

Faculty of Social Science
Department of Geography

Geog306 –neither optimistic nor cynically pessimistic. “Canada” and being “Canadian”.

Instructor Information :

Jennifer Mateer
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Office Location & Hours
Thursday 11:00:00pm in the David Turpin Building (DTB) Room B208

Guiding Thoughts:

“In the end, everything in politics turns on the distribution of spaces. What are these places? How do they function? Why are they there? Who can occupy them? For me, political action always acts upon the social as the litigious distribution of places and roles. It is always a matter of knowing who is qualified to say what a particular place is and what is done-*idatques* Rancière (2003:201)

“A nation is a group of people who share the same illusions about themselves ... expressed in stories or core myths we tell about ourselves” Daniel Francis (1997:10)

Course Schedule

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| January 5 | Physical Geography | February 16 | Midterm |
| January 12 | Economic Geography | February 23 | Cultural Geographies (Soundscapes; Foodscapes; and Art) |
| January 19 | Canadian Migration, Immigration, and Refugee geographies | March 1 | Indigeneity and Decolonization (this will be a running theme throughout the course, however it will be more closely attended to this week) |
| January 26 | Canadian Myths and Place-Making | March 8 | Canada's place in the world |
| February 2 | Conceptions of Space in Canada | March 15-29 | Regional Presentations and Review |
| February 9 | Reading Break – No class | | |

Learning Objectives

- 1) To develop a more sophisticated understanding and critical appreciation for Canada's physical, economic, political, historical, and cultural geographies.
- 2) To better recognize how national and regional identities are constructed, contested, reproduced and reworked.
- 3) To enhance the understanding of key geographic concepts such as place and space, drawing on the Canadian experience.
- 4) To develop critical thinking skills which recognize the multiplicity of values, assumptions, and perspectives that underline opinions and "facts".
- 5) To be able to articulate and defend a clear and concise position on a Canadian issue through the written assignment.
- 6) To gain public speaking experience through one group presentation.
- 7) To develop a better appreciation of the importance of a critical education for Canada for one's own wellbeing and for future endeavors – be they academic or otherwise.

Course Policies

Collegial Respect: Do your part to ensure a classroom environment conducive to learning. Arriving late, talking, texting, surfing the internet etc. all disrupt the flow of the class and may impact your participation grade. Be respectful to the instructor and colleagues. Being at university is a unique privilege. Be sure to make the most of it!

Late / Missing Work: If for a legitimate reason (e.g. verifiable serious illness or family emergency) you must miss the midterm/exam/assignment deadline you must notify the instructor before the date to make alternative arrangements. Failure to do so will result in a mark of zero. Your required hand-in assignments will be accepted up to three days after the due date with a 15% penalty applied per day. Extensions will only be granted ahead of the deadline and with a doctor's note or equivalent—

Required Materials

Readings: Required readings such as journal articles, book chapters and other sources will be posted on the CourseSpaces <http://CourseSpaces.uvic.ca/> and should be read thoroughly and brought to class. While readings are peripheral to learning in some courses, they are central to this one.

Reading effectively is absolutely essential for success in this course. Be mindful that simply reading without engaging with the material (i.e. marking, highlighting, frequent rereading, taking notes and critical reflection) will limit the movement of material from short to long term memory.

Note on CourseSpaces: You will Access the CourseSpaces site for required readings, important announcements, assignment submissions, instructor notes, your grades and additional information .

Assessments

Students will be evaluated on the following required elements:

Participation: based on the quality of your contributions to class discussion, and extra-curricular involvement (10%)

Midterm Exam: Thursday February 16th (in class) multiple choice, fill in the blank, & short written answer questions covering material to date (15%)

Purposeful Reading Responses: 3 reports on the assigned readings, due the same week as the reading chosen. The first must be submitted before the midterm, the second submitted after the midterm, and the third submitted during the regional presentation (4% each)

Written Op/Ed : Thursday March 15th An opinion piece on a Canadian issue (20%).

Regional Presentations March 15 & 22: In class group presentations and participation on regional geographies of Canada (18%)

Final Exam: Take Home Exam, to be submitted online (25%)

Note on Undergraduate Grading: Grading practices and procedures are guided by University policies specified in the Calendar. The geography department is concerned about the potential problem of grade inflation and wishes to ensure equity in grading standards among colleagues. In cases in which grades for a course are substantially outside normal ranges, the department Chair may ask the instructor to justify or revise those grades. Instructors submit grades online as soon as they have been approved by the Chair. If the grades for a course are not available online, it means that the grades have not yet been approved by the Chair, and any grades posted elsewhere are unofficial and subject to change.

Students should pay particular attention to the qualitative indicators associated with each grade

