

Cultural Geography

Geog 2811 – Fall 2023

In-person – Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, RC2003

September 5, 2023 – December 4, 2023

Instructor: Reg Nelson – rjnelson@lakeheadu.ca

Course Description:

Examination of the spatial aspects of human culture and of the techniques used to study them. Topics covered include cultural regions, cultural diffusion, agricultural and settlement patterns and the spatial aspects of politics, language, religion, race and ethnicity.

Course Organisation:

Online Reading and Discussion

A large component of this class (40%) will be based upon weekly readings and different responses to them on D2L. Each week will be comprised of a discussion thread where the readings are discussed, or a mini assignment that engages in course material. There is no exam in this class so you are expected to do the readings each week and to reference articles from each week, from the previous weeks, and other outside sources you have found in the discussions and assignments. Please see the rubric and the reference to Bloom's taxonomy discussed later.

In-class Lectures

In exchange for the time spent outside of class-time to take part in the discussions and completing other mini-assignments, there will be time during the classes to work on your other projects. Please come to class prepared to work on your assignments.

General Themes by Week

Week of:	Theme(s) – subject to change
September 4	Introduction
September 11	What is Cultural Geography?
September 18	Ethnicity/Nationality
September 25	Geography of Language
October 2	Political Geography
October 9	Thanksgiving and study break
October 16	Geography of Religion
October 23	Critical Issues - (Cultural Region Presentations)
October 30	Settlement Patterns - (Cultural Region Presentations)
November 6	Population & Health - (Cultural Region Presentations)
November 13	Agriculture
November 20	Migration
November 27	Cultural Expression
December 4	Geography of Waste

Expectations:

[Student Code of Conduct](#): please read and be familiar with your responsibilities and expectations.

Academic Integrity - A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study.

If you are having difficulty, please:

- discuss it with me - "I value integrity more than a deadline" - let's work it out.
- access one of the many other supports available - see the section below for other resources.

A large part of this course will be facilitating discussion both online and in-class. Statements that are demeaning, that are based upon personal characteristics, or that can be perceived as aggressive will not be tolerated.

Supports:

Please talk with me if you are experiencing difficulty. I may not always be able to help but will try to direct you to someone who can. Supports available include, but are not limited to:

- [Student Accessibility Services](#) - "facilitates the provision of academic accommodations for students with temporary and/or permanent disabilities/medical conditions." Academic Accommodation is available to all students that need it and will be facilitated by Student Accessibility Services.
- [Student Health and Wellness](#) - "provides a range of counselling options, health services, and wellness programs."
- [Student Success Centre](#) - can help with "time management, reading and note taking, study skills, exam preparation, resume and cover letter, job searching, networking and much more."
- [Academic Support Zone](#) - part of the Student Success Centre focused on tutoring, writing, math skills and other academic resources.
- [Indigenous Student Services Centre](#) - "Our aim is to help Indigenous students to achieve success in their academic goals through a variety of support services."
- [LUSU Student Centres](#) - don't forget that your student fees help fund the [Food Resources Centre](#), [Gender Equity Centre](#), [Pride Central](#), [Aboriginal Awareness Centre](#), [Multicultural Centre](#) and a [Sustainability Initiative](#).

All of us can benefit from support during times of struggle. Seeking help when you need it is smart and courageous. It is better to reach out sooner instead of waiting.

Books and Articles:

We will primarily be working from two text books which are both available online at no charge:

Dorrell, D., Henderson, J., Lindley, T., & Connor, G. (2019). *Introduction to Human Geography (2nd Edition)*. Geological Sciences and Geography Open Textbooks.

<https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/geo-textbooks/2>

Oakes, T. S., & Price, P. L. (2008). *The Cultural Geography Reader*. Routledge.

<https://geografiaculturalcigaunam.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/cultural-geography-reader.pdf>

Chapters from the texts, other articles and media will be introduced as the course progresses.

NOTE: if the link supplied for the given text or article doesn't work please do a web search for the resource.

Evaluation:

Your assignments and other marked components of the course are designed to facilitate learning and understanding and to provide evidence of these achievements.

All assignments must use **APA 7th Edition** formatting where possible. For example, an essay should use APA styling for all components while a website must, at a minimum, employ in-text citations and have an APA formatted reference list. If in doubt ask. I will often consult the Purdue University Writing Lab for their [APA Formatting and Style Guide \(7th Edition\)](#).

Assignment/ Project	Description	Deliverables/Breakdown	Mark
AIM Course	Academic Integrity Matters	Upload 2 certificates to Course Site.	5%
Online Discussion	Weekly discussion and mini-assignments based upon the readings	Contribute to discussion threads as prompted each week	40%
Presentation: Geography of a place	A presentation of the cultural geography of a specific place.	Approximately 20 min presentation using APA formatting and high-quality references.	20%
Essay/project about geographic cultural theme.	An essay/article/project that incorporates a multi-dimensional exploration of given cultural geography theme	An essay or approved project examining a specific theme in cultural geography. A portion of the mark will be reserved to evaluate progress each week.	35%

Assignments/Projects/Presentations

AIM Course (5%):

AIM Certificate & Annual Refresher Module

Due: Sep. 15

NOTE: No other assignments will be accepted until the two certificates have been uploaded to D2L.

The AIM Course is available through Lakehead University MYCOURSELINK. Both the 8 module AIM course and the refresher module must be completed. This should take about an hour to complete and is intended to be an easy 5% towards the entire course.

Go to MyCourseLink (<https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca>)

- Log in using your Lakehead username and password
- Click "Self Registration" from the menu at the top of the page
- Select "Academic Integrity Matters (AIM)" from the list
- Follow the steps presented until it confirms that you've been registered

After you have completed the 8 modules you must also complete the Annual Refresher module (this will only become available after completing the original AIM course).

Upload **both** Certificates to Assignment 1 on the Course D2L site. Note that these **must be the PDF files** generated in the Awards section of D2L, not a screenshot.

Online Discussion / Mini-assignments (40%):

Each of 10 weeks – 4% each

Due each week as detailed below

Each week there will be 2-3 readings (usually one deep reading and 1 or 2 maps/videos/websites). We will not start the discussions until the second week, so you can start reading the week before. There will be a discussion for each of the remaining 11 weeks.

- Read/view the readings
- Compose a post of about 200 words (or as specified) in response to the prompt(s)/question(s) by Tuesday night each week.
- Post 2 responses of about 50-150 words to others' posts by Friday night – try to foster a conversation about the main themes in the readings and the course.

Your posts must be formatted in APA:

- Use in-text citations to refer to the articles being referenced.
- Include full APA references for articles that are not part of the weekly readings.
- It is better to post 2 or 3 thoughtful well researched responses rather than numerous superficial comments (Posting "Ya, that's a really good idea!" is not a good response).
- You can post more than 3 times each week, especially if you feel the need to clarify a point brought up by someone else, but everyone is encouraged to post a maximum of 4 times most weeks.

Mini-Assignments – An attempt will be made to mix things up and have different projects and assignments that will provide an alternate way to engage with the course material.

Cultural Region Presentation (20%)

Date of your presentation to be decided in the first week of classes

You will investigate the culture of a specific place/region and create a presentation for the class. Plan for about 20 minutes including a few minutes for questions and comments. The general

themes of the course should inform your exploration of this place but do not consider these themes to be a simple 'laundry list' where you simply list the language(s) and religion(s) of this place. How has the climate, natural environment, migration, industry, conflict, trade and other factors come together to create the culture of your particular study area and what are the expressions of culture that flow from this? Remember to use APA 7 formatting for in-text citations and your reference list. I would expect about 12-15 references with the majority being 'high quality' references.

Typical presentation applications like PowerPoint or Google Slides are sufficient to do well with this presentation but other media and modes of conveying your research to your colleagues will be considered. Please talk to me if you would like to do something other than a typical PowerPoint slide deck.

Cultural Geography Essay/Project (35%)

Last day of class – December 4

Participation (10%)

This may be considered similar to an attendance mark. In addition to attending class you will also be expected to participate by taking part in discussions, sharing your work, providing feedback to your colleagues work, and illustrating progress on your current assignment during class-time.

Essay / Project (25%)

You will explore a particular topic/theme in cultural geography that interests you and create a 1500-2000 word essay. Keep in mind that if you are investigating migration, for example, that this topic will influence and be influenced by politics, language, religion, climate change, settlement patterns, and just about every other theme in cultural geography that you can think of. Consider your chosen topic or theme to be the narrative thread that pulls this all together. Or the figurative lens through which you view the breadth of cultural geography. Again, this essay must use APA 7 formatting and approximately 15-20 references would be expected with the majority of these from high-quality sources.

Rubric

All assignments and presentations will be evaluated by your ability to incorporate the various themes explored during the course. You should properly cite and reference the weekly readings in the course and/or other academic articles and book chapters, plus sources introduced during presentations in class.

It will also be useful to study [Bloom's Taxonomy](#) as visualized in the pyramid graphic. In many situations remembering and understanding facts and concepts is sufficient. For the course assignments higher levels of the framework must be demonstrated in order to achieve grades of 80-100%.

	Rating			
	4	3	2	1
Assignment Basics				
Sources	Uses multiple research-quality sources	Uses multiple sources	Information from few sources or lower-quality sources	Information from a single source.
Themes/Ideas	Logical sequencing and structure while demonstrating synthesis of ideas	Logical sequencing and structure while demonstrating a summary of ideas	Little organization or structure. Still addresses important themes/ideas	Little organization or structure and doesn't adequately address themes/ideas
Bloom's Taxonomy	Demonstrates ability to critique and evaluate concepts and develop original ideas.	Ability to apply information in new situations and demonstrate technical knowledge.	Demonstrate understanding of ideas/concepts in different contexts.	Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts and ideas as described in readings and discussions.
References/Citations	Excellent use of APA (7 th ed.) formatting	Good use of APA formatting with some difficulties	Citations and references are present but with little consistency and formatting.	Little structure to citations and references.
Specific to Presentations				
Presentation Style	Excellent pacing and structure to presentation. Follows time constraints	Good pacing to presentation. Exceeds 2 or 3 minutes less/more than time constraint	Sequencing and pacing do not contribute to presentation of material.	Presentation not adequately planned and executed.
Use of multi-media (images, maps, graphics, audio, video)	Excellent use of multi-media to illuminate ideas and themes	Good use of multi-media to illuminate ideas and themes	Little use of multi-media to illuminate ideas and themes	No attempt or haphazard attempt to use multi-media
Note: language can be used to illuminate ideas. There may be instances where projects do not benefit from multi-media but may instead be more forcefully illustrated with poetry or prose. This will be taken into account.				
Answer questions	Excellent ability to answer questions with references to course material and other academic sources.	Illustrates ability to clearly answer questions and knowledge of relevant sources.	Can answer questions within the context of presentation/project material and sources	Difficulty answering questions using sources referenced in the presentation/project.