

The University of Winnipeg
Department of Geography

GEOG 3511 (3)-001
Topical Regions in Geography

Fall Term: September 5 – December 20, 2023

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

10:30am-11:20 pm

3M62

Instructor: Dr. Gina Sylvestre
E-mail: g.sylvestre@uwinnipeg.ca*
Office: Online
Office Hours: By appointment

*Please note when corresponding with the instructor, use your University of Winnipeg email account system: name@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca

*Students are reminded that they have a responsibility to regularly check their uwinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or their course instructors.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a systematic study of a topical world region from a geographic perspective. For the particular region selected for study, emphasis is placed on historical, political, socio-economic, cultural, demographic, and urban-rural development aspects as appropriate. The region of study will vary from year to year, with particular attention paid to regions currently or recently dominating world events.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Regional approach was a founding practice in the study of Geography, particularly useful to highlight the discipline's integration of both physical and human dimensions. In today's global world, Regional Geography emphasizes the effect of globalization within the context of local places seeking generalizations and the identification of multi-scale relationships that are connected up to the global scale (Matthews & Herbert, 2008).

This course encompasses a regional approach to describe, analyze, and synthesize a geographical analysis of Central America. Within the classroom, lecture materials along with assigned readings investigate specific themes and current issues related to the region. The group projects engage students in applying a regional geographical approach to a specific country, while students individually examine identified themes for the research paper.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

No textbook is required for the course.

NEXUS

Documents related to this course (e.g., course syllabus, assignment guidelines, lecture slides, assigned readings) will be made available to students through the NEXUS system. You must be registered in the course to have access to these materials. To login into Nexus, go to: <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/> If you are encounter difficulties with Nexus contact the help desk at 204-786-9149 or help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca.

OFFICE HOURS

I am eager to help with any problems you might have with the course and will be available after each lecture for as long as I am needed. My preference for in-depth, content-related questions is for a meeting on Zoom (by appointment).

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course is structured to foster engagement and discussion in class. Regular attendance at lectures is required and reading preparation before class will enhance students' understanding of issues related to the Regional Geography of Central America. The following outlines the theme areas of the course that will be the basis for the structure of the classes throughout the term:

- 1) A Regional Approach: Physical and Human Geography
- 2) The Physical Environment
- 3) Historical, Economic, and Political Perspectives
- 4) Demography and Well-being
- 5) Urban-Rural Settlement
- 6) issues

There will be 5-6 articles, chapters, and media sources assigned for each theme. Further information will be provided in class and on Nexus. Please note readings could change to accommodate emerging issues that we may want to discuss in class. Also be aware that due to unforeseen time restrictions, some material included on the course schedule may not be covered. Any changes will be announced in class.

STUDENT EVALUATION

		FALL 2023
TERM TEST	20%	OCTOBER 6
Term Paper Proposal	10%	October 20
Group Presentation & Slide Notes	10%	November 20 & 22
Term Paper	25%	December 4
Final Exam	35%	TBA

The requirements for evaluation in this course are structured for students to immerse in course material developing a comprehensive understanding of the regional geographical approach.

Term Test & Final Examination

The 50-minute test will be comprised of short essay format questions based on the course material covered until the test. The 3-hour final exam consists of long essay format questions, is cumulative, and will cover all lecture materials and readings assigned through the duration of the term. Further information will be provided in class. For both the term test and the final examination, only a student's writing instruments are allowed on the desk.

Term Paper & Proposal

Based on an identified theme of interest within the region of study, each student will develop and submit a term paper with a maximum length of 10 pages, double-spaced (25%). As part of the evaluation for this component of the course, students will submit a one-paragraph abstract of their research objectives and include a brief outline of how the analysis will be developed in the proposed term paper (10%). Further information on this assignment will be provided in class and on Nexus. Please note that this submission should be type-written, stapled, and handed in at the beginning of class on the due date.

Group Project & Presentation

The intention of this assignment is for class members to consider the regional geography of a Central American country. Groups of three-or-four (3-4) persons will use a regional geographic approach to analyze a chosen country within the study region. Students will work collaboratively within groups with each member choosing one area of regional geography to evaluate for the country. Each group will provide a presentation of 10 minutes with 5 minutes for questions (15 minutes total). Further information on this assignment will be provided in class and on Nexus. The grade for this assignment will be based on the presentation (5%) and the slide notes included by each student for their portion of the presentation (5%).

References & Citations

For assignment submissions, please follow the reference and citation style specified in the APA 7th Edition. More information about the style is available from the University of Winnipeg library. In addition, Purdue University offers comprehensive guidelines and examples that can be found at: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due at the start of class. Extensions without penalty will be granted only for medical or compassionate reasons, as well as religious holiday celebrations. Documentation may be requested. Please note that computer problems are not an acceptable excuse for late submissions. No exceptions will be made. Five percent (5%) per day will be deducted for late assignments. Assignments will only be accepted for one week after the due date.

CLASS CANCELLATION

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, Dr. Sylvestre will inform students via Nexus and uwinnipeg email.

CHANGE IN MODE OF DELIVERY

In the case of a permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams. Students can find answers to frequently ask questions related to remote learning here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/remote-learning-faq.html>

GRADING

Senate approved grades for courses include A+, A, A-, B+, B, C+, C, D, and F. The University does not have a standardized numerical grade conversion scale for each letter grade. The following numeric grading system provides guidelines only for the separation of letter grades in this course. These boundaries may be adjusted at the request of the Geography Department Review Committee or University Senate. Final letter grades are based on accumulated numeric grades during the course. For this course, grade equivalents are as follows:

A+	90-100 %	C+	65-69.9 %
A	84-89.9 %	C	56-64.9%
A-	80-83.9%	D	50-55.9 %
B+	75-79.9 %	F	less than 50 %
B	70-74.9 %		

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

You must formally withdraw from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an "F" on your transcript. The final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty is **November 13, 2023**. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not result in a fee refund. Please refer to the 2023-2024 University of Winnipeg Course Undergraduate Academic Calendar <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/index.html> for Voluntary Withdrawal procedures.

IMPORTANT DATES: FALL 2023

Date	Significance
September 5	Lectures Begin
September 6	First Class Lecture
September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day (University Closed)
October 6	Term Test
October 8-14	Reading Week
October 9	Thanksgiving (University Closed)
October 20	Term Paper Proposal due
November 11	Remembrance Day (University Closed)
November 13	Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
November 20 & 22	Group Presentations
December 4	Last Class Lecture/Term Paper due
December 7-20	Final Exam Period
Final Exam	TBA*

* Students are responsible to check all exam information prior to the exam on the course outline. The exam schedule can be found at the following link: [http: https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/index.html](http://https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/index.html)

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Respectful Learning Environment: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with several UW policies could be considered non-academic misconduct. See the Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>) and Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>). More detailed information is outlined in the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>).

Regulations, Policy, and Academic Integrity: Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Regulations and Policies found in the University Academic Calendar at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Emphasis is placed on maintaining academic integrity and the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even unintentional plagiarism, as described in the UW Library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>), is a form of academic misconduct.

Similarly, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is a form of misconduct, as it involves aiding and abetting plagiarism.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students’ Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.

Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools: It is expected in this course that when doing the take-home term test, final examination, and term assignment, AI Text-generating tools will not be used. Please note, as the use of AI tools is prohibited in this class, students may face allegations of Academic Misconduct if this is disregarded.

Copyright and Intellectual Property: Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor’s intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the Academic Misconduct or Non-Academic Misconduct Policy; such consequences could possibly involve legal sanction under the Copyright Policy, see <https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/basics/copyright-policy.html>

Research Ethics: Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html>

Privacy: Students should be reminded of their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>).

Religious Holidays: Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Accessibility Services: Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student’s disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.

Indigenous Student Services: Indigenous students seeking additional supports, academic or other, are encouraged to contact the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC). The ASSC offers

a variety of support services, and was created to maintain a safe, educational and culturally sensitive environment for all Aboriginal students (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) as they pursue their academic studies at The University of Winnipeg. More information can be found at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/assc/>.