

**GEOG 271:001 Geography of the US**  
**Spring 2011**  
**Tuesday & Thursdays, 12:30-1:45 pm**  
**106 Avery Hall**

**Instructor:** Ashley J. Barnett  
**Office:** 934 Oldfather Hall  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2:00-3:30, or by appointment  
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**Required text:** *American Space/American Place: Geographies of the Contemporary United States*, Ed. by John A. Agnew and Jonathan M. Smith. Routledge, New York, 2002.

**Recommended text:** An atlas of the US, such as Goode's

**Course Description:** This course will provide a systematic regional analysis of the United States with emphasis on contemporary economic, environmental, political, and social issues. The class is lecture-based, though discussions are encouraged. Map quizzes, when scheduled, will be given at the beginning of the scheduled class period.

**Objectives:** Upon successfully completing the course, students should be able to, among other things:

- Locate and identify relevant physical, economic, urban, and political regions of the United States
- Discuss current land use trends within the United States
- Locate and identify various ethnic homelands within the United States
- Discuss current issues impacting the United States

**Grading:**

Map Quizzes (7)*	x	10 points each	= 70 quiz points
Exams (3)	x	100 points each	= 300 exam points
<u>Assignments (9)</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>10 points each</u>	<u>= 90 assignment points</u>
			460 points total

\*You will take 8 map quizzes, but I will drop your lowest score.

**Exam Format:** Exams are worth 100 points each and will consist of:

- 1 Essay (25 points)
- Multiple Choice\*\* (approximately 25 points)
- Matching\*\* (approximately 25 points)
- Short Answers\*\* (approximately 25 points)

\*\*These are approximate point values; when added together, multiple choice + matching + short answers will be worth 75 points.

**Assignments:** For each reading (there are 9 readings total), you will submit a 1-2 page (single spaced) outline of the chapter. Each assignment is worth 10 points. Late assignments will lose 2 points for each day they are late.

**Quiz Format:** Quizzes are worth 10 points each. You will have access to a study guide 1 week in advance. For the quiz, I will provide a map on the overhead projector. Each place will be numbered on

the overhead map. You will have a piece of paper with the names of places, and you will write the number from the overhead map that corresponds to the place listed on your quiz. *If you miss a quiz, you have 24 hours from the beginning of that missed class period to contact me to schedule a make-up. If you fail to show for your scheduled make-up, you will receive a zero for that quiz. I will drop your lowest map quiz score.*

**Grading scale:**

A+	97-100%	B+	87-89.99%	C+	77-79.99%	D+	67-69.99%
A	93-96.99%	B	83-86.99%	C	73-7.99%	D	63-66.99%
A-	90-92.99%	B-	80-82.99%	C-	70-72.99%	D-	60-62.99%

**Class Schedule:**

Date	Map Quiz	Reading & Assignment Due	Lecture Topic
1/11/11	Snow Day		
1/13/11	--	--	Introduction
1/18/11	Northeast	-- Ch 1: Introduction (pp 1-20)	Northeast
1/20/11	--	--	Northeast
1/25/11	Upland South	Ch 2: The Place of Nature (pp 21-51)	Upland South
1/27/11	--	--	Upland South
2/1/11	Lowland South	--	Lowland South
2/3/11	--	Ch 3: The Place of Value (pp 52-75)	Lowland South
2/8/11	--	--	"America Beyond the Color Line"
<b>2/10/11</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
2/15/11	--	--	Middle West
2/17/11	Middle West	Ch 4: America, frontier nation: from abstract space to worldly place (pp 79-107)	Middle West
2/22/11	--	--	Middle West
2/24/11	--	--	Great Plains
3/1/11	--	Ch 5: Local territories of government: From ideals to politics of place and scale (pp 108-149)	Great Plains
3/3/11	Great Plains	--	Great Plains
3/8/11	--	--	Rocky Mountains
3/10/11	--	Ch 7: "With liberty & justice for all": Negotiating freedom & fairness in the American income distribution (pp 187-230)	Rocky Mountains
3/15/11	Rocky Mountains	--	Catch Up Day
3/17/11	--	--	"Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price"
3/22/11	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
3/24/11	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
<b>3/29/11</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>		
3/31/11	--	--	Intermountain West

4/5/11	Intermountain West	Ch 8: A new geography of identity? Race, ethnicity, and American citizenship (pp 231-263)	Intermountain West
4/7/11	--	--	Intermountain West
4/12/11	--	--	Pacific Realm: CA
4/14/11	--	Ch 9: Landscapes, aesthetics, and power (pp 264-291)	Pacific Realm: CA
4/19/11	Pacific Realm	--	Pacific Realm: Hawai'i
4/21/11	--	--	Pacific Realm: Hawai'i
4/26/11	--	Ch 10: Mediascapes (pp 292-316)	"And Then There Were None"
4/28/11	--	--	Catch Up Day
5/3/11	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
5/5/11	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
<b>5/6/11</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM--PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A FRIDAY, NOT A THURSDAY!</b>		

#### Additional Information:

- The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus.
- The final exam is **not** cumulative. It is merely a third unit exam.
- No *outside* reading materials allowed during class (including newspapers).
- No earphones, personal electronic devices, etc. are allowed to be worn/used/in operation/etc. during class.
- Please turn your cell phones off or set them to silent (not vibrate) during class.
- Please feel free to ask questions during class. Discussions will make the time go faster!
- If you do not understand something I've said or want me to explain something in another way, please let me know. I'm here to help you!
- If you feel you are falling behind, please let me know **as soon as possible!** Waiting until April to ask for help will make it very difficult to catch up if you are behind.
- I will provide a study guide the week before an exam. However, it will be a fairly broad study guide; I'm not going to tell you exactly what will be on the exam. It's your job to keep up with readings, pay attention in class, participate in discussions, and take notes during lectures
- If you have to miss a class period **during which there is a quiz or an exam**, please let me know as soon as possible. If you know you will be gone in advance, please tell me in advance. **You will have 24 hours from the beginning of a missed class to contact me and schedule a make-up.** (This means that, since class begins at 12:30 PM on Tuesdays [or Thursdays], you will have until 12:30 PM on Wednesday [or Friday] to contact me and schedule a make-up.) If you fail to show up for the make-up session, you will not be allowed to reschedule and will receive a zero (0) for the missed quiz or exam. No excuses, no exceptions.
- If an individual becomes disruptive during class, the instructor reserves the right to ask him/her to leave.
- Academic dishonesty will **not** be tolerated and will result in an F for the class and reporting to the student's academic advisor. Please see the UNL student handbook for further information regarding and defining academic dishonesty.
- Please be respectful of one another and the instructor during class.
- Feel free to visit me during my office hours to discuss any questions you have.
- Thanks for taking this course and have a great semester!