

North Hennepin Community College

GEOG 1020: United States Geography

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 0

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course is concerned with the physical and cultural landscapes that shape the United States. It broadly examines U.S. land settlement history, agriculture, natural resources, economic activity, demographics, regionalism, urbanism, and urban/rural dichotomies. Essential to this examination is a comparative review of the contemporary American geographies of politics, community, opportunity, poverty and displacement, race and ethnicity, immigration, resource management, economic activity, and public policy.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 04/01/2020 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Critically evaluate American society and social values through economic patterns and social organization. Discuss and describe the major concepts in American geography, including capitalism, manifest destiny, colonialism, opportunity, class, and discrimination, and determine the advantages and limitations of these concepts. (NHCC ELOs 1, 2a; MnTC Goal 5, comps. b, c, d)
2. Interpret statistical data, as well as physical and political maps (e.g. using map legends, latitude and longitude, scales, US Land Survey grid, topographic symbols), and relate them to and/or use them to describe social issues. (NHCC ELO 2d, 2e; MnTC Goal 5, comp. a)
3. Explain the geographical and historical aspects of colonialism and regional development (including slavery and Jim Crow), and the major cultural, political and economic interconnections or disconnections that shaped the rural and urban landscapes of contemporary society. (NHCC ELOs 1, 3b; MnTC Goal 7, comp. a, b)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of different perspectives on important social issues in geography, such as ethnic diversity, food and natural resource production, transportation, urbanization, racism, displacement, and reactions to economic globalization. (NHCC ELOs 1, 3b, 4d; MnTC Goal 7, comp. c, d)
5. Describe the United States in spatial terms--to visualize and analyze the social and economic relationships across various topics and political boundaries. Identify, characterize and explain myriad patterns of activity and the formation of American landscapes, the interrelationship between social groups, and the consequences of these relationships for different segments of the U.S. population. (NHCC ELOs 1, 2d, 2e, 3a, 3b, 3d 4e; MnTC Goal 7, comps. d, e)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted