

NORTH AMERICA

GGY 3720 Section 001 (Hybrid Section)

<https://mapleforestricepaddy.wordpress.com/>

Spring Semester 2019

Credit: 3 semester hours

Class Meetings: Room 3246 Oxendine Science Building or ONLINE

Meeting times: T-R 12:30 to 1:45 pm



Professor: Dr. D. Edgell

Office: Suite 213/214 Old Main Bldg.

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays 9:00 am to 11:00 am, and 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, and 2: 00 pm to 2:15 pm. Other times by appointment.

Telephone messages may be left at (910) 521-6479.

Email: Dennis.Edgell@UNCP.edu

This course syllabus contains all the rules and regulations of the course, student responsibilities and the grading procedures. The following are the "**Frequently Asked Questions**".

WHAT IS THIS CLASS?

The following description is from the UNCP catalog: *Analysis of physical and cultural bases of North American geographic patterns. Emphasis upon natural conditions, settlement patterns, and regional structure.*

WHAT ARE THE COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES?

This course is NOT a standard lecture course. Students will learn by mainly by discussion, research and writing. 1. Learn about the physical and human geography of the United States and Canada!
2. Become aware of important regional issues in the two countries. Develop opinions on these issues.
3. Enhance your research and analysis skills!
4. Develop your writing, communication and presentation skills!

WHAT PREREQUISITES ARE THERE? WHAT SKILLS ARE NEEDED?

There are no Geography course prerequisites for this class. However, this is not an introductory course. This course is *junior-level* course (3xxx); it is preferred to have some background and interest in geography, no matter what your major field of study is.

Those students who have already had Geography/Geology courses in this department (cartography, GIS, etc.) will be **required to utilize** the skills they have learned in those courses.

It is assumed that students in a hybrid course will have a working knowledge of computers. This includes the utilization of Internet resources, downloading and viewing of files and the creation and use of a blog. Students who work from off campus 1) must be able to maintain their own computers – and make sure they work properly. 2) Personal computers must be compatible with the UNCP system, and the CANVAS course delivery system. Open computer labs exist on campus. (Ask UNCP DoIT Services for open lab locations and available times.)

There is significant amount of writing required for this course. Also – the ability to meet deadlines and due dates is important. “The dog ate my computer” is not an acceptable excuse for a missed deadline. It is the student’s responsibility to complete online work on time.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL I INVEST IN THIS COURSE?

The university and departmental guideline is “students should expect to spend on average two hours of study time outside of class for each hour in class.” Thus, a three-hour credit course requires nine hours of work per week.

IS THERE A CLASS WEBSITE?

Yes, and yes. Yes, this course has a UNCP **CANVAS** Web Page. All students are required to sign into the Canvas system by the second day of class. The Canvas webpage will be an important avenue for students and professor to communicate. Your grades will be logged in the Canvas system.

Yes again – as each student will also create their own personal blog website for this course. These student blogs will be linked to UNCP Canvas, and available for your classmates to read. There will be an Announcement in Canvas for each T-R class meeting, which will remind students what the assignments for the day will be, and what work is upcoming.

If you have trouble with the Canvas or UNCP network, contact DoIT Helpdesk. (910) 521-6260. Ask about the available “open labs” for students.

WHAT TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS WILL I NEED?

There is no required textbook for the course. All required readings will be assigned from Internet articles and webpages linked from Canvas. You will need access to a computer and be able to use UNCP library resources. Other materials will be provided by the professor as weblinks, email or handouts also posted to Canvas.

HOW IS THIS COURSE A “HYBRID”?

This course is classified as a “Hybrid – *mostly Internet*”. There are some face-to-face meetings in the classroom. Much of the course, and especially after midterm, will be Internet work.

WHAT IS THE CLASS SCHEDULE? DO WE MEET IN THE CLASSROOM OR ONLINE?

Make it your business to know when we meet in the classroom or if online work is required. Reading lists, handouts, exercises and assignments will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester.

The tentative schedule* as follows.

January 8	Meet in classroom: 1 st day of class. Course Introduction and Syllabus. Blog Project is assigned! Research Project is assigned!
January 10	In classroom: Discussion of blog creation. First blog topic assigned.
January 15	In classroom: North American Physical Geography/Blog ideas. (Student blog sites must be created by this date).
January 17	Work online: Post your physical geography article to your blog.
January 22	In classroom: North American Human Geography/Demographics and Economy/Blog ideas
January 24	Online: Post your human geography article to your blog. Project proposals accepted.
January 29	In classroom. Special Topic in US and Canada (TBA) Blog topics posted to Canvas.
January 31	Online: Student blogging day. Topic TBA
February 5	Online: Student blog posting. Student choice of topic.
February 7	Online: Student blog posting. Student choice of topic.
February 12	In classroom: Informal presentation and discussion about your blogging experience. Special guest TBA.
February 14	Online: Student blogs. Topic TBA

February 19	In classroom: Informal presentation and discussion about your blogging experience. Special guest TBA.
February 21	Online: Student blogs. Topic TBA
February 26	Online: Student blogs
February 28	Online: Student blogs
March 4	UNCP SPRING BREAK
March 6	UNCP SPRING BREAK
March 12	In classroom: Project poster and project abstracts must be approved.
March 14	Online: Register and upload your poster and abstract to PURC (see PURC website.)
March 19	Online: Student blogs
March 21	Online: Student blogs
March 26	Online: Student blogs
March 28	Online: Student blogs
April 2	Online: Student blogs
April 4	Online: Student blogs
April 9	Day off to prepare for PURC! ... or catch up on your blogging.
	Wednesday, April 10 is the PURC Symposium. Attendance is mandatory.
April 11	Day off to work on oral presentations ... or work ahead on your blogging.
April 16	Online: Student blogs
April 18	Online: Student blogs
April 23	In Classroom: Student Oral Presentations.
April 25	In Classroom: Student Oral Presentations.

*The schedule is subject to change (weather emergencies, UNCP schedule changes, etc.) Any changes, additions, or corrections will be posted in Canvas.

April 30 – UNCP FINAL EXAM WEEK: 10:45 am. In classroom: Reflections on North America. Note the special final exam time. Consult the [UNCP Final Exam Schedule](#) for more information.

IS ATTENDANCE REQUIRED?

Yes, participation in both the classroom and online activities are part of your grade.

Absences for University-Sanctioned Events

If a student is representing the University in an official capacity (e.g.: academic conference, student government, course field trips, ROTC events, athletics, band) at an official University-sanctioned event, that absence shall be excused. Students are responsible for all coursework missed and must make up the work within three university business days after the student returns to campus. Any student who anticipates missing more than 15% of the course should not enroll in the course without prior approval from the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the professor or instructor about classes missed for any reason, including University sanctioned events. Students must provide official documentation of proposed University-sanctioned events that will result in excused absences during the first week of each semester. Prior written documentation must be provided for each excused absence.

HOW CAN I CONTACT THE PROFESSOR?

You may work on your online assignments 24/7 as long as they are finished by the due date. However, if you need assistance, you will have to contact the professor at a reasonable hour, and give a reasonable amount of time to respond. If you call, visit the office, or send an email message regular during office hours you should receive an immediate response. If we are “meeting online” on a scheduled class day, you may assume that the professor will be in his office ready to help via phone. Emails received after that time will be answered within 24 hours, excluding weekends. If you do not get a response within 24 hours (excluding weekends), please resubmit the message, or leave a message on voicemail (910) 521-6479 .

Each student should have a one-on-one meeting in the professor’s office at least once during the semester. Please seek consultation if you have questions about your project work, and your blogging experiences. Students and professor may be able to work together in the Geography Department Cartography (computer) Lab on an as-needed basis.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH PROJECT?

Each student will create a presentation on a North America topic of their choice. *The specific requirements and detailed directions of this project are posted in Canvas documents.*

Participation in the UNCP PURC is required. Students MUST be on campus that day.

<https://www.uncp.edu/academics/research/purc-pembroke-undergraduate-research-and-creativity-center/purc-symposium>

WHAT IS THIS BLOGGING REQUIREMENT?

Each student will create their own unique blog website. Students will write about topics and issues on North American geography. The professor will provide students with assigned subjects to write about, and students will also write articles on topics of their own choosing. These articles will be linked to Canvas.

There will be twelve articles required to be posted to your website. These will vary in length and complexity. Additionally, the student blog website will need to be created and maintained. Your website will be personalized and annotated in various ways, with various media – photos, videos, etc.

The specific requirements and directions of the blog work will be posted in Canvas documents.

HOW WILL COURSE GRADES BE DETERMINED?

Your course grade will be determined by a *weighted mean* of all your graded material. You can keep track of your grades in the “GRADES” button in Canvas. You can follow your current weighted average at any time during the term. There is a score called “Total” in Canvas (which is not really a total). “Total” is the weighted average of all your graded work. Be advised of the relative proportions.

Exercises/short assignments (add up to)	10% of total course grade
Student Blogging Activity (accumulate to)	40% of total course grade
Research Project:	
Proposal (5%)	
PURC Poster (20%)	
Oral Presentation (Final exam) (25%)	50% of total course grade

	100%

WHAT IS THE COURSE GRADING SCALE?

Your total course percentage will be assigned the letter grade as follows:

93.000% and above = A
90.000 to 92.999 = A-
87.000 to 89.999 = B+
83.000 to 86.999 = B
80.000 to 82.999 = B-

77.000 to 79.999 = C+
73.000 to 76.999 = C
70.000 to 72.999 = C-
67.000 to 69.999 = D+
63.000 to 66.999 = D
60.000 to 62.999 = D-
00.000 to 59.999 = F

Incomplete (I) grades can only be assigned under both extreme -- and well documented situations. This grading scale is rigid. You must meet these standards. No adjustments will be made to anyone's grade after the final grades have been recorded.

IS THERE A POLICY FOR MAKE-UP WORK?

There may be unfortunate situations which arise. If there is ever a situation where a student would need to have an assignment made up (major illness, death in the family, etc.), the issue must be discussed in the professor's office. All requests, and the accommodations **MUST** be documented and verified in writing.

WHAT IS "PLAN B" ?

There may be a day when I cannot meet with the class. If there is ever an emergency which prevents me from attending to the classroom or my open office hours, a notice would also be posted to the class Canvas web page.

SHOULD I READ THE "FINE PRINT"?

Good idea! Here are the rest of the official course policies, aka "the terms and conditions":

It is the student's responsibility to make sure that he/she understands all of the policies on this syllabus. This university syllabus is a legal contract between student and the university. If you remain registered for the course that means that you have agreed to abide by all components of this document. It is the student's responsibility to view the daily class announcements and emails. It is the student's responsibility to find and access a computer which will work with this online class. "No computer" is not an excuse for incomplete work.

Do not take this course if your work, vacation, family or social commitments constrain your time -- or otherwise would prevent you from completing the assignments. It is also the student's responsibility to make sure that he/she has an understanding of the course material, and that course goals are being met. Students are invited to ask questions during office hours. Students are also encouraged to analyze graded assignments with the professor. The identification of problems, and the implementation of solutions will help students on future examinations.

HONOR CODE:

Academic cheating, dishonesty, or harassment in any form will not be tolerated, and will result in the penalties described in the UNCP Student Academic Code. Students who are disruptive to the learning process will automatically receive an F for the course, and are then liable to the university's disciplinary and legal action. The following is from the UNCP Student Honor Code:

"Students have the responsibility to know and observe the UNCP Academic Honor Code. This code forbids cheating, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, fabrication, or falsification of information, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Any special requirements or permission regarding academic honesty in this course will be provided to the students in writing at the beginning of the course, and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student's work is free from academic dishonesty of any type; and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be dismissed from the University. The normal penalty for a first offense is an F in the course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor."

The professor will take preventative measures to avoid even the appearance of academic dishonesty. The professor's directions must be followed exactly during all examinations and other graded activities.

The professor reserves the right to deduct points from any student's final grade for behavior that is inappropriate in a university classroom. Any student who believes that their education is being diminished by distracting or harassing students should confer in the professor's office immediately.

Students are advised to always practice "common sense." Eating is not appropriate in classroom computer labs. Some students are allergic to certain foods. Do not consume in the labs. The use of any tobacco product in classrooms or computer labs is prohibited.

In the event that UNCP is closed due to unforeseen circumstances (weather emergency, etc.), the professor reserves the right to assign additional course work to make up for any canceled class meetings.

Religious Holiday Policy Statement

https://www.uncp.edu/sites/default/files/Images_Docs/Departments/Academic_Affairs/policies_and_procedures/Religious_Holiday_Policy.pdf

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke has a legal and moral obligation to accommodate all students who must be absent from classes or miss scheduled exams in order to observe religious holidays; we must be careful not to inhibit or penalize these students for exercising their rights to religious observance. To accommodate students' religious holidays, each student will be allowed two excused absences each semester with the following conditions:

1. Students, who submit written notification to their instructors within two weeks of the beginning of the semester, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Excused absences are limited to two class sessions (days) per semester.
2. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance.
3. Students should not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second-party certification of the reason for the absence.

Furthermore, a student who believes that he or she has been unreasonably denied an education benefit due to religious beliefs or practices may seek redress through the student grievance procedure.

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ADA Statement

Federal laws require UNCP to accommodate students with documented learning, physical, chronic health, psychological, visual or hearing disabilities.

In post-secondary school settings, academic accommodations are not automatic; to receive accommodations, students must make a formal request and must supply documentation from a qualified professional to support that request. Students who believe they qualify must contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) in DF Lowry Building, Room 107 or call 910-521-6695 to begin the accommodation process. All discussions remain confidential. Accommodations cannot be provided retroactively. More information for students about the services provided by ARC and the accommodation process may be found at the following link: <http://www.uncp.edu/arc>

<http://www.uncp.edu/student-life/student-services/accessibility-resource-center/about-accessibility-resource-center>

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Alternative Format Statement:

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Accessibility Resource Center in the D. F. Lowry Building, 521-6695.

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Policy on public posting of student work/ instructor retention of student work:

https://www.uncp.edu/sites/default/files/Images_Docs/Departments/Academic_Affairs/policies_and_procedures/online_course_management.pdf.

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FREE UNIVERSITY SERVICES AVAILABLE:

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Academic Resource Mentoring in the Academic Support Center supports the UNV 1100 course and provides mentoring to any student, addressing their unique academic concerns to guide them in achieving their personal academic goals; contact jennifer.bruner@uncp.edu or 910-775-4391.

NC-HCAP: Located in Jacobs Hall Suite F, the Health Careers Access Program offers assistance to students seeking to be employed in healthcare through test preparation workshops, course tutoring, guidance during the application process for healthcare programs, job shadowing, internships, and advisement; contact hcap@uncp.edu or 910-521-6673.

The Resource Learning Lab in the Academic Support Center offers 1) computer based, self-paced tutoring in basic writing skills, basic reading comprehension, and word problem dissection; 2) DVDs such as Note Taking, Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving and Time Management, which are free and available to all students; contact mark.hunt@uncp.edu or 910-775-4393.

Striving Toward Academic Recovery: The STAR program in the Academic Support Center is intended for students who are returning from an academic and/or financial aid suspension, assisting them to get back on track academically so that they can be successful at UNCP; contact courtney.walters@uncp.edu or 910-775-4408.

TRIO programs: This federally-funded office provides eligible students with one-on-one and group tutoring, personal counseling, and assistance with applying for financial aid, in Jacobs Hall suites A and B; contact trioprograms@uncp.edu or 910-521-6242.

Transfer Transition Office: The Transfer Transition Office, located in Jacobs Hall Suite H, provides student support services and academic resources for students transferring from community colleges and other institutions of higher education to the campus of UNC Pembroke; contact transfer.transition@uncp.edu or 910-521-6269.

Tutoring: The tutoring program of the Academic Support Center helps students achieve their academic goals by offering group or individual tutoring in all General Education and many upper-level courses. Students can sign up at www.uncp.edu/asc/study/tutoring_request.html or contact jennifer.mcneill@uncp.edu or 910-775-4311.

The University Writing Center The University Writing Center, located in D.F. Lowry 308 and available online at www.uncp.edu/writing, is a peer-to-peer tutoring service where UNCP students can seek assistance with written assignments at any stage during the writing process, from brainstorming ideas to drafting, revising, and editing.

Any part of this syllabus is subject to change, however any changes or amendments to this syllabus will be announced during class. View updated policies from Academic Affairs here:

<https://www.uncp.edu/resources/academic-affairs/faculty-information-syllabi/universal-syllabus-addendum>