

Geography 360: Geography of North America

Department of Earth, Environmental, & Atmospheric Sciences

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Office hours in EST 359 or 338 or on zoom Please email to set up an appointment.

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General course goals: This course is designed to help students gain a greater understanding of society and human behavior within the United States and Canada as well as how the U.S. and Canada help to influence society and human behavior throughout the world. Throughout the semester, we will study the cultural social, economic, physical, and ecological systems of North America by examining important topics and geographic regions. ***All course reading assignments and lectures are intended to help students develop an understanding of society and human behavior.***

Required Material:

- **Text: (Required) Text:** Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada, Seventh Edition.
- **Internet, Blackboard, and Topper mail account:** This course will mainly be online. Course material will be accessible through Blackboard. All assignments will be turned in via blackboard versus emailed to the instructor. All students must be familiar with blackboard and uploading assignments before the first assignment is due. Using Mozilla Firefox as your internet browser is recommended but each students should check compatibility
- **Mediasite & video camera/microphone:** Each student will create videos and watch videos via the Mediasite software found in blackboard. Each student will need access to a video camera and microphone on a computer.

Grade/Evaluation:

- All grades will be posted on blackboard with digital
 - feedback. Regular grading scale of 90-100% A, 80-
 - 89% B and so on.
- Weighted final grade:
- o Exam 1 25%
 - o Exam 2 25%
 - o Mapping Census 15%
 - o Research Activity 10%
 - o Location Quiz, Fieldwork, Activities and Discussion Boards 25%
- There is no extra credit, you will have enough work to keep you busy.
- If you find that you are right on the line between grades you must push harder to get the higher grade. Final grades will not be altered.

Assignments (see blackboard for all details on completing assignments):

Exams (2): 50%. Readings, power points, lecture videos, films, assignments and activities will be include content on the exams. Any exams taken via blackboard are timed and closed book. Failure to complete all questions, within the time limit, will result in a zero for unanswered questions. Students should pace themselves. The final exam must be taken at a local testing center. All details in Blackboard.

Mapping the Census: 15%. Students will explore census data and select a topic to construct a graduated color map of the USA by state. Student will create a Mediasite presentation of their findings.

Research Topic: 10%. Each student will research, write a paper, and present their findings. Topics will be provided but students are encouraged to offer ideas. Students must submit, for approval in a timely fashion, the topic, research question, outline of paper. Presentations will be created via Mediasite.

Location Quiz, Fieldwork, Activities and Discussion Boards:

- **Location Quiz:** Map quiz of North America. The list of places maybe found on Blackboard along with blank map templates. Each student must prepare their own study guide.
- **Five Themes Observation & Field work:** Field work days will involve a field trip to one or more locations where students will observe the five themes of geography. Each student will prepare a power point and upload to blackboard—No Mediasite presentation—just a power point.
- **Variety of small assignments,** see blackboard.

Online courses:

– • WKU email: I will use the email that is set up in blackboard to correspond with you. I ask that you respond within 24 hours to questions I ask you (except over the weekends of course—if I email you on Friday, please get back to me by Monday morning). I will extend the same courteousness to you. If you email me hours before an assignment is due there is a chance that I will not respond to you until after the assignment was due—again work a head to eliminate late penalties and this type of problem for yourself. Courteousness: Be kind. Unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated.

• Zoom: Zoom meetings are encouraged for meetings unless the students is local and wishes to meet face to face. When on zoom with me for class or a meeting it is always expected for a camera to on as well as the student name posted.

• Exams: For OnDemand: There are two exams in this course. Students will take via Blackboard with the Respondus Lockdown software. Students must take the exam on a computer that is able to download this software or take at a testing center, found all over the US.

Suggested Course Schedules

Below you will find two suggested course schedules to help you organize your studies. These schedules are meant as a guideline to help those who need to complete their course in a certain timeframe.

Need to finish your course within a semester? Here is a suggested course schedule:		
Week	Assignments	Exams
1	Familiarize yourself with the course	
2	Module 1	
3	Module 1 (continued)	
4	Module 2	
5	Module 3	
6	Module 3 (continued)	
7	Prepare for midterm	Midterm Examination
8	Module 4	
9	Module 4 (continued)	
10	Module 5	
11	Module 5 (continued)	
12	Module 6	
13	Module 6 (continued)	
14	Prepare for final exam	

Need to finish your course within a semester? Here is a suggested course schedule:	
15	Final Examination

Need to finish your course within seven weeks? Here is a suggested course schedule:		
Week	Assignments	Exams
1	Module 1	
2	Module 2	
3	Module 3, Prepare for midterm	Midterm Examination
4	Module 4	
5	Module 5	
6	Module 6	
7	Prepare for final exam	Final Examination

Covid:

All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. In accordance with WKU policy, all students must call the WKU COVID-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019 within 4 hours of testing positive for COVID-19 or being identified as a close contact to someone who has

tested positive. The COVID Assistance Line is available to answer questions regarding any COVID-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by federal, state, and local public health entities. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

Ogden Student Course Attendance Statement:

The faculty and staff of Ogden College of Science and Engineering are committed to providing you with learning experiences and opportunities. You must assume ownership of your education and be an active participant in the classroom and laboratory to take advantage of these opportunities. Active participation requires you to attend. Scientific studies have shown that attendance during scheduled classroom and laboratory meetings is directly correlated to your performance on assignments and exams and the potential to earn higher grades. Additionally, if you do not regularly attend class, you are missing important information about course topics, due dates, and assignment details that are crucial to your success in the course. Therefore, as a student enrolled in an Ogden course, you are expected to attend every class meeting and to inform your instructor regarding the reasons for any absences as soon as practical. Your instructor may incorporate class attendance/participation as part of the grading criteria.

Students with disabilities:

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email atsarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Schedule Change Policy:

The Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences strictly adheres to university policies, procedures, and deadlines regarding student schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waived. The Student Schedule Form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented stress will not be considered legitimate circumstances.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will absolutely not be tolerated. WKU adheres to a strict policy against plagiarism and cheating (see Scholastic Dishonesty Code in your Handbook). Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated, and appropriate penalties will be faced by anyone who violates this policy. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. All academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having

changed a few words is also plagiarism. Other examples of academic dishonesty include but are not allowing other students to copy your work, using work from previous semesters, and plagiarism. To take exams with the help of someone else in the class or notes/book is considered cheating. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an 'F' with special designation for plagiarism/cheating. This will remain on your permanent academic record.

Title IX Discrimination and Harassment:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Learning Center (TLC):

Should you require academic assistance; TLC provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DSU and TLC@ FAC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and 8 academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area and offers a 32-machine computer lab to complete academic coursework. TLC has 4satellite locations; each is a quiet study center equipped with a small computer lab. These satellite locations are located in FAC, Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. Contact TLC @ DSU for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. 745- 6254.

The Writing Center:

The Writing Center has locations in Cherry Hall 123 and in the Commons at Cravens Library on the Bowling Green campus. The Glasgow Writing Center is located in room163 on the Glasgow campus. The Writing Center also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. See instructions on the website (www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719during our operating hours (also listed on our website) for help scheduling an appointment. More information about the Glasgow Writing Center hours can be found at the website: <http://www.wku.edu/glasgow/writingcenter.php>.

The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services:

The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.