

GGR 4304 Geography of North America
Spring Semester 2015
Instructor: Jim Williamson
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Text: Regional Geography of the United States and Canada, Fourth Edition
Tom L. McKnight ISBN 0-13-101473-0

Course Description:

A study of the physical and cultural geography of the United States, Canada, and Mexico

Course Scope and Topics:

History of the North American Continent and Europe
The North American Continent
The Physical Environment
Population Growth
Writing the Globe; The Mapmaker's Craft
Problems with 3D v. 2D Map Presentations
Geographical Determinism: Place, Region, and Adaptation
The Consequences of Human Impact
The Columbian Exchange
Climate Change and Civilization
Meteorology of the Differing Regions of the U.S.
Population Shifts Within the United States, Canada, and Mexico
Economic Geography
Politics and Geography

Technology Requirements:

Internet or Banner
Library Data Bases
Various Maps

Attendance Policy:

Check the RGC Catalog for this Policy

Student Objectives:

At the end of this course, students are expected to have a broad general knowledge of the North American Continent, its climate, general geographical orientation, weather patterns, and population centers. Students are expected to have read all assigned materials before class and be prepared to discuss the assignments in detail. Students are ultimately responsible for their own success in this or any other class.

Student Contributions:

Read Text Assignments

Think critically about what has been seen, heard, or read.

Express opinions in class, participate

Attend classes regularly

Take notes and pay attention to videos that may be presented as part of the class

Form study groups to help each other in the learning process

Take an active part in your own education

Course Evaluation:

The course evaluation will be based on a minimum of two equally weighted exams, one comprehensive final exam, and a project due at the end of the course. Projects will be discussed in class.

The final course grade will be determined from the following:

1 exam worth 100 points

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Final exam 100 points

Projects 100 Points

Total of 400 points

A 360 – 400

B 320 – 399

C 280 – 319

D 240 – 279

F < 240

Any necessary make-up exams will be administered at a designated time by the instructor.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Academic integrity is highly valued in our campus community. Academic integrity directly concerns ethical behaviors which affect both the academic environment and the civic community. Academic dishonesty seriously violates the integrity of the academic enterprise and will not be tolerated at Rio Grande College. Academic dishonesty is regarded as any act of deception, benign or malicious in nature, in the completion of any academic exercise. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, misrepresentation of idea or fact for the purpose of defrauding, use of unauthorized aids or devices, falsifying attendance records, violation of testing protocols, inappropriate course assignment collaboration, and any other acts prohibited by the instructor of record.

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