



SYLLABUS

NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
GEOG 3380-01W: GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICA
SPRING 2021

Course Information

Class meeting time: Online, Asynchronous
Modality and Location: Online, Asynchronous

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Paul N. McDaniel, Associate Professor of Geography

Email: paul.mcdaniel@kennesaw.edu

Office Location: Math & Statistics Building (MS) 236 (a [SafeSpace](#))

Office phone: 470-578-4918

Office Hours: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Preferred method of communication: Email or D2L Message

Faculty Web: <http://facultyweb.kennesaw.edu/pmcdan11>

Email and Classroom Response Times: I will check my email and D2L messages at least once a day, not including weekends or holidays. Monday through Friday, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours. Over the weekend (starting Friday at 5 p.m.) I will respond to all emails on Monday. Please contact me when you have questions or need clarification. KSU Writing Center [Guide on Writing Professional Emails](#).

The professor reserves the right to revise this syllabus at his discretion.

Course Description

This course provides a geographical survey of North America emphasizing the significant diversity found in both the physical and human geography of the region. Past, current and changing locational arrangements of people and resources are examined as they relate to economic, political, urban and cultural geographic perspectives within the framework of the forces that have created the variety of landscapes of the North American continent. 3 credit hours.

Course Materials

Required Texts: There are two required books for this course (weekly readings from these two books are referred to by the respective author's last name in the course weekly outline schedule):

- Hardwick, Susan W., Fred M. Shelley, and Donald G. Holtgrieve. 2013. *The Geography of North America: Environment, Culture, Economy*. 2nd edition. Boston, MA: Pearson. (Textbook available in the KSU bookstore or you may find a new/used copy for order online, and it is also available as a hardback book and as an e-book).
- Woodard, Colin. 2011. *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*. New York: Penguin Books. (You may find a new paperback available for order online for around \$12; used versions are also widely available. This book is also available as an audio book from a variety of sources).

Recommended Texts: To add further context to textbook concepts and class discussions a select set of supplemental readings may be made available at the discretion of the instructor. These readings may be drawn from newspapers, magazines, academic journals, book chapters, etc., and would be made available as handouts in class or online via D2L.

Technology requirements: You will need access to a computer with an internet connection to access the D2L course site. To view some course materials, you will also need Adobe Reader to view PDF files, MS PowerPoint to view the lecture slides, MS Word or another word processor to view some course documents and to complete the research paper, and QuickTime or another program to view the optional videos from Smithsonian. To function in this online course, you will also need to be able to

use basic Internet functions, email, D2L, and MS Office products.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe and identify the basic characteristics of North American regions.
2. Identify North American major physiographic and cultural features.
3. Analyze the characteristics, distribution, and cultural complexity of North American populations.

Course Requirements, Assignments, Evaluation, and Grading Policies

All activity due dates are clearly listed in the chart below, in the module schedule further below in this syllabus, in D2L on each individual activity page, and in the D2L course calendar.

Activity	Points	Due Dates (each activity is due on D2L by 11:59 PM on the date specified)
<p>Reading Quizzes. There will be five reading quizzes throughout the course each worth 20 points for a total of 100 points. Quizzes are multiple choice, directly based on material from the two required books for this course, and completed on D2L. D2L will grade the quizzes automatically so you will be able to see your grade immediately upon completing the quiz. See schedule overview for quiz due dates and related course modules.</p>	100 points	Reading Quiz 1: February 7 Reading Quiz 2: February 21 Reading Quiz 3: April 4 Reading Quiz 4: April 18 Reading Quiz 5: May 3
<p>Discussions. There will be four online discussion forums throughout the course. Each is worth 25 points for a total of 100 points. You must respond in detail (at least 350 words) to the discussion topic prompt/question and respond in one paragraph (at least 50 words) each to at least 3 other classmates' responses to create a dialogue around the topics that the entire class is participating in. The discussion assignment grading rubric below contains detailed information about what is required for the discussions and how points are awarded for different items required within the discussions. See schedule overview for discussion due dates and related course modules.</p>	100 points	Discussion 1: January 17 Discussion 2: February 21 Discussion 3: April 4 Discussion 4: May 3
<p>Midterm Exam. Covers Chapters 1-11 from Hardwick textbook and Chapters 1-14 from Woodard American Nations book. Consists of 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each for a total of 100 points. D2L will grade the exams automatically so you will be able to see your grade immediately upon completing the exam.</p>	100 points	March 21
<p>Final Exam. Non-cumulative, covers Chapters 12-19 from the Hardwick textbook and Chapters 15-28 from Woodard's American Nations book. Consists of 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each for a total of 100 points. will grade the exams automatically so you will be able to see your grade immediately upon completing the exam.</p>	100 points	May 6
<p>Google Earth Project: StoryBoard. Please use the Google Earth StoryBoard template document provided in the Google Earth Project module in D2L to plan out your project. Please submit the StoryBoard along with proposed title and brief summary paragraph to the Google Earth Project StoryBoard discussion forum in the project module in D2L.</p>	25 points	February 7
<p>Google Earth Project: StoryBoard Planning Discussion. In addition to posting your StoryBoard, please also respond to at least three other students' storyboard posts in the discussion forum with constructive feedback that should be helpful to the further preparation of each project.</p>	25 points	February 14
<p>Google Earth Project Draft for Feedback. Please submit the weblink to the draft version of your Google Earth Project in the appropriate assignment dropbox in D2L. Please include a project title and brief</p>	50 points	March 28

summary text overview. The instructor will provide timely feedback on the draft version of your project.		
Final Google Earth Project. Please submit the web link to the final version of your Google Earth Project to a discussion forum in the Google Earth Project module in D2L.	100 points	April 25
Final Google Earth Project Presentation. Along with the web link, you must also post a brief summary title and overview about your project in the discussion forum and a summary presentation of your Google Earth Project. The presentation may be in the form of a voice over audio/video screen capture recording of you guiding viewers through your Google Earth Project, or a digital presentation file (such as PPT or Prezi using screen shots from your Google Earth Project).	50 points	April 25
Final Google Earth Project Discussion. In addition to the above, within the final Google Earth Project discussion forum, you must also respond to at least three other students' final project discussion posts after viewing their projects.	50 points	May 3
TOTAL	700 points	

Final course grades will be assigned based upon the total points from the items above out of 700 total possible points, computed to a percentage according to the grade guideline below.

Percentage Grade	Letter Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Grading Rubric for Each Discussion Assignment

	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
Content	10 points Post contains unique and novel ideas. Shows you have thought critically about the material and addresses all questions in the prompt.	5 points Post is substantial but does not show much critical thinking about the topic. Mainly summarizes the main point or restates what has already been said by others.	0 points Post has little substance, off topic, does not contribute to the discussion.
Reference and Support	5 points The post has clearly and explicitly referenced material to the readings and personal experiences to reinforce the opinion/statements.	2.5 points Some material or personal experiences are referenced.	0 points There is no clear support for the statements.
Length of Post	5 points Post is 350 words or more.	2.5 points Post is 201 to 349 words.	0 points Post is less than 200 words.
Meaningful Responses to Three Other Students' Posts	5 points Three responses are each 50 words or more and show strong evidence of thought.	2.5 points Responses are 25 to 49 words OR don't show strong evidence of thought OR less than three responses.	0 points No response posts.

Google Earth Project Overview

Over the course of the semester, you will design and produce an interactive and narrative digital map story project using the platform Google Earth (or, you may also choose to use ESRI StoryMap if you are already familiar with, have access to, and prefer that platform). This is the major semester project for this course, is out of 100 possible points, and is 20 percent of the final course grade. This assignment will be broken into several steps, but the final product will be an argument driven creative

interactive digital map story tour of a particular topic as it occurs in a particular place or region of North America. Your project should explore the significance of geographic space, place, and geography to your selected topic. A geographic spatial approach helps us to think about relationships between places related to a given topic, such as the different sub-regions we explore in Geography of North America. You should also be creative in your approach to creating your Google Earth Project. Working with a digital platform and building your own maps and accompanying descriptive text narrative may seem time consuming at first, but is also extremely rewarding and an exciting alternative to a typical “research/term paper”. This assignment may be intimidating at first if you have little experience with digital mapping, Google Earth, or other similar digital platforms. However, through the gradual steps, including the specific step-by-step guidance, and the examples provided throughout the course for each sub-region, the project is approachable for everyone no matter your experience level with Google Earth and digital mapping. You must first select a specific topic for your Google Earth Project. Regional geography is very broad and encompasses many subjects spanning the various subfields of geography (physical/environmental geography, human, historical, population, cultural, economic, political, urban geography, etc.). Whatever topic you choose to focus on, it is important that your given topic relates to the broader course focus on North America or one of its sub-regions and that it has a clear spatial component and is driven by a central question. You should think about the significance of where events happen, where people are from, how geography affects people, etc. Think about how you might incorporate one or more of the five themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region) into your analysis of the topic.

Full instructions, details, list of topic ideas, and links to references and help documents for the project are all posted in the Google Earth Project module folder on D2L. Final project web links will be submitted to a discussion forum on D2L during the last week of the semester so that everyone in the class can view and interact with each final project.

Project Components/Deliverables (out of a total of 300 possible points):

1. Google Earth Project StoryBoard (25 points) and Planning Discussion (25 points).
 - a. You will use the Google Earth StoryBoard template document provided in the Google Earth Project module in D2L to plan out your project. Please submit the StoryBoard along with proposed title and brief summary paragraph to the appropriate assignment dropbox in D2L and to the Google Earth Project StoryBoard discussion forum in the project module in D2L. Please also respond to at least three other students’ storyboard posts in the discussion forum with constructive feedback that should be helpful to the further preparation of each project.
2. Draft version of Google Earth Project for instructor feedback (50 points).
 - a. Please submit the weblink to the draft version of your Google Earth Project in the appropriate assignment dropbox in D2L. Please include a project title and brief summary text overview. The instructor will provide timely feedback on the draft version of your project.
3. Final Google Earth Project (100 points), Presentation (50 points), and Discussion (50 points).
 - a. You will submit the web link to the final version of your Google Earth Project to the appropriate assignment dropbox in D2L and to a discussion forum in the Google Earth Project module in D2L. Along with the web link, you must also post a brief summary title and overview about your project in the discussion forum and a summary presentation of your Google Earth Project. The presentation may be in the form of a voice over audio/video screen capture recording of you guiding viewers through your Google Earth Project, or a digital presentation file (such as PPT or Prezi using screen shots from your Google Earth Project). Bonus points will be awarded at the discretion of the instructor if you submit an abstract of your project (abstract due March 22) in consultation with the instructor and present your project at the virtual KSU Symposium of Student Scholars on April 29. If interested, please refer to the following information about the Symposium: <https://research.kennesaw.edu/our/symposium-student-scholars/spring-edition.php>.
 - b. In addition to the above, within the final Google Earth Project discussion forum, you must also respond to at least three other students’ final project discussion posts after viewing their projects.

Course Policies

Financial Aid Attendance Compliance: You are responsible for determining your enrollment status in all classes to protect your financial aid monies. NOT ATTENDING A CLASS FOR WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED IS NOT THE SAME AS WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE. You must complete an online withdrawal to be removed from a course. If you stop attending class but do not complete an online withdrawal BEFORE the last day to drop without academic penalty, you will receive a grade of WF, which counts as an F in calculating your grade point average and counts as a completed course for determining your financial aid award.

Institutional Policies

Institutional Policies are found at this link: [Federal, BOR, & KSU Course Syllabus Policies](#)

Non-Discrimination Statement: Kennesaw State University (KSU) is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents policy, and University

policy, the University prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status by any member of the KSU Community on campus, in connection with a University program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for members of the KSU community.

<http://diversity.kennesaw.edu/>

KSU Student Resources

This link contains information on help and resources available to students: [KSU Student Syllabus Resources](#)

Course Schedule

Below is an outline of the content and activities in each module of the course. Dates below indicate the date the module begins. Due dates are also listed in the separate "Schedule Overview" document and in the D2L course calendar. All due dates for activities are in Eastern Time and are due by 11:59 PM on D2L on the specified due date.

Week	Date	Modules	Readings/Content/Activities/Items Due	Due Date
1	January 11-17	0: Start Here 1: Introduction	Getting started, course introduction Hardwick Ch. 1: North America Introduction Woodard Part One: Origins 1590 to 1769, Chs. 1-9 (finish reading by week 4) Items Due: Discussion 1 (Introduce Yourself)	January 17
2	January 18-24	2. Environmental, Historical, and Political Economy of North America	Hardwick Ch. 2: North America's Environmental Setting Woodard Part One: Origins 1590 to 1769, Chs. 1-9 (finish reading by week 4)	
3	January 25-31	2. Environmental, Historical, and Political Economy of North America	Hardwick Ch. 3: Historical Settlement Woodard Part One: Origins 1590 to 1769, Chs. 1-9 (finish reading by week 4)	
4	February 1-7	2. Environmental, Historical, and Political Economy of North America 9: Google Earth Project	Hardwick Ch. 4: Political Economy Woodard Part One: Origins 1590 to 1769, Chs. 1-9 (finish reading this section by this week) Items Due: Reading Quiz 1 Google Earth Project StoryBoard Due	February 7
5	February 8-14	3. The Atlantic, Quebec, and Megalopolis 9: Google Earth Project	Hardwick Ch. 5: The Atlantic Periphery Hardwick Ch. 6: Quebec Woodard Part Two: Unlikely Allies 1770 to 1815, Chs. 10-14 (finish reading by week 8) Item Due: Google Earth Project StoryBoard Discussion	February 14
6	February 15-21	3. The Atlantic, Quebec, and Megalopolis	Hardwick Ch. 7: Megalopolis Woodard Part Two: Unlikely Allies 1770 to 1815, Chs. 10-14 (finish reading by week 8) Items Due: Discussion 2	February 21

			Reading Quiz 2	
7	February 22-28	4. The South, Great Lakes, Midwest, and Great Plains	Hardwick Ch. 9: The Inland South Hardwick Ch. 10: The Coastal South Woodard Part Two: Unlikely Allies 1770 to 1815, Chs. 10-14 (finish reading by week 8)	
8	March 1-7	4. The South, Great Lakes, Midwest, and Great Plains	Hardwick Ch. 8: The Great Lakes and Corn Belt Hardwick Ch. 11: The Great Plains Woodard Part Two: Unlikely Allies 1770 to 1815, Chs. 10-14 (finish reading this section by this week) March 15: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty	
9	March 8-14	SPRING BREAK		
10	March 15-21	5. Midterm Exam	Items Due: Midterm Exam (Hardwick Ch. 1-11; Woodard Ch. 1-14)	March 21
11	March 22-28	6. The Rocky Mountains, Intermontane West, and Southwest	Hardwick Ch. 12: The Rocky Mountain Region Hardwick Ch. 13: The Intermontane West Woodard Part Three: Wars for the West 1816 to 1877, Chs. 15-21 (finish reading by week 14) March 22: Optional Abstract Submission Deadline for KSU Symposium of Student Scholars: https://research.kennesaw.edu/our/symposium-student-scholars/spring-edition.php Item Due: Draft version of Google Earth Project for instructor feedback	March 28
12	March 29-April 4	6. The Rocky Mountains, Intermontane West, and Southwest	Hardwick Ch. 14: MexAmerica Woodard Part Three: Wars for the West 1816 to 1877, Chs. 15-21 (finish reading by week 14) Items Due: Discussion 3 Reading Quiz 3	April 4
13	April 5-11	7. California and the Pacific Northwest	Hardwick Ch. 15: California Woodard Part Three: Wars for the West 1816 to 1877, Chs. 15-21 (finish reading by week 14)	
14	April 12-18	7. California and the Pacific Northwest	Hardwick Ch. 16: The Pacific Northwest Woodard Part Three: Wars for the West 1816 to 1877, Chs. 15-21 (finish reading this section by this week) Items Due: Reading Quiz 4 Dr. McDaniel will be participating in the American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting this week. As such, email replies may be delayed this week. www.aag.org	April 18

15	April 19-25	8. Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands, the Far North, and The Future of North America 9. Google Earth Project	Hardwick Ch. 17: Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands Woodard Part Four: Culture Wars 1878 to 2010, Chs. 22-28 (finish reading by week 16) Items Due: Google Earth Project and Presentation	April 25
16	April 26-May 3	8. Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands, the Far North, and The Future of North America 9. Google Earth Project	Hardwick Ch. 18: The Far North Hardwick Ch. 19: The Future of North America Woodard Part Four: Culture Wars 1878 to 2010, Chs. 22-28 and Epilogue (finish reading this section by this week) Items Due: Discussion 4 Reading Quiz 5 Google Earth Project Discussion April 29: KSU Virtual Spring 2021 Symposium of Student Scholars: https://research.kennesaw.edu/our/symposium-student-scholars/spring-edition.php May 3: Last day of classes for Spring 2021	May 3
17	May 4-6	10. Final Exam	Items Due: Final Exam (Hardwick Ch. 12-19; Woodard Ch. 15-28)	May 6