

Course Syllabus
Geography 3359-01 (CRN 80053)
Regional Geography: United States & Canada
3 credit hours
Fall 2017

Classroom: LDB 207
Class time: MWF 12:00-12:50

Instructor: Dr. Velvet Nelson
Office: LDB 334
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Office Hours: MWF 8:30-10:30am and 1:30-3:30pm
By appointment

Course Description: This course provides a general overview of the land and people of the United States and Canada. The topics covered include the physical environment, cultural differences, and the various ways people live and make their living. Attention will be focused on the relationships that exist between the location, the physical environment and human activity.

Objectives: This course is intended to a) improve geographic literacy for the United States and Canada, b) discuss contemporary issues and events in the region, and c) explore cultural sub-regions.

Methods of Instruction: This course is structured as a combination of lectures, films, readings, participatory activities and discussions, and writing exercises to achieve the objectives stated above.

Textbook: Students will read the 2017-2018 SHSU Common Reader selection, *The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities* by Will Allen with Charles Wilson (ISBN 9781592407606). More information on this book can be found at:
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/fye/common-reading-program/index.html>

Students will also be able use the link on Blackboard to register with Pearson Mastering to access Chapters 1-3 of the free eText *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*, 7th edition by Les Rowntree, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff (ISBN 978-0-13-453942-3).

Attendance: Attendance is required. Students will be permitted up to 6 absences – excused or unexcused – without penalty. Each absence in excess of 6 will result in a 1% reduction of the final grade. Students are expected to arrive at the classroom on time and stay until class is finished. Failure to do so will result in a tardy; 3 tardies will be counted as 1 absence. Students are responsible for signing in each class; failure to do so will result in an absence. Students are

responsible for all lecture notes, assignments, schedule changes, and any other information covered in class.

Grade Information: Final grades will be based on a total of 325 points. The distribution of points is as follows: 150 points from 3 tests, 136 points from assignments, and 39 points from participation in in-class activities and discussions. Final letter grades will be assigned on the following scale: A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%, F = less than 60%.

Completion of Work: Assignments will be submitted electronically via Blackboard by the beginning of class. Students are strongly encouraged to submit assignments in advance of the deadline in case any technical issues arise. No late work will be accepted.

Tests must be taken on the scheduled date. Tests will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and essay questions. Students must be prepared at the start of each test with a Scantron 882-E form and a pencil. Students who arrive late to a test (i.e. after the first student has left the classroom) and students who miss a test due to extreme and unavoidable circumstances will be permitted to make up the test. If more than one test is missed, the student will only be permitted to make up the first missed test. All confirmed make-up tests will be given at the end of the semester. Please be aware that the make-up test will cover the same material, but it will not be the same test given to the rest of the class. No make-up tests will be given for a late or missed final exam.

Note: If unusual circumstances arise during the semester that affect your class performance, please discuss this with me as soon as possible and provide the appropriate documentation. Under these conditions, I will do my best to accommodate your situation. However, there is nothing I can do if you wait until after the fact, at the end of the semester, to let me know that you were experiencing adverse circumstances.

Students will be expected to maintain a respectful classroom environment at all times. Due to copyright and privacy issues, photo, audio, and/or video recordings in class will not be permitted. Phones should be on vibrate and put away during class. Laptops will be permitted so long as they are used for classroom purposes. If your laptop use becomes a distraction to others, you will be asked to put it away as well.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students turning in work that has been copied or plagiarized from any other source, or cheating in any form on an exam, will receive a zero for that assignment/exam and may be referred to a University committee for further review. All electronic devices must be completely turned off and put away while students are taking and reviewing exams. Any electronic device use during this time will result in automatic failure of the exam.

University Policies: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these

programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Please refer to www.shsu.edu/syllabus to view additional University's policies.

Tentative Course Outline: (schedule may be subject to change)

Unit 1: Introduction to the United States and Canada

September 8 Escape, Return, Promises, and Trial by Fire
September 15 Black Flight, Beginning, and A Snorting Terror of Rippling Muscle
September 22 Test 1

Unit 2: Regions of the United States and Canada

September 29 Black Gold and A Little Hope, A Lot of Will
October 6 Homecomings
October 27 Test 2

Unit 3: Issues in the United States and Canada

November 3 Overnight Successes
November 10 New Frontiers and The Dream
November 15 Common Reader Event Assignment
December 4 Test 3 (1:00pm – final exam schedule)