“Canada is an immense country, but it is not an easy country to know. The great differences of geography, history and economics within our country have produced a rich diversity of temperament, viewpoint and culture.”

-Pierre Elliott Trudeau

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 lectures for the week will be posted at that time.

Attendance and Emails Policy
Virtual office hours are held by 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 on student responsibility quiz, four content online quizzes, an assignment, discussion forum participation and a take-home final exam. There will be 4 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 the Thursday at 9:00am 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 true/false 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.

Discussion Forum Participation will be outlined on Avenue but it begins on week one. 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 through week 5 (4% per week). This is not merely participation; you must make logical and thoughtful arguments. **You may not MSAF the discussion grades for any reason.**

The assignment will be given a two week deadline (due week five). There will be no extensions granted, if you use an MSAF you grade will simply be re-weighted to the final exam. Details of the assignments will be posted on Avenue.

The final exam is a take-home long answer final exam where you will answer question based on the course. The exam will be released on the last Wednesday of class at noon and you will have 24 hours to complete it (until Thursday at noon) This will be handed in to the Avenue Dropbox. **Note:** there are no late grades for the final exam. If it is not handed in on time it is considered missed (just like any other exam) and you will have to write the deferred exam. It is suggested that you hand it in at least 3 hours early to make sure you do not run into and Internet issues.
### Assessment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Responsibility Quiz</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum Participation</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #2: Two Sides of an Argument</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (take home)</td>
<td>47%</td>
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</table>
# GEOGRAPHY 2OC3: REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF CANADA

Course Schedule (This may change slightly, please keep up with Avenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Course Orientation</td>
<td>Course Orientation video Discussion Forum introductions Video: Watch “Over Canada” documentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Physical Environment – Part I</td>
<td>Text: Read Chapter 2 Video module/lectures: Paleogeography; Ice Ages; Physiographic Regions Paleogeography videos &amp; timescales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Physical Environment – Part II</td>
<td>Video Lectures: Climate; Local Geomorphology Virtual Field Trip: Burlington Heights video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Society, Culture &amp; Economy – Part I</td>
<td><strong>Online Quiz</strong> Assignment #1 Released Text: Read Chapter 3 Video Lectures: Human Environment Part I; Human Environment Part II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Search for the Truth in Social Sciences &amp; Atlantic Canada</td>
<td>Text: Read Chapters 4-6, 9 Video Lectures: Search for Truth in Social Sciences, Industrial Heartland &amp; Atlantic Canada <strong>Online Quiz</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Western Canada</td>
<td>Text: Read Chapters 7,8 Video Lectures: Western Canada, British Columbia, Near and North Boreal Forest <strong>Online Quiz</strong> Assignment #1 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td><strong>Online Quiz</strong> Assignment #1 Due Video Lecture: The Far North, Canada: A Country of Regions <strong>Virtual Field Trip: Maps Library</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Far North</td>
<td>Text: Read Chapter 10, 11 Video Lecture: The Far North, Canada: A Country of Regions <strong>Virtual Field Trip: Maps Library</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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](http://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**