**Course Syllabus**

**Geography of the United States and Canada**

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| Rowan University |
| *Semester*:  Spring 2021 |
| *Days*:  Monday and Wednesday |
| Monday – asynchronous reading, assignments 11:00am-12:15pm  Wednesday - Synchronous instruction: 11:00am-12:15pm in WebEx  Office hours by appointment |
| *Room*:  VIRTUAL |
| *Instructor*:  Mrs. Christa Pullion |
| *Instructor Email*:  [pullion@rowan.edu](mailto:pullion@rowan.edu) |

1. **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the geography of the United States and Canada.  From a geographic perspective, regions of the US and Canada are very diverse – both physically and culturally.  Regional geography examines a particular area of the earth by investigating the properties that combine to create a distinctive space in the world.  We will begin the course by exploring the basics in terms of the physical environment, historical development and political economy.  Then, we will break into various topics and sub-regions – each of which will include the above topics plus examinations of the sociocultural aspects of the sub-regions.

Students will master the fundamentals of geography and learn to think geographically:  observing and evaluating linkages among various physical, cultural and economic factors. Students will appreciate the dynamic nature of our world and will be encouraged to explore the relationships which exist between human activity and various places on earth.

1. **Objectives of the Course**

This is an introductory level course; students will be expected to understand the fundamental physical, cultural, political and economic geography of the US and Canada. By the end of this course you should be able to use basic geographic analysis to evaluate the essential cultural and political differences between the various regions.

A spatial focus will be used to locate cultural activities and search for patterns, distributions and the underlying meaning of these factors.  This course will hopefully encourage students to travel and learn.  An understanding of geographic principles can make many experiences of the world more vivid and valuable.

**III.   Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance and active participation in class are essential to successfully complete this course.

Mondays – it is expected students log in during regular class time (11:00am-12:15pm) to complete textbook readings and assignments.  The understanding of the material is essential for our live lectures and discussions on Wednesdays.  If an assignment is not completed and submitted by the due date (usually the start of the next class period, unless otherwise noted), the student will not receive credit for that day.  Accuracy is also important.  To receive credit the student must also earn at least 70% for a passing score.  Anything less than 70% will not receive credit.  The student may opt to try again for credit.

Wednesdays - Attendance is recorded during each live class (Wednesdays).  Students are expected to be online BY 11:00am.  Students are allowed two (2) unexcused absences.  Each unexcused absence after the two permitted will reduce the participation grade by one point.  Absences will be excused with a doctor’s note or in the case of a family or personal emergency.  Personal situations and concerns may be addressed with your instructor. Please check your email regularly for updates.

1. **Teaching Methods**

This is a lecture-based course in which class participation is required of all students.  There will be emphasis on discussion, demonstration, and question/answer.  Articles and information will be assigned via Canvas.  Students are expected to log in during regular class hours to stay on schedule.  Your instructor is available for virtual office hours during these times, or by appointment.

**WebEx Log-In Information:**

We will meet live on Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:15pm.  The link for WebEx is:

Meeting URL  
[https://rowan.webex.com/meet/pullion (Links to an external site.)](https://rowan.webex.com/meet/pullion)

Meeting Number:  647 431 551

1. **Materials**

Recommended Textbook

Regional Geography of US and Canada 2nd Edition

ISBN: 9781442277182

 Supplemental Readings

Supplemental readings will be handed out in class or will be available online.  It is your responsibility to properly prepare for class.  When using the internet, please use reliable and scholarly news sources.

1. **Course Grading/Evaluation**

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| Exams: | 40% |
| Region Assignment | 10% |
| Maps | 10% |
| Attendance/Class Participation  Monday Assignments/Discussion Posts – 10%  Wednesday Attendance in Webex - 10% | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |
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Exams:  There will be four exams during the semester.  The average score of the four exams is worth 40% of the overall grade.  The exam will be completed in Canvas.  Exams will be timed and will check for understanding of main ideas.  You will have sixty minutes to complete the exam in one sitting. They are due by the end of the day on Sunday (you typically have Wednesday through Sunday to complete the exam in one sitting).  Once the due date passes there will be *no make-up exams*.  Each exam will cover concepts and principles from prior classes and will consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answers.

 Region Assignment:  You will select one region on which to focus your project during the last week of the semester.  An outline and rubric will be given to you.  The project is worth 10% of the overall grade. This will be due in Canvas on the last day of the semester.

  Maps:  We will work on maps and labeling activities in class. Two sets of maps will be assigned and graded- one set at the beginning and one set at the end of the semester to ensure understanding of the physical geography of the United States and Canada. This will include labeling of the physiographic regions, states and provinces, and cities. It will be worth 10% of the overall grade (5% each map).

Class Participation/Attendance:  Students can learn as much from each other as they do from the instructor.  Get involved in class:  ask questions, help each other, be prepared, and apply concepts.  This is worth 20% of the overall grade. To receive full credit:

Mondays: Students must log in to Canvas on Mondays to read the material and work on assignments independently (with instructor feedback).  Attendance will be counted based on completing assignments from Monday’s class, and although you can work at your own pace, they are due by Wednesday at 11:00AM.  Assignments can include discussion board posts, internet case studies, and brief quizzes or written responses.

Wednesdays: log in to WebEx by 11:00am for live discussion.  This is not optional!  Everyone must log in on time and contribute to our lecture and discussion.  Attendance will be taken during each class meeting.

 Final Exam:   The final exam will be worth twenty percent of the overall grade.  *will be no make-up final exams; it is your responsibility to know the date and time of this exam once it is announced.  If you miss the final exam, it will not be offered at a later date.*

**VIII.                      Schedule**

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| **Week**  **Dates** | **Topics** | **Assignments Due** |
| Week 1  Jan 25  Jan 27 | Introduction  Mapping | Monday:  Log in and preview Canvas site  *Respond to* ***Discussion post*** *in Canvas to introduce yourself*  Wednesday:  Meet In WebEx at 11:00am for semester overview. |
| Week 2  Feb 1  Feb 3 | Physical Context and Regions of the US and Canada | **Monday:**  Review and begin map assignment.  ***Map assignment****, due by Wednesday, February 17 at 11:00am. Please upload the assignment in Canvas*  Wednesday:  Meet in WebEx at 11:00am |
| Week 3  Feb 8  Feb 10 | Physical Context and Climate of the US and Canada | Monday - Lecture-  1 Fundamental Concepts: Regions and Ecoregions 2 Fundamental Concepts: Sustainability  3. Regions: The Physical Context  Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am    Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion  ***Map assignment****, due by Wednesday, February 17 at 11:00am. Please upload the assignment in Canvas* |
| Week 5  Feb 15  Feb 17 | Human Context of US and Canada | Monday - Read Text and Lectures-  4 Regions: The Human Context  *Respond to* ***Discussion Board*** *post*  Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am  ***Map assignment****, due by Wednesday, February 17 at 11:00am. Please upload the assignment in Canvas*  Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion |
| Week 6  Feb 22  Feb 24 | Political and Economic Geography of the United States and Canada | Monday – review lecture in Canvas  *Respond to* ***discussion board*** *post*  Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am  Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion  ***Exam 1*** *due Sunday by 11:59pm in Canvas* |
| Week 7  Mar 1  Mar 3 | Canadian Corridor  North Atlantic Provinces and New England | Monday – review lectures and text  5 The Canadian Corridor: A Shift in Core Value  6 The North Atlantic Provinces and Northern New England: New Economic Hopes  *Respond to* ***Discussion Board*** *post*  Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am    Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion |
| Week 8  Mar 8  Mar 10 | Megalopolis  New Jersey Case Study | Monday – review lectures and text  7 Megalopolis: Setting Sustainable Standards  New Jersey – Trivia and Info  *Respond* ***to Discussion Board*** *post*  Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am  Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion |
| Week 9  Mar 15  Mar 17 | Appalachia  South Atlantic | Monday – review lectures and text  8 Appalachia: Trying to Love the Mountains 9 South Atlantic: Gentry Tidewater, Hardscrabble Piedmont, and the Northern Invasion of Dixie  Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am  Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion |
| Week 10  Mar 22  Mar 24 | Florida  Gulf Coastal Plain  Ozarks | Monday – review lectures and text  10 Florida: A Victim of Its Own Geography 11 Gulf Coastal Plains and Mississippi Valley: Juxtaposition Squared 12 The Ozarks: Unexpected Economic Miracles   Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am    Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion  ***Exam 2*** *due Sunday by 11:59pm in Canvas* |
| Week 11  Mar 29  Mar 31 | Midwest  Great Plains and Prairies | Monday – review lectures and text  13 The Midwest: Corn, Cars, Conundrums, and Hope 14 The Great Plains and Canadian Prairie: Land of Opportunity, or Where the Buffalo Roam?   Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am   Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion |
| Week 12  Apr 5  Apr 7 | Rocky Mountains  Intermontane  MexAmerica | Monday – review lectures and text  15 The Rocky Mountains: High in Elevations, Aspirations, and Appreciation 16 Intermontane: Baked, Beguiling, and Booming  Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am   Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion  ***Exam 3*** *due by Sunday at 11:59pm in Canvas* |
| Week 13  Apr 12  Apr 14 | MexAmerica  Pacific Northwest  Arctic Slope and Boreal Forest | Monday – review lectures and text  17 Pacific Northwest: Environment as Lifestyle 18 Arctic Slope, Pacific Borderlands, and Boreal Forest: Feeling the Heat   Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am    Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion |
| Week 14  Apr 19  Apr 21 | California  Hawaii | Monday – review lectures and text  19 California: Having It All, and Then Some 20 Hawai’i: Aloha   Complete assignments by Wednesday at 11:00am     Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion  ***Exam 4 d****ue Sunday by 11:59 pm in Canvas* |
| Week 15  Apr 26  Apr 28 | Map Practice  Region Assignment  Review for Final Exam | Monday – work on mapping and regional case study assignment  ***Map Assignment 2*** *due by May 1 at 11:59pm*  ***Region Assignment*** *due by May 1 at 11:59pm*  Wednesday – Log in to WebEx for group discussion |
| Week of May 1 | FINAL EXAM- Virtual in Canvas | **FINAL EXAM** will be cumulative |

\*This syllabus is subject to change

Rowan Statement of Accommodations- Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-­‐256-­‐4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. We look forward to working with you to meet your learning goals.

Rowan Policy regarding academic honesty:

The academic integrity policy can be found in detail at the following website:

[https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy (Links to an external site.)](https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy)

It is expected that all students read and adhere to this policy.

Statement regarding use of the Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish - The Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish® is designed to make it easier for you to connect with the resources you need to be successful at Rowan. Throughout the term, you may receive email from the Rowan Success Network team (Starfish®) regarding your academic performance. Please pay attention to these emails and consider taking the recommended actions. In addition, utilize the RSN's scheduling tools to make appointments at your convenience for advising, tutoring and more. Additional information about RSN may be found atwww.rowan.edu/rsn.

Rowan University's Statement on Diversity

 Rowan University promotes a diverse community that begins with students, faculty, staff and administration who respect each other and value each other’s dignity. By identifying and removing barriers and fostering individual potential, Rowan will cultivate a community where all members can learn and grow. The Rowan University community is committed to a safe environment that encourages intellectual, academic, and social interaction and engagement across multiple intersections of identities. At Rowan University, creating and maintaining a caring community that embraces diversity in its broadest sense is among the highest priorities.

  Rowan University Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Reporting, and Title IX

Rowan University and its faculty and staff are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. Title IX makes it clear that sexual misconduct and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct or harassment, to the University’s Title IX Coordinator so that the appropriate resources and support options are provided. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct and harassment that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct or harassment, Rowan encourages you to reach out to these resources:

Confidential Resources: The Wellness Center, Winans Hall, 856-256-4333, [www.rowan.edu/wellness (Links to an external site.)](http://www.rowan.edu/wellness)

Non-Confidential Resources: Office of Student Equity and Compliance (OSEC), Savitz Hall 203, 856-256-5830

Public Safety, Bole Annex, 856-256-4911

Other reporting information is available here: go.rowan.edu/titleix