GEOGRAPHY 3304
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICA
Spring, 2019

Instructor: Dr. R. Gary Pumphrey
Office: 210G, Academic Building
Office Hours: 8:00-10:00 Monday-Friday, by appointment (or whenever my office door is open)
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Course Purpose
The United States and Canada have common heritage and to some extent common goals. Even though they share a common border, both nations have many differences. GEOG 3304, Regional Geography of North America, involves the study of the physical and human geography of a very diverse region of the world. The course will focus on the many and varied characteristics of the sub-regions within the United States and Canada. It will also introduce the student to a geographer's perspective in studying and analyzing these regions. It provides familiarity with the region and skills that are especially important to those that either plan or might eventually choose a teaching career. The course will have readings from the textbook and other sources throughout the semester. All “outside” readings will be posted on Blackboard. This course will also have numerous videos to assist students in gaining a better mental picture of each region and place.

Expected Learning Outcomes
At the end of the course, each student will be expected to:
1. Explain the five basic themes of geography (location, place, relationships within places, movement and regions), define basic geographical terms and understand basic fundamental geographic concepts.
2. Be able to develop a mental map of major human and physical features in the 14 regions of North America, know where things are and why they are there by analyzing geographic information.
3. Understand the diversity of North American society, culture, and interaction of the different groups.
4. Improve reading and writing skills by doing the assigned readings, and improve research skills by completing the semester writing assignment.

Each student should come away from this course with a better understanding and a much improved “mental map” of North America, and an improved critical thinking approach to various aspects of the North American continent. Outcomes will be assessed by four (4) exams and a semester writing assignment.

Course Grading
The course grade you earn will be determined primarily by your performance on four (4) examinations of 100 points each and the Trip Itinerary (worth 100 points). A total of 500 points is possible. Letter
and numerical grades for the course grade are as follows: A = 500-450; B = 449-400; C = 399-350; D = 349-300; F = 299 and below. The final exam will be non-comprehensive and will cover only the material following Exam #3. On exam day, students arriving after the first exam has been turned back in will have to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams will consist of three essay questions selected by the instructor. There will be no extra credit for this course.

The Trip Itinerary is worth 100 points and will be due no later than Wednesday, April 10th. This paper will come from a list of topics I will hand out sometime during the early part of the semester. More detail on content of the paper will be included in the handout explaining the assignment.

Map Locations
Map locations will be included in each exam. The list for all four exams and a blank copy of each region will be posted on Blackboard for each exam section. You may want to make several copies of the maps to practice/study prior to the exams.

You are responsible for all materials and any announcements made in class. Thus, it is suggested you acquaint yourself with your fellow students in case you have to miss class. It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for each class session by completing the required readings prior to attending class. Please be prepared to discuss any required assignment during that class period. The class will move quickly, so please keep up with the class assignments and readings.

Class Attendance
I expect you to come to class. Class attendance will be taken each day. You are allowed to miss 4 times without points being deducted. Starting with the 5th absence, 10 points will be deducted from your semester grade total for each subsequent absence. Be very miserly about missing class. You should save missing class for actual sickness or emergencies. Students with an excessive amount of absences will most likely not do exceedingly well on exams and your final semester grade will suffer. At the end of the semester and at my discretion, I will take into consideration the number of absences you have for the semester if your final grade is “borderline.”

Make-up exams will only be permitted for verifiable and significant reasons that are described in the Student Handbook. Make-up exams will consist of three essay questions selected by the instructor. There will be no extra credit for this course.

Classroom Etiquette
Sorry, but no laptops or any electronic devises allowed. Please turn off cell phones and no text messaging during class. Because the classroom is small, it is especially important that an effort be made by everyone to be courteous to their fellow students and the instructor. This includes keeping quiet during class (except to ask a question of the instructor), arriving to class before lecture begins and staying until it is completed, not sleeping in class, not reading newspapers or other material irrelevant to the lecture, and not doing your homework for your next class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave. If you must leave prior to the end of class or are expecting an important call, it is a common courtesy to inform the instructor before class starts.
Academic Misconduct
Plagiarism, according to Merriam-Webster, “is to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own and to use another’s production without crediting the source.” Angelo State University expects its students to maintain honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook. Cheating and plagiarism, as outlined in the ASU Student Handbook section on Academic Integrity, will not be tolerated in this course. Either committing plagiarism in this course or allowing another student to use your exam or written material to cheat or plagiarize is dishonest and will be treated in the same fashion as cheating and plagiarism. Academic misconduct will result in a score of zero on that assignment or exam and both the Dean of the student’s college and the Judicial Affairs Office will be notified. **Plagiarism is a very serious issue. I will NOT accept a paper that does not have a bibliography, nor will I accept a paper that has been copied from a book or website (even with sources cited). The paper will be given a ZERO and it may result in an “F” for the course. You will not be allowed to make revisions and hand it in a second time.**

Americans with Disabilities Act
Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangement scan be made.

Religious Holy Days
Anyone who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known to the instructor in writing prior to the absence. Anyone who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student excused under this policy will not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily or in a timely manner.

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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Readings</th>
<th>Lecture/Discussion</th>
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<td>January</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<td>Ch 1-Introduction</td>
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<td>Pinter &amp; Brandon</td>
<td>Ch 2-Physical Environment</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
<td>Ch 3 Regions/Indigenous</td>
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Trip Itinerary due no later than Wednesday, April 10th at beginning of class
Final Exam Monday May 6th (3:30pm)

The schedule above is what is planned for the semester. It may be changed at the instructor’s discretion. You will be informed of any changes.