



Course Syllabus: North American Geography
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
GEOG 3013 Section 201

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Leland Turner, PhD

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday Noon to 1:30 p.m., Tues/Thurs 1-2p.m. or by appointment via Zoom or telephone.

Office: OD 224

E-mail: leland.turner@msutexas.edu

Phone: (940) 397-4014 (please leave a message)

Instructor Response Policy

Please allow the instructor ample time to respond to your requests and/or inquiries. The instructor endeavors to respond to inquiries during the working day on the day the inquiry is received. Instructor responses may be issued at odd hours or on the weekend but such is not guaranteed. Moreover, if the instructor is traveling students will be notified ahead of time and response times may not be as scheduled depending on internet access. Nonetheless all efforts are made to respond within a reasonable timeframe.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Text: Pearson, *Geography of North America* (Oxford University Press) ISBN: 9780137504824

Online Readings: As assigned

Course Description

For our purposes, geography is not just a study of spatial relationships and boundaries but a study of how underlying cultures and the natural world help define such borders and inform the human condition

The primary objective of this course is to provide the student with a basic understanding of the relationship between human activity, political boundaries, economic systems, and the natural environment. Major themes of the course will include, but are not limited to: regional populations, economic development, the diffusion of knowledge and peoples, regional cultures (religion, society, customs, and, politics) and technology and its contribution to agriculture, industrialization, and urbanization.

The United States and Canada have common heritage and to some extent common goals. Even though they share a common border, both nations have many differences. **GEOG 3013, Geography of North America**, involves the study of the physical and human/cultural geography of a very diverse region of the world. The course will focus on the many and varied characteristics of the sub-regions of North America. It will also introduce the student to a geographer's perspective in studying and analyzing these regions. It provides familiarity with the region and skills that are especially important to those that either plan or might eventually choose a teaching career.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify, analyze, and critique spatial data using maps and other geographic tools and technology.
Assessment Methodology: Map interpretation exercises and online assignments.
2. Identify and recognize how culture and the natural environment influence people's perception of place, region, and contributes to personal identity constructs.
Assessment Methodology: Factual, conceptual, analytical, and interpretive multiple choice exams and short answer responses to relevant case studies.
3. Discuss the role of technology in human attempts to modify and utilize the physical environment and how those physical systems affect human systems.
Assessment Methodology: Factual, conceptual, analytical, and interpretive multiple choice exams and short answer responses to relevant case studies.
4. Apply geography, and spatial interpretations, to understand the past, present, and future – particularly regarding the processes of globalization.
Assessment Methodology: Online essay response assignments, case studies, and a comprehensive final-exam section that demands a critical and detailed understanding of class material, readings, and lectures.

Student Participation Clause

Students in this course are held personally responsible for their own education and encouraged to excel. Active student participation in learning [which is, at the very least, accomplished through the careful reading of all assignments, attentive note taking from readings, and the willingness to ask questions), the maintenance of a weekly study schedule, the completion of all assignments in a timely manner, adequate and earnest preparation for quizzes and writing assignments, and, when necessary, individual post-assignment consultation with the

instructor] is essential to the successful accomplishment of all expected learning outcomes.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2021-22](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Notice: Please understand the following – it applies to all assignments: quizzes, exams, and essays. If you in any instance “cut and paste” from any internet source without citing that source (that is plagiarism) or use unapproved internet sources you will fail the assignment in question and depending on the severity of the cheating or plagiarism the professor reserves the right to employ any or all university sanctioned disciplinary actions.

Grading/Assessment

All essays are graded on a rubric which is posted to D2L and are marked via the TurnItIn.com application. Feedback is based on the rubric and remarks provided through the application. Any student desiring more specific input in order to improve their marks may contact the instructor for additional feedback and advice. Quizzes are multiple choice and grades are posted forthwith.

Table 1: Assignments and Values

Assignments	Percentage
Textbook Quizzes	30%
Exams	35%
Response Papers	15%
Mid-Term Essay	10%
Final Essay	10%
Total	100%

Table 2: Total percentage for final grade.

Final Grade	Percentage
A	90%+
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	Less than 60%

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member.

This course is structured so that it is to the student's advantage to attend all classes and participate in all discussions and lectures. From past experience, those students who choose not to participate on a regular basis have not been successful. Relevant terminology, from which many factual questions are derived, and major themes from which interpretive and analytical questions are derived, are presented and discussed in online lectures and assigned readings. Information from your text and supplemental readings are relevant but are typically not sufficient to produce well-conceived analytical and interpretive responses. Material relevant to the identification and critique of major historical themes and trends and the alternative explanations for such interpretations of social issues and human behavior is presented in lectures and analyzed in classroom discussions.

Extra Credit

Under no circumstances are "extra credit" assignments given to individual students. Such assignments are inherently unfair to your fellow students. Please do not request "extra credit." However, bonus points are available on several assignments. Students are encouraged to take advantage of all bonus opportunities.

Late Work

No late work is accepted unless it is cleared with the instructor before the work is due. Please stay on top of your assignment schedule, late work is only accepted under accentuating circumstance.

Make Up Work/Tests

Such make-up work is given only if the professor determines that the student has a legitimate reason for having missed the deadline for a scheduled quiz or writing assignment and only on prescribed due dates set by the instructor. The qualifications concerning the make-up assignments are as follows:

A student must have a documented reason for missing an assignment in order to be eligible for a make-up exam or quiz. To be eligible a student must present documentation of participation in an official, university-sanctioned event or documentation of an *emergency* medical event.

Any and all make-ups must be scheduled and completed on the arranged schedule. A make-up assignment or quiz may not be the same as the scheduled assignment or quiz. The professor reserves the right to administer a make-up assignment relevant to the material assigned. This policy is not negotiable and will be in force no matter the nature of your reason for missing an assignment or quiz.

Except in extraordinary situations, online quizzes are not subject to the course make-up policy. Quizzes are open for a period of time sufficient for the student to complete the quiz before the due date.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the course. Feel free to contact your instructor but understand that he is not a technology expert, but do copy the instructor when you contact D2L Help.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking a class with significant online content requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Conduct: All students are expected to act as responsible adults in the classroom, in online discussion forums, and in all course related communication. Any and all undue disruptions or distractions will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Below you will find general guidelines covering certain actions and/or behaviors

that are to be avoided. As a general rule any behavior that disrupts the administration of this class will not be tolerated.

Electronic Devices, Texting, and Phones: The use of tape recorders, iPods, mp3s, or any other recording device in class is prohibited without the instructor's permission. It is imperative that you turn off phones, any and all communication devices, and other electronic equipment before entering the classroom. The use of a telephone or texting device for any reason is prohibited in the classroom. It is considered a major distraction. On the first offense the student will be penalized 20 points on her or his semester point total. The second offense will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom. The professor reserves the right to expel and administratively withdraw a student from the class upon the third offense.

Classroom: Students are expected to respect the classroom and their colleagues, and the learning environment which is disrupted by distractions. Such distractions include: arriving late, excessive conversation, sleeping, leaving and reentering the classroom during class, use of electronic devices when not involved in a classroom learning event, and others.

E-mail: Please note that e-mail correspondence is the most effective, efficient, reliable, and convenient way in which to communicate with your professor outside of the classroom. The professor/student relationship is professional by nature and, accordingly, your e-mail correspondence should be constructed professionally.

Withdrawals (Course Drop): The professor is NOT responsible for student withdrawals. The student is responsible for meeting all academic deadlines – withdrawal deadlines included.

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.