

GEOG 2011 A – Ontario and the Great Lakes Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2024

This course is taught in-person

1. Course Information

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



Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 5	October 14-20	December 6	December 7 & 8	December 9-22

September 13, 2024: Last day to add a second-term half course

September 30, 2024: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (observed as a non-instructional day at Western).

October 14, 2024: Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30, 2024: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Wendy Dickinson	Whdickin@uwo.ca	By appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
TBA		

2. Calendar Description

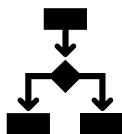
A detailed examination of the province as part of the Great Lakes region, with special reference to its historical development, natural resources and patterns of human and economic activity.

2 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite(s): N/A

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility



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

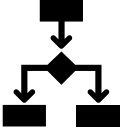


All resources will be posted in OWL/Brightspace

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 the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled."

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [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
1	Sept 5-6	
2	Sept 9-13	Physical Geography of Ontario
3	Sept 16-20	Ontario Population and Settlement Patterns
4	Sept 23-27	Economic Geography
5	Sept 30-October 4	Ontario as Heartland; Regionalism and Region-State
6	October 7-11	ONTARIO ASSESSMENT – ON OWL
	October 14-18	Fall Reading Week
7	October 21-25	Great Lakes
8	October 28-Nov 1	Great Lakes
9	November 4-8	Great Lakes
10	November 11-15	Great Lakes
11	November 18-22	GREAT LAKES ASSESSMENT – ON OWL
12	November 25-29	Northern Ontario
13	Dec 2-6	Northern Ontario Assignment Due



7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Important Announcements will be posted as needed.
- 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	Due Date
Ontario Assessment	Medium answer open book	40%	October 9, 2024
Great Lakes Assessment	Medium answer open book	40%	November 20, 2024
Northern Ontario Assignment	Short answers	20%	December 4, 2024



The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Formal Documentation Designation statement: Ontario Assessment: October 9, 2024.

Please note that this assessment is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the following opportunity to make up this work in a make up assessment of the same format on a mutually agreeable date.

Flexibility statement: Northern Ontario Assignment due December 4, 2024.

Please note, because not all elements of this assessment are required in the calculation of the final course grade, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for this missed element and not include this assessment in final course grade.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

- 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

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](#).

General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

10. 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](#).

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.



15. Important Dates

September 5: Classes resume

September 13: Last day to add a first term half course

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 14-20: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 30: Last day to drop a first term half course or a full course without penalty

December 6: Classes end

December 7 and 8: Study days

December 9-22: Examination Period