

**Geography of the United States**  
**Geography 332 – Spring 2023**  
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Course materials can be accessed via Canvas and the World Wide Web at:

**<https://geography.fullerton.edu/332/home.htm>**

**Instructor Information:**

Name: Dr. John C. Carroll	e-mail: <a href="mailto:jcarroll@fullerton.edu">jcarroll@fullerton.edu</a>
Office: H-410	Phone: 657-278-3189
Office Hours: M, W, and Th 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; and by appointment	

**Course Description:**

Repeated studies have found that the majority of Americans possess little geographic knowledge about their country. A more detailed appreciation of the regional differences exhibited across the United States will enhance both your personal and professional life. This course is intended to increase your understanding of the complex mosaic of people and places that make up the United States.

**Learning Goals:**

This course has been designed to assist students in understanding the **geographic principles and processes** which underlie the American landscape. By the end of the course, the student should:

1. Acquire a spatial overview of the United States.
2. Understand the major environmental processes which are shaping the physical landscape.
3. Acquire an understanding of regional processes and regional formation including economic development, demographic and social change.

**What GE Requirement Does This Class Fulfill?**

All CSUF students are assigned a “Catalog Year” that determines the requirements for their degree program, including requirements in their major(s) and in General Education. You can find your catalog year on your TDA. For more information about your catalog year, please visit: <https://www.fullerton.edu/undergraduate/requirements/catalog-rights.php>

Depending upon your catalog year, this course satisfies the requirements for GE category D.5, D.4, or D.3 and Area/Overlay Z

In fulfilling California State University, Fullerton’s goals for General Education, this course will: examine unifying themes in the social sciences from cross-disciplinary perspectives; explore complex problems that require social scientific reasoning; acknowledge that culture is socially constructed and fundamental to social interaction; explore the complex relationships that gender, ethnicity, and class bring to a discussion of society and culture; assess the interconnectedness of the world and the need to understand the diversity and relationships within and among cultures; and recognize and evaluate how one’s cultural history affects one’s sense of self and relationship to others. The General Education writing requirement will be met and assessed by the Regional Analytical exercises.

**Texts:**

The primary text for this course is **The Geography of North America: Environment, Political Economy, and Culture, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** by Susan Hardwick, Fred Shelley, and Donald Holtgrieve.

Although you are only required to turn in two of the Analytical exercises listed below, you are **required** to read the narrative portion of *all four of the Analytical Exercises* whether or not you turn in the exercise for a grade.

Suggested, though not required (Valuable for students planning on teaching in middle schools or at the high school level):

Homberger, Eric. **The Penguin Historical Atlas of North America**. (New York: Penguin Books USA, 1995).

### **Supplemental Readings:**

I may also assign supplemental reading materials throughout the course. These readings will be provided as needed.

### **COURSE FORMAT & ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Lecture sessions will be illustrated with slides and periodic video presentations. Exercises and other course materials are available through the World Wide Web and/or Canvas.

**Regular Attendance:** Although you have a thorough text for this course, the majority of critical concepts and processes will be explained in class as well. In fact, between 2/3 and 3/4 of all exam items will come from class sessions. Therefore, it is important to attend as many of the scheduled classes as possible.

**Exams:** Three (3) non-comprehensive exams worth 100 points each. Each exam will include topics from the lectures, readings, videos, and special supplements. Tests will consist of multiple choice, map identification, short answer (including definitions of key terms), and essay questions.

**YOU MUST WRITE ALL 3 EXAMS TO EARN CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE.**

#### Exam Dates:

EXAM 1	Thursday, March 2, 2023
EXAM 2	Thursday, April 13, 2023
EXAM 3	Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

**Regional Analytical Exercises:** The degree to which each student has achieved the learning objectives for the course will also be assessed on the completion of **two (2) Analytical Exercises** dealing with processes shaping regions of the United States. The available topics and exercise completion dates are as follows:

#### **Required:**

Climatic Variability in North America  
**(Due no later than February 23)**

#### **Choose One (1) of the Following:**

Population Dynamics on Florida's Treasure Coast  
**(Due no later than March 9)**

Agricultural Specialization in the Midwest and Great Plains  
**(Due no later than April 27)**

Winds of Change in the Pacific Northwest  
**(Due no later than May 12 at 5:00 p.m.)**

Each exercise involves a review of geographic evidence, then (a) answering focused questions involving data interpretation and (b) writing a short essay on an open-ended aspect of the evidence and the theme. The end product from you generally will be on the order of 3 – 5 total

pages in length. Specific details of each exercise as well as detailed instructions will be posted on the class Website close to the time the respective regions and themes are discussed in class. A completed exercise is worth a maximum of 30 points. **Late assignments will be accepted up to one (1) week after the due date and will be worth a maximum of 15 points.**

***Note:** Whether or not you choose to turn in a particular exercise for a grade, you are responsible (that means it will show up on exams) for the material in the narrative portion of **all** of these exercises (see Reading Requirements above).*

**U.S. Map Exercise:** The first week of class you will be given the opportunity to reacquaint yourselves with the major geographic features of the United States through a map exercise. This exercise is **due at the beginning of class on February 2** and is worth 10 points. Late exercises will be accepted up to one (1) week after the due date and will be worth a maximum of 5 points.

**Extra Credit:** You may complete **one** of the remaining Analytical Exercises by the listed due dates for bonus points. Extra credit exercises will count for up to 10 points toward your semester's total score. **No late assignments will be accepted for extra credit.**

**General Policies:** It is the student's responsibility to adhere to all University regulations and critical dates associated with courses and enrollments. See applicable sections of the CSUF Catalog and website.

**Grading Scale:** A total of 370 points are possible from "perfect" work during the semester. Each exam counts for a maximum of 100 points, the two Analytical Exercises count for a maximum of 60 points (2 x 30 = 60) and the mapping exercise is worth 10 points. Letter grades are assigned on the basis of accumulated points; there is no averaging of individual items. The tentative grading scale is as follows:

A	90.0% or Above	(333 points or more)
B	80.0 – 89.9%	(296 – 332 points)
C	70.0 – 79.9%	(259 – 295 points)
D	60.0 – 69.9%	(222 – 258 points)
F	Below 60.0%	(221 points or less)

**Plus/Minus Grading:** Plus/minus grading will NOT be used for this course.

---

### **General Policies and Information:**

It is the student's responsibility to adhere to all University regulations and critical dates associated with courses and enrollments. See applicable sections of the CSUF Catalog.

### **Other Important Items:**

### **[IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION AND STUDENT POLICIES](#)**

#### **Software for Students**

Did you know you can get FREE and low-cost software for being an active CSUF student? Software can be requested from the [CSUF Student Technology Services website](#).

---

## PROPOSED TOPIC OUTLINE AND READINGS

Week of:	TOPIC	Chapter
Jan. 24	Introduction to the Course	1
Jan. 31	The Physical Landscape: Landforms, Climate, Soils and Vegetation <i>Climate Exercise Narrative</i>	2
Feb. 7	Cultural Landscapes and Population Geographies <i>Florida Treasure Coast Exercise Narrative</i>	3
Feb. 14	Regional Identities and Regional Formation: How do we delimit regional boundaries?	4
Feb. 21	Megalopolis and the Mid-Atlantic Coast <i>(Feb 20-Pres Day)</i>	7
Feb. 28	Megalopolis (cont'd) <b><u>EXAM 1 – March 2</u></b>	
March 7	The Bypassed Northeast: Scenic Realm of Struggles	5
March 14	Eastern Interior: Appalachia and the Inland South	9
March 21	The Southeast Coast: Land of Prospect or Peril	10
March 28	<b>*** SPRING BREAK ***</b>	
April 4	The Heartland? <i>Midwest Agriculture Exercise Narrative</i>	8
April 11	The Heartland? (cont'd) <b><u>EXAM 2</u></b>	
April 18	The Windswept Plains	11
April 25	Rocky Mountain High and the Intermontane West	12, 13 and 14
May 2	Salmon and Starbucks: The Pacific Northwest <i>Pacific Northwest Exercise Narrative</i>	16
May 9	The Exclaves: Alaska and Hawaii	17, 18 and 19
May 16	<b><u>EXAM 3</u> Tuesday, May 16 @ 9:00 a.m.</b>	

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER VACATION!!!