

GEOG 1280 A02 Introduction to Human Geography
Department of Environment & Geography
University of Manitoba
Winter 2026

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General Course Information

Course Textbook – REQUIRED.

Mercier (2024) Human Geography, 11th Edition. Oxford University Press Canada.

Used and new copies, as well as access to e-copies, are available in the University of Manitoba Bookstore. **Older editions are not acceptable** due to substantial revisions.

Additional course materials (e.g., links to websites, videos, and/or news articles) are accessed on the UM Learn site for this course. These materials are organized by topic, as listed in the Course Schedule at the end of this Course Outline. These are additional materials, not required. However, reviewing them is *strongly recommended* as a support to your learning.

All lectures are delivered in person. **Lectures are not recorded and will not normally be posted to UM Learn.** Attend classes and make notes from the delivered lectures. **It is your responsibility to make up for occasional missed classes, whatever their cause.**

Office hours: Office hours are times set aside for students to come and speak with their instructors about course content, studying and test prep, or other academic issues. **Office hours are by appointment or on a drop-in basis (Wednesdays, 12:30-2:00pm) in my office, 224 St. John's College.**

Check UMLearn Announcements and your UM email regularly for updates and reminders. Only your UM email may be used for communication with your professors!

You can email the instructor at: bcatharine.hallman@umanitoba.ca



Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Statement

“As defined in *The Human Rights Code* (Manitoba), and in accordance with the University of Manitoba’s Respectful Work and Learning Environment (RWLE) Policy, all learners, faculty and staff, regardless of race, ethnicity, colour, religious beliefs, national origin, rurality, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, political beliefs, language, or socio-economic status, are valued for their individuality, academic pursuits, and contributions to the diversity and functions of the University of Manitoba. Unacceptable discrimination, including racism, microaggressions, sexism, ableism, ageism, homophobia and transphobia will not be tolerated.”

(Source: Rady Faculty Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, 2020)

University of Manitoba Land Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses and research spaces are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Dene and Inuit, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

UM recognizes that the Treaties signed on these lands are a lifelong, enduring relationship, and we are dedicated to upholding their spirit and intent. We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and the present. With this understanding, we commit to supporting Indigenous excellence through active Reconciliation, meaningful change, and the creation of an environment where everyone can thrive. Our collaboration with Indigenous communities is grounded in respect and reciprocity and this guides how we move forward as an institution.

Course Description

GEOG1280 *Introduction to Human Geography* introduces you to the breadth of Human Geography and should guide you to think about the world and its myriad socio-economic, cultural, and environmental issues through a geographic lens; that is, from a space, place, landscapes, and environments perspective. Through the lectures, assigned textbook reading, and term assignment, you will assess contemporary issues, utilize geographical and social science theories and models, and think critically from diverse conceptual approaches used in Human Geography and its numerous subfields.

Course Learning Objectives

On successful completion of this course, students will be:

- Knowledgeable about human geographic concepts and perspectives.
- Better able to critically evaluate local, regional, and global patterns and events through a geographic lens.
- Better able to listen, read and think critically and effectively.
- Equipped with a background in the academic discipline of Human Geography and prepared for upper-level study in geography and environmental studies.

Required Course Text

- Mercier, M. (2024) Human Geography, 11th edition. Oxford University Press, Toronto, Canada.
 - New and used paper copies are available via the University Bookstore
 - E-book copies may also be purchased through the UM Bookstore at this link:

<https://bookstore.umanitoba.ca/CourseMaterials?ids=8776599&search=Mercier>

Copyright and Course Materials

Students are expected to respect copyright. Copyrighted content is used in this course in accordance with copyright laws and University guidelines. Copyrighted works, including course materials created by your instructors (such as PowerPoints, handouts, or notes), are **made available for private study and research and must not be shared or distributed in any format without authorization** (including to course note sharing or tutoring websites such as Course Hero, Chegg, etc.).

- **Violating copyright can result in serious consequences for students at the University of Manitoba, including (but not limited to) allegations of academic and non-academic misconduct.**
- If you have questions or need help see the University's Copyright Office website (<http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/>) or contact by email: um.copyright@umanitoba.ca.

Communicating with Your Instructor

You are required to obtain and use your University of Manitoba email account **for all communication between yourself and the university**. All communication must comply with the Electronic Communication with Students Policy. *Only* your university email account is used for all university communications, including messages from your instructors, Department or Faculty, academic advisors, and other university administrative offices. **Only emails from your University of Manitoba account (... @myumanitoba.ca) will be responded to by your instructor.**

- All communications must be professional and respectful. As members of the university community, we are all subject to the Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment Policy. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with this policy.
- **E-mails** to the instructor must include:
 - The subject heading that includes the course name (**e.g., GEOG 1280 ...**)
 - A salutation (i.e. Hello, Good Morning . . .)
 - **The correct way to address me is: Professor or Dr. Hallman**
 - Emails that do not conform to the above format may not get a response.

Normally, emails will be responded to within 24 hours. However, emails sent on weekends or after 5 pm on weekdays generally will not be answered until the next working day.

Recording of Lectures

No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without written permission from Dr. Hallman. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the course participant's private study and research. Any exceptions must be approved by and at the direction of Student Accessibility Services.

Use of Technology

It is University of Manitoba policy that all technology resources are to be used in the classroom in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. (e.g., tablets, cellphones, laptops, etc.). Specifically applicable is the [Respectful Work and Learning Environment policy \(RWLE\)](#).

In the classroom, laptops may be used for making lecture notes, accessing e-textbook copies, or UM Learn-based course materials. Any other uses are inappropriate and will result in a student being removed from class.

Cellphones are not to be used in the classroom and should be muted/on silent during class to avoid distraction.

Office Hours

There is a **drop-in time** where you can stop by without needing an appointment, or you can email me to arrange a day and time to meet. This is time to ask questions about course content, tests, or other academic concerns.

- **Drop-in:** Dr. Hallman's office, 224 St. John's College – Wednesdays 12:30-2:00pm.

Any changes will be posted in UM Learn Announcements and noted in class.

- **By Appointment – Email Dr. Hallman to arrange a day and time**

Evaluation of Student Learning

Midterm Test – 30%

- **Monday February 23 – mark your calendars!**
- Completed IN CLASS using Scantron 'bubble sheets', HB pencils and paper question sheets. Both the Scantron and the question sheets are returned at the end of the Test.
- Students will have the entire class period (~ 50 minutes) to complete their midterm test
- Late students may not be permitted to write and must arrange a deferred test.
- *Students MUST use HB pencils ONLY. Make sure to bring several with you on test days!*
- The test will consist of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions.
- Questions are based on lectures and the assigned textbook readings covered before the midterm date
- Test grades will be published in UML, generally within 1 week of the test date

Students registered with Student Accessibility Services requiring additional testing time MUST ensure that the instructor is officially notified by SAS at least THREE (3) days before a test so that the test document can be submitted to the SAS Testing Centre. Note that SAS requires students to book their testing space at least 2 weeks in advance.

Final Exam - 40%

- The final exam is based on material from lectures and assigned readings from the **entire course**.
- Course topics covered after the Midterm Test will make up proportionately more of the Final Exam than material on which you have already been tested.
- This is a **2-hour examination**. It is written in person, in a space to be designated by the Registrar's Office. More information on the Final Exam will be shared later in the term.
- The Final Exam consists of **100 multiple choice and true/false questions**.
- **The Final Exam date is scheduled during the final exam period (April 11-15, 2026)**. Notification of when and where it is scheduled is generally available in March.

Where, Why There, Why Care? Assignments – 2x15% (30% total)

- *For full details and instructions see the Assignment Instructions Document posted to UM Learn.*
- **In these Assignments students will identify and apply human geography Key Questions and Core Concepts to real world events and issues via the analysis of current news articles accessed from the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) News App, or the CBC News website.**
- Students select one news story per Assignment to describe, evaluate and interpret according to Gritzner's Key Questions (Where? Why There? and Why Care?) of geographical inquiry. Students must also discuss which of the Core Concepts of Human Geography (introduced in the early weeks of the course, and Chapter 1 of the textbook) is apparent in the news stories being analyzed.

- **Stories analyzed must be published between January 1, 2026 and March 22, 2026 on the CBC News App or website.** Students must include the URL links to the stories analyzed; ***any analyses without a live, clickable link to the article being analyzed will not be accepted.***
- **Students will complete TWO Assignments:**
 - **Assignment #1 is due February 6,** before 11:59pm
 - **Assignment #2 is due March 23,** before 11:59pm
 - Submit assignments in PDF format to the correct submission folder in UM Learn.
- Each completed assignment analyses a **different** CBC news article and must follow the detailed instructions and example provided in the WWTWC Assignment Detailed Instructions. As noted above, this is a separate document from this course outline; it is available on the UM Learn page for this course.
- **Assignment grades will reflect the quality and completeness of the Assignment.** See the Detailed Instructions document for the Assessment Rubric.
- **Any Assignments submitted after the February 6 and March 23, 2026 deadlines will NOT normally be accepted for evaluation unless an extension has been requested and approved.**
- **ANY suspected use of AI tools or other forms of plagiarism in the completion of these Assignments will trigger an Academic Misconduct allegation and investigation.**

Letter Grades

The following is the standard grade scheme used in the Department of Environment and Geography:

A+ = 90 % +
 A = 80-89%
 B+ = 75-79%
 B = 70-74%
 C+ = 65-69%
 C = 60-64%
 D = 50-59%
 F = < 50%

Student Responsibility for Any Missed Lectures

Students are responsible for making up any missed information or materials. *The instructor does not have notes available for students and does not generally provide lecture PowerPoint slides. Exceptions are made for students with SAS accommodations or Bison Sports commitments, as well as if a student is ill for an extended period of time (e.g., more than 1 class) or if the instructor is away due to illness.* In these cases, PDFs of lecture slides are either published to UMLearn or sent directly to students via email.

For the occasional missed class, connect with someone in class to share notes and/or compare your notetaking strategies (see the *Tips for Effective Lecture Notes* document available to you on UMLearn). Having a 'study buddy' is a very good idea even if you never miss a class!

Policy Regarding a Missed Test / Assignment Due Date or a Final Examination

If during the regular term, you miss a Test or an Assignment due date for medical or compassionate reasons, you *may* be granted a make-up/deferred test.

Students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are **no longer required to submit medical notes**. However, **students are required to submit the Absence Self Declaration form** to their instructor by email (or an academic advisor in your Faculty/U1 if you have missed a *final exam*) to inform of the missed work and to arrange for extensions or deferred tests/exams.

- **Contact your instructor for term work such as a quiz, test, or assignment**
- **If possible, contact your professor BEFORE the test date or assignment due date** to request a deferred test or extension on an assignment
- **Always inform your instructor as soon as possible about missed test or assignment dates - do not delay! If more than 48 hours have passed you may be refused a deferred test or assignment extension.**
 - E.g., waiting a week 'because you forgot' means you get a zero-grade on the missed work
- **Email your instructor from a UM email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, the academic work that was missed, and the Self Declaration form.**
- **The Absence Self Declaration form is accessible on the UM Learn site for this course under Contents, or you can search for it on the University of Manitoba main website.**
- **Contact an academic advisor for a missed final examination** (scheduled during the final examination period). Do NOT email your professor; only staff in your Home Faculty/ Faculty of Registration can set up a deferred final examination.

Note that reasonable causes for missing a due date, test or exam do NOT include things like vacations (even with relatives), long weekends away, or work due in other courses. Plan your work/study accordingly.

- *Students will not normally have more than 6 working days from a specific test date to complete a make-up/deferred test.*
- If a student has medical or compassionate reasons that mean they cannot write within 6 days (for example, an extended illness or hospitalization), a deferred test will not be provided, but *other accommodations will be offered and discussed with the student.*
- A deferred test can include any format for test questions, including multiple-choice, short answer, long answer, etc. The format may be different from the regularly scheduled test. It is up to the student writing the make-up test to ask the instructor about the format.
- Deferred tests will be written in person at a date and time arranged by the professor, that accommodates the majority of students requiring a deferred test

Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

- The University of Manitoba is committed to providing an accessible academic community. [Student Accessibility Services](#) offers academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation. You are encouraged to do this ASAP.
- It is YOUR responsibility to consult with Student Accessibility Services and make sure the instructor is notified of any necessary arrangements for exams/tests well in advance of test dates.
- SAS is located at 520 University Centre (Fort Garry Campus). You contact SAS in person, by phone (204 474 7423) or email (student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca).

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for ensuring they understand the University of Manitoba's Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity>).

1. "Academic Misconduct" means any conduct that has, or might reasonably be seen to have, an adverse effect on the academic integrity of the University, including but not limited to:

- (a) *Plagiarism* – the presentation or use of information, ideas, images, sentences, findings, etc. as one's own without appropriate citation in a written assignment, test or final examination.
- (b) *Cheating on Quizzes, Tests, or Final Examinations* – the circumventing of fair testing procedures or contravention of exam regulations. Such acts may be premeditated/planned or may be unintentional or opportunistic
- (c) *Inappropriate collaboration* – when a Student and any other person work together on assignments, projects, tests, labs or other work unless authorized by the course instructor
- (d) *Duplicate Submission* – cheating where a Student submits a paper/assignment/test in full or in part, for more than one course without the permission of the course instructor
- (e) *Personation* – writing an assignment, lab, test, or examination for another student, or the unauthorized use of another person's signature or identification in order to impersonate someone else. Personation includes both the personator and the person initiating the personation

The penalties for plagiarism and cheating are severe and range from receiving a grade of zero on an assignment, to academic suspension.

GEOG 1280 A02 Course Schedule – Winter 2026

Dates are as intended; some adjustments may need to be made over time

Dates	Topics	Textbook Reading
<p>Week 1 January 7 & 9</p>	<p>Course outline review, Notetaking tips, Key questions of human geography</p>	<p>Obtain paper or e-book copy via the UM Bookstore ONLY Mercier (2024) edition 'Human Geography'</p>
<p>Week 2 January 12, 14 & 16</p>	<p>Human Geography core concepts: space, location, place, region, distance, spatial interaction, communication & movement Jan. 16: Should be accessing CBC News stories for WWTWC Assignment 1.</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 1: What is Human Geography?</p>
<p>Week 3 January 19, 21 & 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan. 19 last day to drop courses without penalty for W2026 • Jan. 20 last day to add courses for W2026 	<p>Maps & cartography; spatial analysis & geomatics January 23: WWTWC Assignments: How To Lecture</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 1: What is Human Geography?</p>
<p>Week 4 January 26, 28 & 30</p>	<p>Ecosystems & global perspective. Environmental concern. Responding to climate uncertainty. Environmental sustainability & sustainable development</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 2: Environment and Society</p>

<p>Week 5 February 2, 4 & 6</p> <p>February 6: Assignment 1 DUE Submit to correct folder in UM Learn</p>	<p>Population distribution, density Population dynamics: fertility, mortality Population composition, population pyramids, demographic transition</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 4: Population, Health & Migration</p>
<p>Week 6 February 9, 11 & 13</p>	<p>Migration: push-pull factors, mooring 5 types of migration Health geography: distribution & diffusion of disease Epidemiological transition, social and spatial health inequalities</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 4: Population, Health & Migration</p>
<p>WINTER TERM BREAK February 16-20</p> <p>Feb.16 Louis Riel Day</p>		<p>Catch up on textbook reading / read ahead. Review and update text and lecture notes; study for midterm. Start search for CBC News article for Assignment 2.</p>
<p>Week 7 February 23, 25 & 27</p> <p>MIDTERM TEST Feb. 23</p>	<p>Formal and vernacular cultural regions Cultural landscapes: adaptation & diffusion,</p> <p>Language as cultural variable, toponyms Religious landscapes & perspectives on nature Sacred spaces</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 6: Geographies of Culture & Landscape</p>
<p>Week 8 March 2, 4 & 6</p>	<p>Critical geography: difference, hegemony & power</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 7: Geographies of Identity & Difference</p>

	Geographies of race and racial identity Geographies of gender, gender relations & inequality,	
Week 9 March 9, 11 & 13	Geographies of wellbeing & welfare geographies Folk & popular culture geographies Tourism geography	Mercier (2024) Chapter 7: Geographies of Identity & Difference
Week 10 March 16, 18 & 20 March 19: Voluntary Withdrawal deadline	Political state creation Political instability Elections	Mercier (2024) Chapter 8: Political Geography

<p>Week 11 March 23, 25 & 27</p> <p>March 23: Assignment 2 DUE Submit to correct folder in UM Learn</p>	<p>Defining urban areas Cities, suburbs and urban sprawl</p> <p>Urban systems & hierarchies Central place theory</p> <p>Urban form: modelling the North American city</p> <p>Urban planning</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 9: An Urban World AND Chapter 10: Urban Form & the Social Geography of the City</p>
<p>Week 12 March 30, April 1 & 3</p> <p>April 3 – Good Friday holiday. University closed</p>	<p>Geography of food production: physical, technological, cultural & political factors</p> <p>Agricultural revolutions and landscape change</p> <p>Global agriculture and changes in the food supply system</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 11: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources</p>
<p>Week 13 April 6 & 8</p>	<p>Course Conclusion Final Examination preparation</p>	<p>Mercier (2024) Chapter 12</p>

<p>Last Class Day April 8</p>	<p>Tips for final exam prep</p>	<p>Complete any reading not yet done; Review textbook and lecture notes</p>
<p>Final Exam Period April 11 – 25, 2026</p>	<p>Scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Dates and times announced in November.</p>	