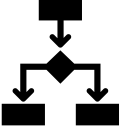
3. Textbook



All resources will be posted in OWL

4. Course Objectives and Format

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. In addition, students can expect to see news articles, documentaries, and websites presented.

 Attendance is required. If you miss class please review all the materials on OWL and make an effort to share notes with a colleague.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please [click here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Help page or Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes from this course include expanded knowledge of the physical, cultural, economic, and political geography of Ontario, an increased understanding of the state of the environment in the Great Lakes region, and improved map reading skills and geographic knowledge. Specifically:



- Develop knowledge and critical understanding of the fundamental characteristics, processes, temporal changes and landscapes of social and biophysical systems and their interactions.
- Demonstrate informed awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them spatially and over time.
- Critical and reflective reading, listening, thinking

6. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	January 9-13	Physical Geography	See OWL
2	January 16-20	Social Geography and Urban Sprawl	See OWL
3	January 23-27	Economic Geography	See OWL
4	January 30-February 3	Ontario as Heartland; Regionalism and Region-State	See OWL
5	February 6-10	ONTARIO ASSESSMENT – ON OWL	
6	February 13-17	Great Lakes	See OWL
	February 20-24	Reading Week	N/A
7	February 27-March 3	Great Lakes	See OWL
8	March 6-10	Great Lakes	See OWL
9	March 13-17	Great Lakes	See OWL
10	March 20-24	GREAT LAKES ASSESSMENT – ON OWL	See OWL
11	March 27-31	Northern Ontario	See OWL
12	April 3-7	NORTHERN ONTARIO ASSIGNMENT DUE – NO CLASS	

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Important update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.



Assessment	Format	Weighting	Date
Ontario Assessment	Open book, Medium Answers, on OWL	40%	February 7 from 6 – 10 pm on OWL
Great Lakes Assessment	Open book, Medium Answers, on OWL	40%	March 21 from 6 – 10 pm on OWL
Northern Ontario Assignment	Written response (no more than 550 words)	20%	Due April 4 at 11:55 pm

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course. Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned readings and other materials on OWL.

As you think about preparing for the assessments, keep in mind the following:

The assessments are open book and seek to get your thoughts on the major themes in the course. There will be 3 medium answer questions. You will use only the materials on OWL and your own thoughts to answer the question. No outside research is required or allowed. No referencing is required.

The word limit for each question is 500 words. Answers that exceed more than 550 words will be penalized by 10% per 50 words.

Point form answers are encouraged.

Preparation should be similar to any exam of this type -- get familiar with the content and overarching themes of each week. We will use the assignment tool for this assessment so you can download the questions and upload your answers.

In a regular classroom exam setting, I would allot 1.5 hours to complete (30 minutes per question) the assessment. However, seeing the need for accommodation for students with disabilities, those with competing responsibilities (child care etc.) and those who don't have an ideal environment in which to work (noisy, interrupted, sketchy internet) we will have 4 hours in total so we don't need to worry about anyone being rushed.

A few students have asked me how to read and take notes in the course, as it relates to the assessments. Here is what I have said:

Read for general understanding of the material. The assessments will be critical thinking kind of questions which means the answers are what you put together from the course materials and readings, rather than information to be found in there. I'll be asking for your thoughts, reactions, opinions and ideas rather than asking you to summarize what you know. So, if you have a general understanding of the high-level concepts in the course, you'll be able to answer the assessment questions well.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

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

Information about late or missed evaluations:

Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10 % per day.

A make-up assessment will be offered at a mutually agreeable time and date for those who have permission from Academic Counselling in their home faculty's Dean's Office.

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.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students](#)

[Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

10. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office 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.

11. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.



12. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

13. Information on COVID-19

Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically academic counselling). 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.

14. **Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Department of Geography and Environment 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.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

15. **Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

16. **Support Services**

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

17. **Important Dates**

Monday January 9: Classes resume

Tuesday January 17: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 20: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 18 to February 26: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Tuesday March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Friday April 7: Good Friday – Department Office Closed

Monday April 10: Classes end

April 11 and 12: Study days

April 13-30: Examination Period