



SYLLABUS

NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
GEOG 3380-01W: GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICA
SUMMER 4-WEEK II, JUNE 30-JULY 28, 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. As a best practice in communicating professionally in a professional setting, please refer to the 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 in this syllabus):

- 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, class discussions, and ongoing current events, 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 to students online via D2L. Please note that every attempt will be made to include the research and work done by researchers and scholars who have contributed to geographic thought who are often underrepresented in academia, including integrating research and readings by scholars of various races and ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and other aspects of intersectionality.

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. To function in this online course, you will also need to be able to use basic Internet functions, be familiar with using KSU's Desire2Learn (D2L) online learning management system, and regularly check your KSU email and D2L messages and announcements.

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 (due on D2L by 11:59 PM on the date specified)
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.	100 points	Reading Quiz 1: July 6 Reading Quiz 2: July 13 Reading Quiz 3: July 20 Reading Quiz 4: July 22 Reading Quiz 5: July 27
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.	100 points	Discussion 1: July 6 Discussion 2: July 13 Discussion 3: July 20 Discussion 4: July 27
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.	100 points	July 14
Final Google Earth Project. Please submit the web link to the final version of your Google Earth Project to the Final Google Earth Project assignment dropbox AND to the Final Google Earth Project Discussion forum.	100 points	July 22
Final Google Earth Project Discussion. In addition to the Final Google Earth Project submission, within the final Google Earth Project discussion forum you must post the shareable link to your Google Earth Project, you must also respond to at least three other students' final project discussion posts after viewing their projects.	50 points	July 26
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.	100 points	July 28
TOTAL	550 points	

Final course grades will be assigned based upon the total points from the items above out of 550 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 digital narrative story map project using the platform Google Earth (or, you may choose to use ESRI StoryMaps to create your project rather than Google Earth if you are already familiar with, have access to, and prefer that platform, accessible via the KSU GIS online platform. If you choose the ESRI StoryMaps option, all of the instructions below still apply, but would be for your ESRI StoryMap Project rather than for a Google Earth Project). This is the major project for this course. This assignment will be broken into several steps, but the final product will be an argument driven creative interactive digital narrative story map tour of a particular topic as it occurs in a particular place(s) or region(s) 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. One item of note, when you actually start to create your Google Earth Project in Google Earth, please select the option to create a project that is saved to Google Drive, NOT the option that creates a KML file (DO NOT create the KML version, simply create the Google Drive version). With the option to save it to google drive, you can then change the sharing settings of your project to simply share the weblink to your project with me and other students as part

of the various project deliverables. Final project shareable web links will also be submitted to a discussion forum so that everyone in the class can view and interact with each final project.

Project Components/Deliverables (out of a total of 150 possible points):

1. **Final Google Earth Project** (100 points) and **Google Earth Project Discussion** (50 points).
 - a. You will submit the shareable web link to 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.
 - 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 clearly listed for each week in the schedule below and are also clearly listed in the D2L course calendar and on each graded activity and assignment item in D2L. All due dates for activities are in Eastern Time and are due by 11:59 PM on D2L on the specified due date. I suggest you also set due date reminders and alerts in your electronic Outlook calendar connected to your KSU email.

Week	Modules	Readings/Content/Activities/Items Due	Due Dates
Week 1: June 30- July 6	0: Start Here 1: Introduction 2: Environmental, Historical, and Political Economy of North America	Getting started, course introduction Hardwick Ch. 1: North America Introduction Hardwick Ch. 2: North America's Environmental Setting Hardwick Ch. 3: Historical Settlement of North America Hardwick Ch. 4: North American Political Economy Woodard Part One: Origins 1590 to 1769, Chapters 1-9 Due July 6: Discussion 1 (Introduce Yourself) Reading Quiz 1	Due July 6: -Discussion 1 -Reading Quiz 1
Week 2: July 7- 13	3: The Atlantic, Quebec, and Megalopolis	Hardwick Ch. 5: The Atlantic Periphery Hardwick Ch. 6: Quebec Hardwick Ch. 7: Megalopolis Hardwick Ch. 8: The Great Lakes and Corn Belt	Due July 13: -Discussion 2 -Reading Quiz 2

	<p>4: The South, Great Lakes, Midwest, and Great Plains</p> <p>5: Midterm Exam</p>	<p>Hardwick Ch. 9: The Inland South Hardwick Ch. 10: The Coastal South Hardwick Ch. 11: The Great Plains</p> <p>Woodard Part Two: Unlikely Allies 1770 to 1815, Chapters 10-14</p> <p>Due July 13: Discussion 2, Reading Quiz 2</p>	
<p>Week 3: July 14-20</p>	<p>6: The Rocky Mountains, Intermontane West, and Southwest</p> <p>7: California and the Pacific Northwest</p>	<p>July 14: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty</p> <p>Hardwick Ch. 12: The Rocky Mountain Region Hardwick Ch. 13: The Intermontane West Hardwick Ch. 14: MexAmerica Hardwick Ch. 15: California Hardwick Ch. 16: The Pacific Northwest</p> <p>Woodard Part Three: Wars for the West 1816 to 1877, Chapters 15-21</p> <p>Due July 14: Midterm Exam (Hardwick Ch. 1-11; Woodard Ch. 1-14)</p> <p>Due July 20: Discussion 3 Reading Quiz 3 Reading Quiz 4</p>	<p>Due July 14: -Midterm Exam</p> <p>Due July 20: -Discussion 3 -Reading Quiz 3 -Reading Quiz 4</p>
<p>Week 4: July 21-27</p>	<p>8: Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands, the Far North, and The Future of North America</p> <p>9: Google Earth Project</p>	<p>Hardwick Ch. 17: Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands Hardwick Ch. 18: The Far North Hardwick Ch. 19: The Future of North America</p> <p>Woodard Part Four: Culture Wars 1878 to 2010, Chapters 22-28</p> <p>July 27: Last day of classes for Summer 4-Week II Session</p> <p>Due July 22: Final Google Earth Project</p> <p>Due July 26: Google Earth Project Discussion</p> <p>Due July 27: Discussion 4, Reading Quiz 5</p>	<p>Due July 22: -Final Google Earth Project</p> <p>Due July 26: -Google Earth Project Discussion</p> <p>Due July 27: -Discussion 4 -Reading Quiz 5</p>
<p>Week 5: July 28</p>	<p>10: Final Exam</p>	<p>Due July 28: Final Exam (Hardwick Ch. 12-19; Woodard Ch. 15-28)</p> <p>Dr. McDaniel will be calculating and submitting final course grades on July 29.</p>	<p>Due July 28: -Final Exam</p>