



GEOGRAPHY OF THE U.S. AND CANADA

GEOG 2302

Fall 2014

Required Text: McKnight, Regional Geography of the United States and Canada (4th edition)

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the different areas of Anglo-America, their relations with each other, and their relevance in understanding current events in both the United States and Canada. An overview of the area will be provided initially, followed by discussions of all regions contained in Anglo-America.

Expected learning outcomes from the course include the following: understanding the concept of Geography and how to view the U.S. and Canada through a spatial perspective, learning the regions including their human and physical characteristics and their boundaries, and how humans modify the physical environment to create the landscapes we see in Anglo America.

It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact the Disability Services Coordinator in Counseling and Prevention Services, 112 Ferguson Hall, Box C-171, 837-8203.

There will be 8 quizzes. Each will be worth 30 points and cumulatively, the quizzes will count for a third of the final grade. There will be two exams. Each exam will be noncumulative and each will be worth 150 points. The exams together will count for half percent of the total grade.

Hand-held communication devices (cell phones, blackberries, etc.) are not permitted to be visible in class and must be turned off. Any device going off in class will result in the owner being dismissed for the duration of the class. Leave them elsewhere or out of sight in a container. Any visible device discovered during quizzes or exams will be regarded as prima facie evidence of cheating with the owner being subject to appropriate disciplinary action. I trust this will not happen to anyone in this class.

There are theoretically 600 points available in the course. The point distributions for a given grade are as follows: 480+=A, 420-479=B, 360-419=C, 300-359=D, below 300=F. In cases where the final point total falls somewhat below the cutoff for a given grade, grade improvement over the semester and any classroom participation will be taken into account in determining whether to raise the grade. Lack of grade improvement and/or classroom participation will not lower the grade, but grade improvement or active classroom participation may raise it.

Attendance is expected and comprises 1/6th of the final grade. There are 100 points that can be received by attending all 1 hour and 15 minute classes on time. Each absence will result in six points being deducted from the point total whereas each "tardy" will result in two points being deducted from the point total.

My office is located in LH 306. My office hours are from 9:00 to 9:50 A.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 9:30 to 10:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. My office phone is 837-8150 and my home phone is 837-7245. My e-mail address is pwright@sulross.edu.

Topics, readings, quizzes and exams will be in the following order:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Readings</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Aug 26 | Introduction | Chapter 1 |
| Aug 28 | Introduction | |
| Sept 2 | Physical Environment | Chapter 2 |
| Sept 4 | Physical Environment | |
| Sept 9 | Quiz, Population | Chapter 3 |
| Sept 11 | Population | |
| Sept 16 | Atlantic Northeast | Chapter 6 |
| Sept 18 | Quiz, Atlantic Northeast | |
| Sept 23 | French Canada | Chapter 7 |

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| Sept 25 | French Canada | |
| Sept 30 | Quiz, Megalopolis | Chapter 8 |
| Oct 2 | Megalopolis | |
| Oct 7 | Appalachians & Ozarks | Chapter 9 |
| Oct 9 | Quiz, Inland South | Chapter |
| 10 | | |
| Oct 14 | Exam | |
| Oct 16 | Inland South | |
| Oct 21 | Southeastern Coast | Chapter 11 |
| Oct 23 | Quiz, Southeastern Coast | |
| Oct 28 | Heartland | Chapter 12 |
| Oct 30 | Heartland | |
| Nov 4 | Quiz, Great Plains & Prairies | Chapter |
| 13 | | |
| Nov 6 | Great Plains & Prairies | |
| Nov 11 | Rocky Mountains | Chapter |
| 14 | | |
| Nov 13 | Quiz, Intermontaine West | Chapter 15 |
| Nov 18 | Intermontaine West | |
| Nov 20 | Quiz, California Region | Chapter 16 |
| Nov 25 | California Region | |
| Dec 2 | Hawaii | Chapter 17 |
| Dec 11 | Quiz & Final Exam | |