

North Hennepin Community College

GEOG 1000: Geography of the United States

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 2

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course provides a broad overview of those factors, cultural and physical, that identify the United States. Topics covered include climate, topography, population, language, history and regionalism. Students will gain an introductory knowledge of United States history, economics, politics, physical landscapes and culture. This course is recommended for international students or those new to the United States.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/01/2000 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. This course includes a comprehensive study of the United States of America. This includes the physical and cultural aspects of the nation. The landscape of the earth is best studied using the regional/geographical approach. The study follows a region by region examination of these characteristics. Topics covered could include the historical, population, language, religion, economic, social and physical geographies that characterize each region.
2. Because this course is recommended for those new to the United States or recent immigrants, the course could include a strong emphasis on place location knowledge, written use of the English language and speaking in large and small groups.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Distinguish the characteristics and key principles of geography (NHCC ELO 2)
2. Recognize applications of geography in everyday life (NHCC ELO 4)
3. Understand the relationship between the physical environment and the cultural environment (NHCC ELO 1)
4. Be able to interpret maps(using map legends, latitude and longitude, scale, US Land Survey grid, topographic symbols), and use them to solve geographic problems (NHCC ELO 2)
5. Be able to communicate (the ability to listen, read, comprehend, and deliver information in a variety of formats (oral, written, and visual) (NHCC ELOs 1, 2 ; MnTC Goal 7 comp. e)
6. Understand the similarities and differences in the development of various regions of the United States., including economic, political, cultural, religious, settlements patterns, historical development, and the forces that have influenced these. (NHCC ELOs 1, 3, 4; MnTC Goal 7, comps. b, d)
7. Understand the processes that created and continue to influence the physical geography (lithosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere) of the United States and how the human population is influenced by these processes. (NHCC ELOs 1, 2; MnTC Goal 7, a,b,d,e)
8. Gain respect for cultural diversity through understanding the history, distribution, and interactions and the human processes that influence those interactions, of various cultural groups across the United States and the global connections and relationships of the United States and other countries/regions. (NHCC ELOs 1, 3, 4; MnTC Goal 7 comps a,b,d,e)

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

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.
4. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.
4. Integrative and Applied Learning--Including: Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general education, liberal studies, specialized studies and activities in the broader campus community.