Master Syllabus Department of Geography

GEOG 350: Geography of United States and Canada

Course Description

Regional examination of the geography of the United States and Canada. (3 credit hours).

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with a broad-based regional approach to U.S. and Canada that will enable a better understanding of the physical and human processes that shape this realm.

Course Rationale

This course encourages students to identify and understand local, regional, and national processes of environmental and human change. This includes learning about the role that geographic analysis has played in explaining the occurrences and interrelationships of economic, cultural, social, and physical elements in the landscape. Students will examine the strategic connections between the human and environmental dimensions of U.S. and Canada. Ultimately, this will enhance their ability to think, speak, and write critically about issues that affect people and places in these two countries.

Course Content and Format

Students will be presented material in a lecture-style format that will include multimedia presentations and case study discussions. The following shows an example of a potential outline of topics for this course, with time allotment for each topic at the discretion of the instructor:

- Introduction, Regions, and Themes
- Geographic Patterns of the Physical Environment
- Geographic Patterns of Human Activity
- Megalopolis
- North American Manufacturing Core
- Canada's National Core
- Appalachia and the Ozarks
- The Changing South
- The Southern Coastlands
- The Great Plains and Prairies
- The Empty Interior

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- The Southwest Border Area
- California
- The North Pacific Coast

Textbook Suggestion

Birdsall, S., E. Palka, et al. (2009). *Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada.* 7th Edition. Wiley Inc. ISBN# 13:978-0-470-09826-4

Methods for Evaluating Student Performance:

Forms of evaluation include examinations, in-class activities, writing assignments, map guizzes, and student presentations.

Evaluation of the Course

Student evaluation of the course using university (and departmental) course evaluation forms.