

Bemidji State University

GEOG 3410: Geography of North America

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

A regional analysis of the physical, demographic, economic and cultural characteristics of the nations in North America. Liberal Education Goal Areas 5 & 7.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 07/13/2007 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The essence of Geography is the study of how we make place out of space. In other words, where we are (or where we might be going, or might be leaving behind) is really defined by reference to at least four dimensions: {a} what we imagine it to be, {b} what we actually encounter, {c} how we adapt to and modify what we find, over time institutionalizing a set of practices that give the place a distinctive character, and always (d) the connections and importance of that place economically and politically relative to others.
2. Arguably, no other part of the world has presented more opportunities for experimentation with the idea of making place out of space than North America. From this, it might be helpful to suggest that the evolving regional geography of America can be thought of as a set of conversations, held between different populations, generations, and parts of the world and the continent.
3. In this course, issues involving authenticity, the place of nature, and the possibilities of multiple identities in a variety of American (and some Canadian, Mexican, hemispheric, and overseas) regional landscapes are assessed from several historical/aesthetic standpoints: native, colonial, rationalist, romanticist, naturalistic, realist, and postmodern.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. The student will be able to identify on one or more maps in each of four exams a subset of key physical and cultural features of each of 27 regions of North America;
The student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of how each region's physical environment interacts with and influences human landscapes, both historically and currently; and
The student will be to think critically and communicate effectively regarding issues of North American regional historical geography.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted