

Geography of Canada

GEOG 2570 D01

Syllabus

This Syllabus is reviewed and updated prior to each term; questions may be forwarded to the Instructor

Contacting your instructor

Instructor Name: Julianna Enns

Office Location: This is a Distance Education/On-line Course

Office Hours or Availability: Students are welcome to send their queries to me via email. I try to respond as soon as possible. Communication via email is typically the most convenient.

Email Address: <Julianna.Enns@umanitoba.ca>

Course description

The Undergraduate Calendar of the University of Manitoba describes GEOG 2570 "Geography of Canada" as follows:

GEOG 2570 - Geography of Canada (A) 3.0 Credit hours

(Formerly 053.257) A regional study of Canada in which the major regions of Canada are studied with respect to geographical patterns of their physical environment, settlement, culture, economic activity, and land use.

Not to be held with GEOG 2560 (053.256), GEOG 2561 or GEOG 3431 (053.343).

Prerequisite: a grade of C or better in a minimum of three credit hours from Geography courses numbered at the 1000 level, or permission of Department Head.

Professional Opportunities and Skills in Geography to note: (adapted from the Department of Environment & Geography)

As Geography is such a diverse discipline, the array of possible careers is similarly broad. Often careers arise from each of the sub-disciplines augmented by expertise in regions, topics or techniques. Geography is a popular choice for students who seek further training in education, landscape architecture, and city planning. Geographic techniques taught in this foundational Geography course can help students develop strong analytical and communications skills, especially in GIS (which are highly marketable skills). Careers suited to human geographers include market research, real estate, planning, and community development. Geographers also find many suitable careers in government and non-profit agencies.

Geographers observe the world and want to know how physical processes and systems shape the land, air, water, flora and fauna around them; and strive to understand how these are influenced by human activity. We also want to know how human societies, cultures, and economies work; and how these human systems are interdependent with each other and with natural systems."

Regional Geography and Canada

Often referred to as 'Regional Geography,' this course involves the integration of the physical and human geographical components of different areas of Canada, attempting to achieve a synthesis of physical and human geography of a particular place or region, in relation to other places. For example, the geographically literate person, for example, understands why communities are located where they are, how people have shaped these communities into distinctive places, and how these places have, in turn, affected peoples' lives and their eco-regions. Geographic literacy also involves the use of knowledge to solve problems and to make decisions in Canadians' daily lives.

Why study regional geography? Every educated person should have a good knowledge of his or her country, and also of other parts of the world, including physical environments (called ‘earth knowledge’). Without this, you cannot live on this planet as a well-informed, knowledgeable, and responsible citizen. Paul Claval (1998) once wrote, “Regional geography is indispensable to anyone wishing to understand today’s world” (p.4. In *An Introduction to Regional Geography*. Hoboken, NJ/Blackwell).

To accomplish this understanding, it is a geographer’s responsibility in society to learn about and then to write about regional geography in as clear, accurate and interesting way as possible. Studies in Canadian regional geography provide just such an emphasis on regional analysis and synthesis, and not merely on factual information or vague generalizations, such as in a travelogue. Study of regions concentrates our thinking about what the different parts of Canada are like; and, thus, helps to stimulate geographical interpretation of spatial relationships.

Ultimately, study in regional geography can help us to see location or the **where?** puzzle; and then it helps us to consider and to solve the **why there?** questions.

General Course Information

The Department of Environment & Geography has had this “Regional” Geography of Canada course on its available curriculum for many years. As this is a testament in itself, the success of our course can be attributed to students, like you, who are eager to study specifically about Canada and its regional spectrum.

Since assignments within this course will also have some map work, it would be desirable for students in regional geography courses on Canada to have the following minimal background:

- a knowledge of rudimentary physical geography;
- a rudimentary knowledge of basic Canadian history, especially on settlement, economic development and transportation development;
- some elementary skills in reading and creating of maps; and
- some experience with writing formal English essays.

For a successful move through this course, this Syllabus is an important basis for students to use as an initial and on-going guide throughout the course. The Syllabus lays out in detail all important facets to incorporate for a successful study outcome. Pay particular attention to the listing of the required textbooks, the goals of this course, specific writing assistance suggestions, the use of copy-right materials in your writings, and the listing of additional reading suggestions. In other words, keep this Syllabus close at heart; and if you have any questions, you may contact either your Instructor or the Department.

Course goals

A geography course, such as this *Regional Geography of Canada*, broadly attempts to help you, the student, to comprehend better the world you see outside your window. The major goal of this course, then, is to provide you with a broad-based regional approach to understand more about the physical and human processes that shape Canada. The course will also attempt to help you with the further enhancement of your academic writing skills at the University level.

Two general academic goals of this regional study of Canada are:

- to relate and to synthesize factual information from several sources through selected readings and studies of the various unique and diverse regions of Canada; and
- to write critically about issues that affect people and places in Canada through the completion of several academic written assignments (Academic Papers).

Intended Learning Outcomes

The major goal of this course is to provide students with a broad-based regional approach to understanding more about the physical and human processes that shape Canada.

Taking the above information in hand, the six geographic goals of this course are to:

1. Identify regions as a means of interpreting the complexity of Canada;
2. Examine the major physio-graphical regions of Canada, with attention to their physical characteristics and human adaptation;

3. Discuss how physical and human characteristics interplay with the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of human life;
4. Reflect on the current and possible faultlines in the Canadian society;
5. Consider possible adaptations of Canadians' interaction with their physical geography due to climate change; and
6. Enhance academic writing skills within the designated 'written component' aspect of this geography course.

Course materials

Bookstore

The required materials for this course are this Syllabus, all the related links within UM Learn that pertain to GEOG 2570 D01; and the textbook. The latter is available from the University of Manitoba Bookstore; please place your order immediately, if you have not already acquired the textbook. The Bookstore recommends that..."The best way for students to purchase the digital text is to look up your course from here: <http://bookstore.umanitoba.ca/SelectTermDept>

OR

[here is the direct link to the etext version:](#)

<https://www.campusebookstore.com/link/?id=dca27526-7dc7-4432-a1dd-5b9e169cefbb>

Then select **WINTER (January to April) 2024** and then choose **Geography** and **GEOG 2570 D01 – Enns, Julianna** from the *Department* and *Course-Section-Instructor* drop-down menus. After clicking the *View Your Materials* arrow near the bottom right of the screen, the *Regional Geography of Canada* textbook options will be listed. Students can then select print or digital. If they add digital to their cart, they will receive their access code from the Bookstore, right after the purchase goes through."

Required Textbook

Bone, Robert M. (2022). *The Regional Geography of Canada*, 8th edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Please note: using previous editions is not recommended, as the data and illustrations may have changed and/or become out-dated.

In addition to the written descriptions and explanations given in the textbook, the maps, diagrams, tables and photographs are also important. Too often we concentrate on the written content and ignore supplementary material. In this textbook, such material is integrated into the written descriptions and explanations and is, therefore, critical to the author's overall presentation.

This textbook, as you will note, is in its eighth edition, which is evidence of its enduring high quality for student and instructor use over the years; so use it as **your main** source of information and ideas.

Writing Aid

For your writing assignments, there are several good resources that have helpful suggestions and directives. The University of Manitoba Bookstore and the several campus libraries are good places to obtain such assistance. Once you have a good writing resource book in hand, it will guide you with necessary writing details, not only for this geography course, but also for any writing assignments you will be doing in future years, academically or work-related. Here is a list of great writing resources:

Engkent, Lucia, & Garry Engkent. (2023). *Essay Do's and Don'ts: A Practical Guide to Essay Writing*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Hay, Iain, & Philip Giles. (2015). *Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences*, 2nd edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Northey, Margot; Knight, David B.; & Draper, Diane. (2012). *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing in Geography and Environmental Sciences*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Resources

The following optional, but recommended, materials are useful in your written assignments; but more importantly, they are supportive resources sometimes for more in-depth understanding of regional geography of Canada.

Atlas: Although the textbook will be your principle written resource, you should also have access to a good quality atlas containing a reasonable amount of cartographic detail on Canada. A recommended atlas that has some additional information on

Canada is the *Canadian Oxford World Atlas* by Quentin H. Stanford, General Editor, Don Mill, ON: Oxford University Press.

The Internet: Do not overlook this resource for some specific information and maps on regions within Canada. **Special cautionary note:** When you access the Internet for research information, be very selective about the credibility of the various web sites. It is preferable to use refereed journals as sources, since some sites are vulnerable to external manipulation or becoming out-dated.

Supplementary Readings: For an independent study course such as this, you will also have to rely on outside reading to get the extra information needed for a additional understanding of what is discussed in the textbook. Each unit of study has a listing of additional references. More reading materials can be obtained through the UM Learn Library Service, through the e-reserves, library reserves (Dafoe Library), or a link to Refworks which contains the UML connection to the articles you seek.

Finally, pay attention to daily newspapers, current events magazines (e.g., *National Geographic* and *Times*), as well as daily newscasts via television, radio and the Internet. Making use of current events in your answers to the study questions and to the written assignments can enhance your learning and writing experience.

Course overview

This study of Canada focuses on seven physio-graphic regions, beginning in the northern part of the country, then 'leap-frogging' to Eastern Canada, and progressing on to mid- and Western portions of the country. These seven physio-graphic regions, you will soon see, overlay the political ten provinces and three territories of our country.

The two major units of Canada covered within this regional study of Canada to be discussed in your Course Content Manual are:

Unit 1. The course of study begins with a discussion of the factors that help define regions and themes, as well as an overview of the nation's biophysical characteristics and its early history of development. This unit examines Canada's population (human) characteristics. This Unit covers the first five chapters of the textbook. Pay attention to the four faultlines that are introduced in your textbook and which are carried through the course itself. **Duration: Weeks 1 to 4**

Unit 2. This unit encompasses the rest of Canadian regions. We will begin our cross-Canada study of physical and political regions, firstly by learning about the Territorial North, the largest of Canada's regions. Then this unit continues a survey, chapter by chapter, of the Atlantic Canada's provinces of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Labrador and Newfoundland. We move on next to study about Québec and Ontario; then heading westward, we will discuss Western Canada (i.e., the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta); and finally, we take a look at British Columbia, our final destination. **Duration: Weeks 5 to 11**

Unit 3. A brief discussion of Canada's role and geographers' role within today's world will end our study of chapters. **Duration: Week 12 and Week 13**

As we move through our respective chapters, together with the Textbook, you are encouraged to do the readings as instructed, and then to answer the Short-Answer Questions and the Discussion Questions at the end of each chapter discussion. You do not need to submit answers to these two sets of questions, but ensure that you become conversant with the focus of each question. Also, ensure that you become familiar and can define the **Key Terms** that will be provided within each of the textbook chapters above respectively.

Evaluation components

Distribution of marks

Evaluation	Required Assignments/Final Exam	Percentage
Assignment 1	Map question and related Academic Paper	20%
Assignment 2	Map question and related Academic Paper	20%
Assignment 3	Map question and related Academic Paper	20%
Final Examination		<u>40%</u>

	Total	100%
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Grading scale, set by the Department

Letter grade	Percentage range	Description
A+	90–100	Exceptional
A	80–89	Excellent
B+	75–79	Very good
B	70–74	Good
C+	65–69	Satisfactory
C	60–64	Adequate
D	50–59	Marginal
F	less than 59	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

GEOG 2570 D01 - Three submitted assignments + the Final Examination

Value: The Grading Scheme for each assignment includes marks for Presentation; Knowledge; Structure and Argument; Creativity, plus marks for the map work.

Description: The three assignments, each comprised of a written Academic Paper of 1,500 to 1,750 words (six to seven pages), minimum of discussion and a short map question, will focus on topics relevant to the region(s) or subject material within the assigned reading assignments listed in each chapter. The assignments must be submitted by the due date and must include well-written answers that use maps, figures and tables, as appropriate. Internet sources are permitted, but must be selected on the basis of their credibility and referenced correctly and fully.

Due Dates: These are listed in the Course Schedule. See this important Week-by-Week Schedule in a separate file situated in your UMLearn account. If, for some reason, you are unable to meet the deadlines for the assignments, you must contact your instructor right away.

NOTE: the three successfully completed assignments and the Final Examination are ALL mandatory requirements for this course.

Additional Information for Assignments

Assignment Guidelines

You are required to complete and submit your assignments, as the course progresses.

All of the assignments can be done using the text, course materials, and selected/reliable Internet sources. The assignments will be described in the weekly tasks throughout the course; please continue to check your Course Schedule (see your Week-by-Week

Schedule), which will help you find out the exact due dates for the assignments. **NOTE: All work must be completed independently**; i.e., **without** collaboration with other students/individuals, nor electronic programs such as AI, nor other offices/companies. This means that purchasing an Academic Paper from another student or from an online "paper mill" and submitting it as your own work, is Academic Fraud.

Be sure that you read the grading of requirements and guidelines for submitting assignments before preparing your assignments and final paper.

Carefully read the instructions below so that you know what we expect in each assignment.

Each of the three assignments is mandatory for this course; and must be written in the format specified in the assignment.

1. Follow the instructions for each assignment very carefully to ensure that you have included everything that is expected of you. Check to see that you have the required length (1,500 to 1,750 words within six to seven pages minimum) of Academic Paper discussion, as set out in the instructions.
2. Proofread your assignments to ensure proper mechanics and that you have included everything that is expected of you.
3. Assignments must be typed and double-spaced. Use a standard citation method for the Social Sciences (e.g., Geography writing uses the APA style); and be consistent with its use throughout your papers. When using quotations and/or paraphrasing (only use these sparingly), you must cite the Author, YEAR, and Page Number or Paragraph Number for each citation. Like this: Author, YEAR, p.# or para.#
4. Your assignments must be submitted electronically using the 'submit assignment' function. This is found within the "Assignments" folder in D2L.
5. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use resources (books, discussions with others, etc.), cite your sources. Failure to do so is called plagiarism. You are expected to have read and understood the University of Manitoba's Guidelines for Academic Conduct and Academic Integrity. Also included in this cautionary note: do not self-plagiarize or copy from any of your own or others' previous assignments.
6. If you think that your assignment will be late, contact your instructor well in advance of the assignment due date. Instructors may deduct marks for late assignments if you have not made alternative arrangements.
7. You are responsible for ensuring that your assignments are submitted as instructed. Do not rely on others to submit your assignments for you. Keep a copy of your assignments, in case they get misplaced during the submission process.
8. A word of caution about the assignments and the final examination. Some students find that they do very well on the assignments, but they do not do nearly as well on the final examination. While your grades on the assignments will give you some idea of how well you are mastering the material, they may not indicate how well you will do on the examination, since the examination is written under very different circumstances. Because the assignments are open book, they also do not require the amount of memorization that a closed-book examination requires. Some students have told us that, based on the high marks they received on the assignments, they were overconfident and underestimated the time and effort needed to prepare for the final examination.

Assignment Due Dates

Unit	Chapters	Due
Unit 1	1 to 5	Assignment #1: February 2, 2024
Unit 2 and Unit 3	11, 10, 7 and 6*	Assignment #2: March 8, 2024
	8, 9 and 12	Assignment #3: April 11, 2024

*the reason for convoluted order of chapters is that we will be beginning our study on the north-west side of Canada where it is believed first humans arrived on the North American Continent; then we move to the Eastern side of Canada where Europeans later landed.

Submission Guidelines

Title Page

Include a title page as the first page of your assignment that contains:

- Title of your Academic Paper
- Name
- Student I.D. number
- E-mail address
- Assignment name
- Total number of pages in your assignment
- Date

Page Header

Include only a one-line header that consists of:

- Your name and the page number

Ensure your page margins are uniformly set at one inch on all four sides, no more, no less

Assignment Submission

1. Send your assignments, as Word document, using the Assignments folder in UM Learn.
2. Filename: The name of your file should be your surname and the number of the assignment.

Marking

Please do not wait until the last minute to work on and to submit your assignment. Give yourself at least two weeks to begin/work on; and to submit your writing assignments. We will not be responsible for any failure to receive your assignment by its due date. Your assignment grades should be posted in your grade account in D2L within two weeks of the assignment due deadline.

Computer & Software

1. Use **Microsoft Word doc.** or save your file in a rich text format (rtf). [preferably not *pdf* files.] Your instructor will use the 'track changes' function to grade your submitted assignments, and then return your graded assignments to you electronically.
2. Submit one file only where possible. Any parts of the assignment produced through another program (e.g., Excel, illustrations, graphs) should be incorporated into the document.
3. It is recommended that, if you can, do insert tables, charts, or maps as pictures within your document. If, for some reason, the formatting is thrown off, re-size to fit onto the page space OR place the tables, charts, maps at the end of the assignment as Appendix pages, but you need to refer to these (i.e., talk about the illustrations) within the written assignment content.

GEOG 2570 D01 Final Examination:

Value: The Final Examination is worth **40%** of your grade.

Date: The Date of the Final Examination is set by the Registrar's Office and will be scheduled within the Examination Period occurring at the end of the term (i.e., +/- middle of April).

Purpose: A comprehensive examination of the factual material covered in all Textbook chapters.

Description: A closed-book, two-hour and individual examination. You are not allowed any aids for the Final Examination and **no** electronic devices are allowed, such as cellphones, i.e., Pods, iPads, smartwatches, or smartphones, or smart-anything; **NOR ANY** assistance from other persons.

A prospectus describing the exam format will be sent to all students a few weeks prior to the exam. The usual exam format is a combination of multiple choice questions, plus some map questions. Content for exam questions is taken from the course Textbook and all course materials.

Completion of the Final Examination is a mandatory requirement for this course.

Additional Final Examination Notes

Because of the current COVID-19 virus issue and restrictions, the final exam will most likely be written on your home computer, following a UM Learn application and testing by the **Respondus Lockdown Browser** on your computer; this electronic test is necessary to verify there are no compatible internet issues. If there are issues, these can be rectified prior to the final examination date. Of note, the Registrar's Office recommends **not** using a Chrome Notebook for the Final Examination, due to incompatibility issues.

The Registrar's Office is responsible for the Final Exam schedule, which is available approximately one month after the start of the course. The Final Examination will test your understanding of key facts and concepts, and your ability to integrate them with the various sections of this course.

Class Communication

The University of Manitoba requires all students to activate an official University e-mail account. Please note that all communication between the Instructor and you as a student must comply with the electronic communication with student policy. For full details of the Electronic Communication with Students, please check: https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Electronic_Communication_with_Students_Policy_-_2013_09_01_RF.pdf

You are required to obtain and to use your U of M e-mail account for all communication between yourself and the University. Remember also to **check your U of M e-mail account regularly**, so you do not miss any important and relevant information.

Note on Respectful Communication Behaviour

(otherwise known as 'netiquette' or etiquette on the Net). Especially noting that our interaction these days is virtual (i.e., online), respectful communication conduct is expected from all University of Manitoba students within our academic setting.

I would recommend reviewing the excellent guidelines for netiquette/e-mail communication set out by the University of Manitoba's College of Rehabilitation Sciences. See <https://umanitoba.ca/rehabsciences/email-etiquette.html>

Learner's Support

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is available to provide supports for students with disabilities and to foster success for your academic future. Reach out! If you need help and support as a student, we are here for you. Learn how to register or access accessibility resources by clicking on this web site: <https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/accessibility>.

Additional Student Services. See <http://umanitoba.ca/student-supports>

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, or have a disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should discuss these issues with the instructor and/or one of the following Student Affairs offices as soon as possible:

Office	Telephone
Accessibility Services	474-6213 (Voice)
155 University Centre	474-9690 (TTY)
Student Counselling and Career Centre	
474 University Centre	474-8592
Learning Assistance Centre	
201 Tier Building	474-9251

Course Policies & Values

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. I have ensured that the content I use is appropriately acknowledged and is copied in accordance with copyright laws and university guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission. **Do not** upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (such as UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the Copyright Act applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.

Academic Integrity

Example: Each student in this course is expected to abide by the **University of Manitoba Academic Integrity** principles. Always remember to reference the work of other authors that you have used. Also be advised again that you are required to complete your assignments independently unless otherwise specified. If you are encouraged to work in a team, ensure that your project complies with the academic integrity regulations. You must do your own work during exams. Inappropriate collaborative behavior and violation of other Academic Integrity principles, will lead to the serious disciplinary action. Visit the Academic Calendar, Student Advocacy, and Academic Integrity web pages for more information and support.

Refer to specific course requirements for academic integrity for individual and group work such as:

- I. Group projects are subject to the rules of academic dishonesty;
- II. Group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity;
- III. Students should also be made aware of any specific instructions concerning study groups and individual assignments;
- IV. The limits of collaboration on assignments should be defined as explicitly as possible; and
- V. **NOTE: All assignments must be completed independently, for student work in course GEOG 2570 D01.**

Plagiarism, Cheating and Examination Impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

The University of Manitoba adopts the following policy regarding academic misconduct, which can be found in Section 3.15 of the Academic Calendar.

Academic misconduct is intentional cheating, fabrication, impersonation or plagiarism; and includes using artificial programs to generate Academic Papers for assignments. It is also knowingly helping or attempting to help others to be dishonest.

Academic dishonesty lowers scholastic quality and defrauds yourself and others who will eventually depend on their own knowledge and integrity. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating on examinations, term tests, or assignments is subject to academic penalty as serious as suspension or expulsion from the Faculty of University.

Students who are unsure of what constitutes academic misconduct are encouraged to visit the Student Affairs website on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fraud

at: http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/academicintegrity/index.html

and

http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/academicintegrity/Academic-Integrity-policies-and-procedures.html

Students may also find Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Tutorials at http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/AI-and-Student-Conduct-Tutorials.html

Student and Academic Staff Responsibilities

The University of Manitoba has expectations regarding student behaviour. Policies concerning inappropriate or disruptive behaviour are online

at: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/279.html

And policies regarding student discipline are online at:

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html

In addition, policies regarding academic staff's responsibilities regarding students (ROASS) are available online at: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/278.html

Finally, ensure that you access and become familiar with the Distance and Online Education Student Handbook, which details the management/administrative aspects of this online course. This Handbook is available from the appropriate link in your UM Learn account. It tells you how to:

- access your Instructor;
- write your final exam at a location other than the University of Manitoba campus;
- access the Distance and Online Student Services;
- use technology (online access, communication tools);
- access the University of Manitoba Libraries;
- order your course materials through the University of Manitoba Book store; and
- access your grades and submit your assignments online.