

**GEO320 REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICA (3 credit hours)**

**GEO220 REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICA (3 credit hours)**

Instructor: Norie OSHIMA, PhD

Office hours: TUE & THU 13.00-14.30

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Semesters: Spring2009

Meeting times:

**DESCRIPTION:** Regional geography deals with wide range of subjects and tries to find regional characteristics. This course designed to help students understand geographic characters of Canada and United States by studying both physical and human features of the area. We will consider geographical regions that have a certain distinctive regional characteristics. The main goal of this course is to grip background factor of regional characteristics that has been formed in regions for quite a long time. Both historical and contemporary issues will be discussed.

**OBJECTIVES:** The objectives of this course is to provide students with

- \* Knowledge and understanding of regional configurations in Canada and the U.S.;
- \* Knowledge and understanding of the relationship between nature and human being;
- \* The ability to collect relevant literature on a topic in geography, to process and critically assess literatures in order to independently develop a scientific perspective, and to present this perspective to other students both orally and in writing;
- \* The ability to develop a scientific and logical way of thinking.

**STUDY MATERIALS:**

<Textbooks>

- \* Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

The text book is in the library. During the course term, the book is in the faculty reserve in the library. You can borrow the text book from the faculty reserve for only a limited time (probably one hour) in order to let every student can access to the text book. Of course students can purchase the text book by themselves. The price of the text book is about 12,000yen (Second hand one is about 5,000yen).

### <Reference books, sources of readings and other information>

- \* Bone, R.M. (2002): *The Regional Geography of Canada*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- \* Warkentin, J. (2000): *A Regional Geography of Canada: Life, Land, and Space*. Scarborough: Prentice Hall.
- \* Jordan, T., Domosh, M. and Rowntee, L. eds. (1994): *The Human Mosaic*. New York: Harper Collins.

### ASSESSMENT:

*10%: Class Attendance and active participation in discussions*

- You are expected to attend class, having completed the assigned reading on the syllabus in advance. Each class session will focus on one or more topics and be accompanied by appropriate readings.
- At entire module of the class students are required being active. Participation in discussion, commenting and questioning for other's presentation will be assessed.

*30%: Quiz based on a previous class*

*30%: A research paper*

- 20% is for a research paper

Students can choose research theme freely, but the research should be a geographical study. Students can visit the instructor's office by appointment, when one need advice for a research paper.

- 10% is for a presentation in a class

Students have a presentation that will be scheduled in the later stage of the course.

*30%: Final exam*

- A final exam of 1.25 hours will be given during the regular examination period.

**ACADEMIC PREPARATION:** The instructor strongly recommends students to discard an image of geography at a junior and a high school.

**POLICIES:** One absence automatically loses 1 point. Tardy more than 5 minutes lose - 0.5 point. If you can't attend with unavoidable reason such as funeral, you should inform secretary. Absence due to job hunting work is bargainable.

**COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES:** Lecture, presentation, and Discussion

**SCHEDULE:**

<Week 1>

Theme: Introduction of the Course and Regional Geography

Readings: none

Theme: Regions and Themes

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.3-21.

<Week 2>

Theme: Geographical Patterns of the Physical Environment

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.22-49.

Theme: Foundations of Human Activity

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.51-71.

<Week 3>

Theme: Magalopolis

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.72-105.

Theme: The North American Manufacturing Core

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.107-129.

<Week 4>

Theme: Canada's National Core

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.131-149.

Theme: The Bypassed East

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.151-167.

<Week 5>

Theme: Appalachia and the Ozarks

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.169-188.

Theme: The Changing South

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.189-216.

<Week 6>

Theme: The Southern Coastlands: on the Subtropical Margin

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.217-237.

Theme: The Agricultural Core

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.239-261.

<Week 7>

Theme: The Great Plains and Prairies

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.265-288.

Theme: The Empty Interior

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.289-314.

<Week 8>

Theme: The Southwest Border Area: Tricultural Development

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.315-333.

<Week 9>

Theme: The Southwest Border Area: Tricultural Development

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.315-333.

Theme: California

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.335-364.

<Week 10>

Theme: The North Pacific Coast

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.365-388.

Theme: The Northlands

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.389-406.

<Week 11>

Theme: Hawaii

Readings: Birdsall, S.S. (2005): *Regional Landscapes of The United States and Canada*.  
New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.407-420.

Theme: A presentations on arbitrary-chosen subject: 1

Readings: None

<Week 12>

Theme: A presentations on arbitrary-chosen subject: 2

Readings: None

Theme: A presentations on arbitrary-chosen subject: 3

Readings: None

<Week 13>

Theme: A presentations on arbitrary-chosen subject: 4

Readings: None

Theme: A presentations on arbitrary-chosen subject: 5

Readings: None

<Week 14>

Theme: A presentation on arbitrary-chosen subject: 6

Readings: None

Theme: A presentations on arbitrary-chosen subject: 7

Readings:None

<Week 15>

Theme/Theories/Key concepts: Final Exam

Readings: None