

GEG 2109 Canada and its regions – Winter 2014

<p>Professor Pierre-Mathieu Le Bel Office: Simard Hall 029 Office hours: Tuesday 11am – 12h Wednesday 12h-2pm Thursday 12h-1pm Email: plebe031@uottawa.ca</p>	<p>Teaching Assistants Danielle Migeon; Jacob Sammon; Rosalie Thibeault Emails and office availability to be announced.</p>
<p>Course Time: Tuesday 16:00 - 17:30; Thursday 14:30 - 16:00 Location: SCR002</p>	

Course Description

This course will introduce students to key themes and issues in the study of Canada’s regional geography. The focus will be on understanding Canada’s diversity by taking a thematic approach to examine its social composition, historical references, physical base, economic organization, and political configuration. Emphasis will be put on regional similarities and differences, as well as a number of major contemporary issues.

What is regional geography? What are the challenges of Canada’s ongoing social and economic transformation? How are Canada’s diverse regions changing? Why are some regions economically dependent and others not? How is sense of place affecting the everyday experiences of Canadians across the country today? The course will address these and other questions through formal and informal lectures and by incorporating a variety of materials (maps, documentaries, artwork, etc.) to encourage critical thinking. It will also feature a number of guest speakers who will share their expertise in a range of areas, including the use of statistics, Metis traditional livelihoods, change in the Canadian Arctic, and Canada at the crossroads between the environment and the economy.

General objectives:

- To introduce students to main concepts and key issues in Canada’s regional geography
- To expose students to Canada’s physical, economic, social, and cultural diversity
- To encourage critical thinking through the incorporation of various theories and perspectives, as well as a variety of teaching and learning materials

Specific objectives:

- To apply key concepts of regional geography to case studies drawn from Canada’s diverse regions
- To examine how different regions of Canada shape the everyday life of their inhabitants
- To collect, organize and analyze a variety of data
- To develop, structure and communicate original ideas in writing

Teaching and learning strategies

This course will consist primarily of lectures, but will also incorporate other teaching and learning materials and techniques, including documentaries and in-class activities. The course will also a guest speaker (see course schedule for details).

Class attendance, courtesy and participation

According to the University of Ottawa's rules of conduct, class attendance is mandatory. Students judged to have missed a sufficient number of classes can be prevented from writing the final exam. Exceptions will be made only with valid reasons in writing and at the discretion of the professor.

In each class setting, we form a community of learners. A number of class protocols will be in place to help ensure a positive experience. We all offer to each other complete attention and respect. Your participation through questions and comments is encouraged and will greatly contribute to class discussions. Please, be punctual; if you need to be late, try to minimize disruptions to peers.

Please, refrain from using cell phones, text messaging devices or pagers in class and make sure they are turned off; *use of these devices is disruptive* (... and, quite frankly, a bit rude). Laptop computers may be used *only* for note taking.

Required Textbook

- 1) **Bone, R. 2014. *The Regional Geography of Canada*. 6th Edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.**

Lectures, readings and expectations

Readings provide background and illustrations for the topics discussed in class. The required readings complement course lectures and students will gain a better understanding of the course material by completing the readings in a timely fashion. Class lectures may draw on the required readings – as well as other materials where appropriate – but will not specifically cover the textbook. Students will be responsible for the assigned readings and the material covered in class for the mid-term and final exams. Most, if not all lectures will be supported with PowerPoint presentations to help identify high-level, key points while also providing a variety of data and visual material to inform, complement and illustrate the course content. For your own success in the course, it will be hugely advantageous to take notes during lectures.

Course website and Blackboard

Students are encouraged to consult the course website on the University's Virtual Campus on a weekly basis to access PowerPoint presentations, additional material and information as the course proceeds, including copies of the assignment guidelines and grades. Also, students are encouraged to use the forum on the course website to post questions, ideas and comments related to class discussions and the course in general.

Email etiquette

Generic questions pertaining to course readings, assignments, and lectures should be posted to the discussion forum on the course website. In this way, everyone in the course will benefit from the shared information. Contact the instructor and TAs only for personal concerns, requests for appointments, and in case of emergencies. Please, include the course code (GEG2109) in the subject line in any electronic correspondence otherwise the message may not be read. Note also that messages sent from non-uOttawa accounts may end up in the spam box. We will answer to emails during normal office hours; but do not expect answers in the evenings, weekends or holidays.

Email is not a substitute for face to face interaction and topics such as grades, personal and medical problems, extensions or deferrals, and complicated questions that require a discussion to be answered properly will not be addressed over email. Scheduled office hours or appointments are better opportunities to pose particular questions, raise concerns, or discuss progress throughout the term.

Course evaluation and important dates

Assignment 1	due February 24th	20%
In class exam	March 5th	20%
Assignment 2	due March 31st	30%

Final exam**exam period****30%**

Assignments are due **in class** on specified dates. If you are late, please, wait until the end of class to submit your assignment to help minimize disruptions.

Penalty for all late assignments is five percent (5%) of the earned grade for each day late (including weekends). Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date. *Assignments submitted by email or fax will not be accepted.*

Extensions will be granted *only in extenuating circumstances* (i.e., out of your control) with supporting formal documentation or if you have previously requested academic accommodation and at the discretion of the instructor. Requests for deadline extensions for written assignments must be made **IN PERSON** (i.e. during office hours or scheduled appointment) to the instructor at least **3 business days prior to the deadline**. If this is not possible due to unforeseen circumstance, an official medical note (from the uOttawa Health Services) or other applicable formal documentation must be provided **IN PERSON** (or by other agreed upon means) within 5 business days of the missed deadline to negotiate new deadlines.

Note: Students are responsible for keeping copies of their work at all times. No extensions will be granted for lost work due to technical or other problems, including lost or damaged computers.

Course requirements and evaluation of student work

Exams: One in-class midterm exam and one final exam. These will consist of a combination of multiple choice, definitions, short-answers, and short essays. Students are responsible for material covered in each lecture, required readings, in-class discussions, and additional materials used in class. The midterm exam will relate to all material up to and including February 26. The final exam is cumulative.

Written work: Specific directions about the assignments will be handed out in class and made available on the course website. The assignments aim to help students examine in more depth concepts and issues covered in the course; they will involve research, reading, data collection and analysis, and writing. Their purpose is to help students develop research and writing skills for effective communication and critical thinking.

Assignment 1 – Canada’s regions and regional identities: Students will select a piece of artwork (a painting, song, or poem) that in their personal opinion is representative of one of Canada’s many regions and regional identities. Alternatively, students can create their own artwork (e.g., a visual montage) to complete this assignment. The main objective is to use the artwork as a starting point to identify, define and delimit a region based on its geographical features (physical, economic, political, social and/or cultural). A second objective of the assignment will be to prepare a map outlining the selected region and its defining geographical features. Assignment 1 will serve as the basis for the completion of assignment 2.

Assignment 2 – Change and everyday life in a Canadian region: Building on Assignment 1, students will examine and discuss how the physical, economic, political, social and cultural geography shapes everyday life in the region they selected. The main objective is to understand the region’s identity and sense of place in light of its geographical characteristics, including its position within Canada’s regional system of core/periphery. To complete this assignment students will be asked to collect, organize and analyze data and to develop a personal argument. Students will also be expected to prepare tables, figures and maps to represent these data on the region’s physical, economic, political, social and cultural geography.

Academic honesty

Students are expected to understand and abide by the University rules of conduct, including guidelines and policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. The University defines plagiarism as: “... taking another person’s words (written or spoken), ideas, theories, facts (that are not considered general knowledge), statistics, art work, etc. and passing them off as your own. Simply changing the language of the information you are using also constitutes plagiarism if you do not acknowledge your source.”

For more details, consult “Beware of plagiarism,” a document produced by the University of Ottawa available on the Web at: <http://www.uottawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf>.

Writing assistance and other academic services:

The **SASS (Student Academic Success Service)**, established by the University, provides many services (<http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/>). One of them is the **Academic Writing Help Center (AWHC)** located at 110 University Street (<http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/>). Tutors will help you with the different stages of writing assignments (research, organizing your ideas, analyzing the subject matter, editing, citing sources and avoid plagiarism). Their services are free; they can help you improve your writing as well as your grades.

The SASS regularly publishes a list of academic and social activities taking place on campus on its University 101 Web portal (<http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/university101/>).

The SASS also offers a **Student Mentoring Program** for undergraduate students (www.sass.uottawa.ca/mentoring/undergraduate/) works with a team of mentors to provide a range of services to enhance university life and experience. These services are provided in partnership with the various faculties. The **Mentoring Centre** of the Faculty of Arts is located in room 125B Simard Hall. Student-mentors share with students their university experience (community life, rules and regulations, learning strategies).

The **Access Service** – formerly called Special Services – helps students who experience barriers to learning due to learning disabilities, health, psychiatric or physical conditions. It is part of the SASS (<http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/access/>).

Schedule of Course Topics and Readings

**** Note:** This schedule is a roadmap for the term. Students will be notified of any changes that may occur.
The instructor reserves the right to modify the topics and schedule of the course during the term.**

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Tue 13 Jan	Introduction and overview	
	Part 1: Regions of Canada		
	Thur 15 Jan	Canada and regional geography The concepts of regions, core & periphery, heartland & hinterland, sense of place	Chapter 1, pp. 2-20, 24, 26-28
2	Tue 20 Jan	Canada's physical geography Main landforms, climate and climatic zones	Chapter 2, pp. 30-61, 68-69
	Thur 22 Jan	Canada's historical geography The peopling of Canada, first people, settlement and colonization, territorial expansion	Chapter 3, pp. 70-89, 126-127 Chapter 3, pp. 105-112
3	Tue 27 Jan	Regional tensions and Canada's four faultlines (1): Centralist/Decentralist, Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal, Immigration, French/English	Chapter 3, pp. 89-127
	Thur 29 Jan	How to succeed in your human geography courses	
Part 2: Canada's social geography			
4	Tue 3 Feb	* ASSIGNMENT 1 handed out. DUE Feb 24 * Changing demographic and population trends (1) Understanding people, places and regions	Chapter 4, pp. 128-145
	Thur 5 Feb	Documenting Canada's population changes The Canadian census	Statistics Canada website, especially 2006 Census: www.statcan.gc.ca
5	Tue 10 Feb	Changing demographic and population trends (2) Immigration and Canada's ethnic diversity	Chapter 3, pp. 106-114 Chapter 4, pp. 145-158 Chapter 5, pp. 215-218
	Thur 12 Feb	Changing demographic and population trends (3) Canada's Aboriginal Peoples	Chapter 3, pp. 97-105 Chapter 4, pp. 158-162 Chapter 8, p. 356
Spring break February 16-20			
6	Tue 24 Feb	* ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE * Guest lecture: Parks Canada	TBA
	Thur 26 Feb	Documentary	
7	Tue 3 March	Urban and metropolitan Canada The diversity of Canadian cities and suburbs	Chapter 4, pp. 136-140 Chapter 5, pp. 214-222, Vignette 5.5 p. 184 Chapters 6-9, "Urban Geography" sections

	Thur 5 March	In-class midterm exam *ASSIGNMENT 2 handed out, DUE March 31*	
Part 3: Canada's economic geography and current issues			
8	Tue 10 March	Economic structure and organization	Chapter 1, pp. 17- 20 Chapter 4, pp. 164-168
	Thur 12 March	Human dimensions of change in Arctic Canada	Chapter 10 Dawson et al. 2010. The carbon cost of polar bear viewing in Churchill, Canada. Journal of Sustainable Tourism, 18 (3): 319-336
9	Tue 17 March	Industrial economies The automotive sector, globalization, free trade	Chapter 1, pp. 18, 20-26 Chapter 5, pp. 188-191, 195-208
	Thur 19 March	Natural resources Harold Innis and the 'staples thesis'	Chapter 1, pp. 21 Chapter 8, pp. 325-334 Chapter 9, pp. 367-373
10	Tue 24 March	Economic transformation in resource regions (1) Living in resource-dependent communities	Chapter 5, pp. 208-214, 220-222 Chapter 7, pp. 302-308 Chapter 9, esp. pp. 380-398
	Thur 26 March	Economic transformation in resource regions (2) Canada's quest for energy: oil in Western Canada	Chapter 6, pp. 248-257 Chapter 8, esp. pp. 348-356 Chapter 10, pp. 428-439
11	Tue 31 March	Treaties and land claims	Chapter 3, pp. 100-105 Chapter 7
	Thur 2 April	* ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE * Guest lecture: The economy vs. the environment?*	Chapter 2, pp. 61-68 TBA
12	Tue 7 April	Regional tensions and Canada's four faultlines (2): Centralist/Decentralist, Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal, Immigration, French/English	TBA
	Thur 9 April	Conclusion: Canada and its regions, what future? Review for the final exam	Chapter 11
13	Tue 14 April	"Students must follow their Friday course schedule. Courses normally held on Tuesday, April 14 will not be held. This is to replace classes missed on Friday, April 3, 2015 (Easter)".	
Final exam during official U of O exam period, April 15-28			

*Guest lecturers and scheduled dates are subject to change depending on availability.