Introduction

The primary aim of this course is to begin provide an understanding of Canada by studying its geographical diversity. This involves examining aspects of the physical environment, society, economy and culture, which underlie significant regional contrasts. We will take account of current events, when possible, as discussion points during lecture. Luckily there is a federal election that takes place during the semester that will be used to explore the how different regions of the country voted and possibly why. By the end of the course you should have a greater appreciation of the country's regions, physical resource base, economic history and current issues. These themes are crucial to understanding Canada's 'essence' and its mosaic of regional landscapes.

Course Objectives

This course aims for students to have a better understanding of Canada and the spatial variance in both physical geography and culture. Specifically students will be able to identify and explain how and why the physical geography of the country changes and relate that to different aspects of the Canadian culture. Maps will be an important aspect of this course and students will be able to identify important aspects of Canadian Geography and use maps to answer and develop questions.

Sources


Additional reading material will be posted, as required, on A2L (Avenue to Learn).

Lectures

Will be online, posted on Avenue to Learn each Wednesday at noon. All material for the week will be posted at that time.
Attendance and Emails Policy

Virtual office hours are held by the contacting the instructor to help clarify the content of lectures. Instructions for these will be posted on Avenue to Learn. It is not the instructor’s responsibility to go over an entire lecture with you.

While it is generally not appropriate to use email to ask detailed questions (including asking about what was discussed in the lectures) it is a bit different in an online course. If you feel comfortable use the class discussion board as that will be monitored daily (during the work week). As a general rule, you should not expect to receive answers to emails on weekends or in the evening. Rather, emails will typically be responded to during regular working hours on weekdays, and as schedule allows. Emails sent 24 hours prior to or on the Final Exam test date cannot be expected to be answered.

When asking a non-personal question you are encouraged to use the Avenue discussion board. It is likely that any question you have (whether it be clarification or simply of interest) is had by others as well. The instructor will frequent the discussion board.

As a courtesy, and to ensure your emails are properly answered, you must include your name and student ID number in the email signature. **Emails must be sent from McMaster email accounts** or they will not be read or responded to. Emails should be written in a professional manner, spell-checked and proof-read before sending them. The subject line must state for which course the query is about. Online discussion terminology must be avoided.

Evaluation

This course will consist of one student responsibility quiz, five content online quizzes, an assignment, discussion forum participation and a final exam scheduled by the registrars office. The five quizzes in the course covering lecture and textbook material. Quizzes are valued at 5% each. Quizzes will be available on A2L for a 4-day period starting on Thursdays at noon and closing the following Tuesday morning at 9:00am. Their schedule will be posted on A2L. **MSAF forms cannot be used for quizzes.** It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of quiz start and end dates, and of due dates for assignments (if any). Please see the section titled ‘Missed Work or Late Work’ for information regarding missed quizzes.

The Student Responsibility Quiz is a simple evaluation of your understanding of course guidelines. It will only take a few minutes and needs to be done. Until the quiz is completed grades will not be viewable on Avenue. The evaluation is worth 1% of your final grade.

Discussion Forum Participation will be outlined on Avenue but it begins on Week 2. You will be given a topic for discussion and you will be expected to contribute to the discussion in a productive and academic way. This will begin week 2 and continue periodically until week 12 (4% per week). This is not merely participation; you must make logical and thoughtful arguments. **You must complete at least four discussion posts (of five opportunities).** If you complete more than three your top three grades will be counted towards your final grade. **You may not MSAF the discussion grades for any reason.**
The Assignment will be released in Week #8 to a two week deadline. If you do not complete the assignment the allotted grade will simply be re-weighted to your final exam. **No MSAF Necessary.** Details of the assignments will be posted on Avenue.

The final exam is a traditional exam scheduled by the registrar’s office. It will be an in person exam with a mixture of short answer and multiple choice questions.

**Assessment Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Responsibility Quiz</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum Participation</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1: Two Sides of an Argument</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Check Avenue Calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (take home)</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>Scheduled by Registrars</td>
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**GEOGRAPHY 2OC3: REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF CANADA**

Course Schedule*
*The schedule may change as necessary. Quiz dates are on Avenue Calendar.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
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| 1    | Course Orientation                         | Course Orientation video  
Discussion Forum introductions  
Video: Watch “Over Canada” documentary |
| 2    | The Physical Environment – Part I          | Text: Read Chapter 2  
Video module/lectures: Paleogeography; Ice Ages; Physiographic Regions  
Paleogeography videos & timescales |
| 3    | The Physical Environment – Part II         | Video Lectures: Climate; Local Geomorphology  
Virtual Field Trip: Burlington Heights video |
| 4    | Society, Culture & Economy – Part I        | Text: Read Chapter 3  
Video Lectures: Human Environment Part I; Human Environment Part II |
| 5    | The Search for the Truth in Social Sciences & Atlantic Canada | Text: Read Chapters 4 & 9  
Video Lectures: Search for Truth in Social Sciences & Atlantic Canada |
| 6    | Industrial Heartland                      | Text: Read Chapter 5 & 6  
Video Lecture: Industrial Heartland |
| 7    | Western Canada                            | Text: Read Chapters 8  
Video Lectures: Western Canada |
| 8    | Free Week                                 | Get things done.  
Assignment #1 released |
| 9    | British Columbia                          | Text: Read Chapter 7  
Video Lecture: British Columbia |
| 10   | The Near North & Boreal Forest            | Reading (TBA)  
Video Lectures: Near North & Boreal |
| 11   | The Far North                             | Reading (TBA)  
Video Lectures: Far North |
| 12   | Review                                    | Reading (TBA) |
Missed or Late work
If you miss a test, quiz or term paper for a legitimate reason you must file documentation. You can report absences that last up to 5 days using the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF). Please see the section titled ‘McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)’ for further information. Do not bring a doctor’s note to your instructor or T.A.

Your marks for a missed assignment will be applied to the final exam. You must contact your instructor to find out what accommodations, if any, will be made for a missed midterm. Failure to contact the instructor to discuss accommodations within 2 days of the due date results in a grade of zero on the any assignment or midterm.

As online quizzes will be available for a 4-day period, MSAFs will NOT be accepted for missed quizzes; see the section titled ‘McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF). Marks for a missed quiz, with appropriate supporting documentation, will count towards the lowest quiz mark for the course.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)
If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting fewer than 5 days, you may report your absence, once per term, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form. Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty/Program office, with documentation, and relief from term work may not necessarily be granted. When using the MSAF, report your absence to maclacjc@mcmaster.ca. You must then contact your instructor immediately (normally within 2 working days) by email at maclacjc@mcmaster.ca to learn what relief may be granted for the work you have missed, and relevant details such as revised deadlines, or time and location of a make-up evaluation. Please note that the MSAF may not be used for term work worth 30% or more, nor can it be used for the final examination.

Please note: students who use the MSAF, but who do not contact the instructor within the 2 working days period, may not be granted any relief.

Avenue to Learn (A2L)
URL: http://avenue.mcmaster.ca
A2L is an online system that will be used in this class for communicating information relating to the course (e.g. lecture notes, etc.). To log in to A2L, use your MUGSI login and password. See the A2L home page above for more instructions if you need them. It is the student’s responsibility to check A2L regularly (i.e. AT LEAST twice a week) for updates.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

If you encounter any technical problems with this service go to the following website for support: http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/help/. Please note that it is not the
responsibility of the teaching staff of GEOG 2OC3 to assist you with A2L issues.

Mark Appeals and A2L grades
You will have one week (i.e. 7 days) from the date that marks for an evaluation (e.g. quiz) are released to appeal your mark. All grades will be released digitally and if you wish to appeal a grade, you must send a note via email (including your name, McMaster email address, and student ID number) to the instructor stating why you wish to have the assignment looked after. In any case, if the request is found to be insufficiently justified (e.g. simply wanting a higher mark is insufficient), the matter will not be further investigated. Remember that a resubmitted paper is entirely regarded meaning the grade can go up or down.

Your marks will be recorded on A2L. It is your responsibility to check that all marks entered into A2L are recorded properly. You must notify the instructor about any errors with regards to how your marks are entered. You have until 48 hours prior to the final exam to report any A2L mark issues.

Student Conduct
Students’ behaviour in all aspects of this course should meet the standards of the McMaster University Student Code of Conduct. Any inappropriate behaviour directed against any of your colleagues, T.A, or the instructor will not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviour during lectures will also not be tolerated.

This also means that the A2L Discussion Board is an extension of the classroom. These spaces are to be considered inclusive and safe. Abuse, ridicule, slander, inappropriate language, and discrimination towards the instructor, teaching staff, and other students will not be tolerated in any capacity. This may lead to various disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, removal of access privileges to the A2L for GEOG 2OC3.

Academic Dishonesty
You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Turnitin.com**: In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

**Acknowledgement of Course Policies**

Your registration and continuous participation (e.g. on A2L, in the classroom, etc.) to the various learning activities of GEOG 2OC3 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.** Lack of awareness of the course policies cannot be invoked at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and post any changes to the course A2L). **The lecture schedule is only a guideline and may be modified during the course of the class.** **The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their**