

Geography 1100

FUNDAMENTALS OF GEOGRAPHY Course Outline

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Office Hours: TBA

Class Time: Tuesday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursday, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Class Location: Rm. 18, St. James Bldg.

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"
(Academic Calendar)

2. Course Approach:

This course is intended for students who have little or no background in geography. The object of the course is to provide an overview of the discipline and in so doing to introduce you, the student, to some of the many aspects of geographical inquiry. As well, you will become more aware of the changing world around us, both physical and human.

Parts of this course will focus on physical geography and parts will focus on human geography. Overall, however, the course will emphasize the interrelationships between humans and the environment and examples will be used whenever possible to help illustrate these interrelationships.

I see the course as having 4 parts. Part one introduces the discipline and its foundations (history if you prefer) Part two introduces the "tools of the trade" that geographers use. Part three examines selected aspects of the world's physical geography including some of the processes that shape our world, our natural resources and the ways in which humans have influenced the environment. Part four (which will occupy most of the second term) will look at various topics within the broad category of human geography; topics such as urban phenomena, economic geography, population geography and political geography. In conclusion, we will take a brief look at regional geography which pulls together, in the study of one region, much of what we will have looked at throughout the course.

3. Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course you will:

1. be able to discuss the origins of the discipline of Geography
2. be aware of basic milestones in the development of the discipline such as key land use and urban structure models
3. be able to do basic topographic map interpretation including the use of latitude and longitude, scale, and methods of showing elevation
4. know and be able to discuss the "Four Traditions of Geography" (around which the course is built)
5. have an increased awareness of geographical diversity (both physical and human) through knowledge of some of the processes that are active in and that are shaping different parts of the world
6. have been introduced to the idea of "thinking spatially"

4. Course Requirements:

Please note the following excerpt from the Academic Calendar.

With respect to antirequisites for this course: "Antirequisite(s): Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G, the former Geography 020E"

Geography 1100 may serve as a prerequisite for upper level Geography courses.

There are no prerequisites for Geography 1100.

5. Course Evaluation:

Evaluation in the course is as follows:

Term 1 Test	20
Mid Year Test	25
Term 2 Test	25
Final Exam	30
Total	<hr/> 100

Test/exam format will be multiple choice and short answer. No aids of any kind will be allowed except with the explicit prior permission of the instructor.

"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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> ."

"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."

6. Course Texts:

(a) Required:

Getis, A., Getis, J., and Fellmann, J., Introduction to Geography, 13th ed., Wm. C. Brown, Dubuque, Iowa, 2011

- (b) It is also recommended that you have access to a good quality atlas. You may purchase an atlas of your choice but many are available for you to use in the various libraries of the Western library system as well as in the libraries of the affiliate colleges.

7. Please note:

- (a) There will be no "rewrites" or additional assignments in order to make up marks.

- (b) All requests regarding accommodation for tests missed as a result of illness, etc., are to be directed to the Academic Dean's Office (Academic Counselling). All documentation related to such requests is to be forwarded to the Academic Dean's Office. Accommodation will be provided only at the request of the Academic Dean's Office.

- (c) I commit to conducting class in a manner that maintains an academic atmosphere, that is conducive to learning, and that fosters respect. I expect behaviour from you that contributes to achieving the same goals.

N.B. Your attendance at each and every class is expected as is your attention during those classes. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to acquire any material and/or information that you may have missed.

8. E-Mail Policy and Class Website:

My general policy regarding the use of the class website and e-mail with respect to this course is as follows:

- (a) There is an OWL (Sakai) site for this course. Lecture outlines, course handouts and test results will be available there.
- (b) Please be sure to identify yourself, your course, and course section when contacting me via email.
- (c) I will answer all questions as I am able. Please anticipate a minimum of 24 hours turnaround time.

(d) I do not normally check email on weekends.

(e) I do not guarantee timely responses to emails sent 24 hours (or less) prior to a test, exam or quiz.

9. Schedule:

Test/Exam Dates:

Test 1 – Tues., October 29, 2013 in class time

Test 2 - Mid-Year Exam Period - date, time and place TBA

Test 3 - Tues., February 11, 2014

Test 4 - Final Exam Period - date, time and place TBA

Practice Test (No Marks):

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 - Chapters 1 and 2 – answers provided in class only

Voluntary Assignment (No Marks):

Tuesday, October 8, 2012 to be completed by Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Other Important Dates:

Monday, October 14, 2013 – Thanksgiving

Thursday, October 31 and Friday, November 1, 2013 – Fall Study Break

Thursday, December 5, 2013 – Last class of the fall term for this course

Tuesday, January 7, 2014 – First class of the winter term for this course

Monday, February 17 to Friday, February 21, 2014 – Reading Week

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 – Last class of the winter term for this course

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline 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. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has

previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.