Course Description
The geography of the United States and Canada is an upper division course designed to give students an understanding of the regional geography of both the United States and Canada. This includes an examination of the settlement history, cultural characteristics, natural resources and economic development of various regions that comprise North America. Key concepts that students will consider include site & situation, migration, sequent occupancy, effective settlement, relative location and regional development. While many of the themes that will be discussed should be familiar to students, geography’s unique spatial perspective should give students a new perspective on them.

Course Objectives
I. Students will question the ontological and epistemological basis underlying regional conceptions of the United States and Canada.

II. Students will explore the relationship between humans and the land and its effects vis-a-vis regional social and economic differentiation in the United States and Canada.

III. Students will examine the role that the physical landscape played in the creation of transportation corridors and migration patterns.

IV. Students will share ideas on how American and Canadian landscapes have been utilized by authors to create a sense of place in their narratives and test the accuracy of such usage.

V. Students will utilize the concepts of site and situation to explain settlement patterns in the United States and Canada, and how such factors overlay with broader economic factors to create our present landscape.

Reading Materials
Students are expected to purchase a copy of the textbook (John Hudson. Across This Land: A Regional Geography of the United States and Canada. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002) at the Campus Bookstore and complete all reading assignments in the course schedule. Students are encouraged to complete the reading assignments ahead of time, to write-out the answers the reading questions and to ask questions during class.

Lectures & Attendance
Lectures are designed to clarify the material in the textbook and expand upon it where appropriate. Because other students will be presenting material in class, it is especially important that you attend every class as a courtesy to them. Attendance will be taken and will points will be deducted from your final grade: one point for each absence after an allotted three for the semester.
Grading
Grades will be determined on the basis of two exams, two papers and attendance. The exams will be weighted equally and each will count for 30% of your final grade--the final exam will not be cumulative. The first paper will be an exploration of how American regions are portrayed in film and literature and will count for 15% of your final grade. The second paper will be a research paper on the historical geography of a city in the American West, based largely on documents made available to you in the library. This paper will count for 20% of your final grade and the class presentation that you make on it will count for another 5% of your final grade. More information about both of these papers will be forthcoming. Grading will be assessed on a straight scale. In fairness to all students, there will be no extra credit work given. Students looking to get lecture notes from classes they miss should consult with other students in class.

Academic Integrity
It is unfortunate but violations of academic integrity are all too common on university campuses and it is in fairness to those students that attend lectures and study diligently that any transgressions must be taken seriously and enforced. Any person caught cheating will automatically receive a zero for that assignment or exam. A letter will also go to the Dean so that additional actions can be taken if such actions are repeated. Please note that allowing someone to look at your test is considered cheating. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism please come see me before you hand in any written work.

Special Needs
All students at SUNY-New Paltz are entitled to be treated, and evaluated, in a fair manner. Any students with learning or physical disabilities should notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that all necessary accommodations are made. Also, any students for whom English is a second language should also come see me at the start of the semester.

Class Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Newfoundland &amp; Labrador</td>
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<td>Chapter 3: Maritimes</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Quebec</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>no class (Labor Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Chapter 4: New England</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Chapter 5: New York &amp; Ontario</td>
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Week 5
September 20  Chapter 6: Middle Atlantic
September 22  Chapter 7: Southern Appalachians

*1st draft of landscape paper due*

Week 6
September 27  Chapter 8: Interior Low Plateaus
              Chapter 9: Ozarks and Ouachitas
September 29  Chapter 10 Southeastern Piedmont & Coastal Plain

*Peer reviews of landscape paper due*

Week 7
October 4    Chapter 11: Florida Peninsula
October 6    Chapter 12: Gulf Coastal Plain & Alluvial Mississippi Valley

*Final draft of landscape papers due*

Week 8
October 11   **Mid-Term Exam**
October 13   Chapter 13: Corn Belt

Week 9
October 18   Chapter 14: Lower Great Lakes
October 20   Chapter 15: Texas & Southern Plains

Week 10
(Friday is last day for course withdrawal)
October 25   video--*Last Stand of the Tall Grass Prairies*
October 27   Chapter 16: Prairie Wheat Lands

Week 11
November 1   Chapter 17: Southern Rocky Mts. & High Plains
              Chapter 18: Missouri Plateau
November 3   Chapter 19: Northern Rocky Mts. & Columbia-Snake Plateau

Week 12
November 8   Chapter 20: Great Basin
              Chapter 21: Colorado Plateau & Desert Southwest
November 10  video--*An American Nile*

*1st draft of historical geography paper due*

Week 13
November 15  Chapter 22: Upper Great Lakes
              Chapter 23: Canadian Shield

*Peer reviews of historical geography paper due*

November 17  Chapter 24: Far North
Week 14
November 22  Chapter 25: Pacific Northwest
November 24  no class--Thanksgiving

Week 15
November 29  Chapter 26: California
December 1  video--The Mercy of Nature
              Final draft of historical geography papers due

Week 16
December 6  Chapter 27: Hawaii
December 8  no class

Week 17
December 15  Final Exam (Wednesday) 2:30-4:30