

“GEOGRAPHY OF NEBRASKA”

Geography 370, Section 001

Spring 2011

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 am- 12:15 pm

Avery Hall 108

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca A. Buller

Offices: Geography office on City Campus- 934 Oldfather,
Geography office on East Campus- 321 Hardin,
Center for Great Plains Studies office on City Campus-406 Hewit Place

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30- 10:30 am at 406 Hewit Place,
Thursdays 12:30- 1:30 pm at 934 Oldfather, or by appointment.

OBJECTIVES: The main objective of this class is for students to gain an in-depth understanding of Nebraska’s various physical and cultural personalities. Topics of study will include, but are not limited to, the interactions of a locale’s physical environment, historical constructs, and human cultures.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Fink, Deborah. *Agrarian Women: Wives and Mothers in Rural Nebraska, 1880-1940*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1992.

Forsberg, Michael, Ted Kooser, Dan O’Brien, and David Wishart. *Great Plains: America’s Lingering Wild*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Hickey, Donald R., Susan A. Wunder, and John R. Wunder. *Nebraska Moments, New Edition*. Lincoln, Nebraska: Bison Books, 2007.

Nebraska Atlas and Gazetteer. Yarmouth, Maine: DeLorme, 2000.

various other readings available on Blackboard

COURSE EXPECTATIONS/POLICIES:

- † **Above all**, the classroom will be maintained as a respectful, mature, and courteous learning community in which all participants will conduct themselves in a way that is respectful to differing mannerisms, ideas, opinions, beliefs, cultures, etc.
- † Attending college is a privileged opportunity, not a right.
 - Every day, thousands of people dream of going to college, but are unable to because of things like finances and family constraints.
 - It is expected that students and their behavior will reflect acknowledgement of and respect for the privileged opportunities available to them.
- † Learning is NOT a spectator sport.
 - You, as a student, are partially responsible for engaging yourself in your own active learning. For more information, see the “Sample Practices of Actively-Engaged, Serious Students” on Blackboard.
- 📱 personal electronics
 - No laptops for the sake of the quality of your fellow students’ learning.
 - Turn off the ringer of cell phones during class.
 - If use of personal electronics becomes distracting and/or affects the quality of instruction and others’ learning, it will be dealt with appropriately.
- 📰 No reading of newspapers once class begins.
- 🍷 No food. If a student chooses to bring drinks and/or newspapers to class, he/she will clean up after him/herself before leaving the classroom.
- † If a student has special needs and/or requires special accommodations to enhance his/her learning abilities please see the instructor.

ATTENDANCE:

- Though attendance will not be regularly taken, a student’s presence is essential to success in the class.
- For any missed classes, students are responsible for acquiring notes from other students.
- If a borderline grade exists at the end of the semester, excellent attendance may increase the overall course grade.

GRADING:

- Remember that *students earn grades*.
- While the instructor will always record grades and keep a gradebook, students are also responsible for keeping track of their grades on each assignment and being aware, at any given time, of their current grade.
 - calculation information is available on Blackboard through the “course points breakdown” document
 - grade confirmation is available by asking the instructor after class or during office hours
- Only hard copies of reading outlines will be accepted.
- Graduating seniors must take the Final.
- Grades will not be curved.

Midterm (Test 1)	20%	Reading Outlines	30%	Map Quiz 1	5%	Project	15%
Final (Test 2)	20%			Map Quiz 2	5%		
				Map Quiz 3	5%		

Academic Dishonesty:

All types of Academic Dishonesty including plagiarism and cheating will ABSOLUTELY NOT be tolerated. In such a situation where Academic Dishonesty does occur, the proper UNL procedures will be followed.

Makeup Work:

- Reading Outlines
 - Will be accepted early.
 - Will not be accepted late (no exceptions!), so plan ahead for computer/printer malfunctions, ink shortages, etc.
 - Will not be allowed to be made up.
- Quizzes and Tests
 - Will not be allowed to be made up, apart from two exceptions.
 1. The student informed the instructor prior to the class absence.
 2. The student informed the instructor within 24 hours after missing the class.

- If the student will not be able to complete work at the designated time and has the instructor's approval, the student must schedule a time within one week that he/she can meet with the instructor to make up the missed work.
- Only one make-up will be allowed per student.

Appealing Grades:

- The instructor and students will follow the "24/7 Rule." The following are the stipulations of such said policy:
 1. The student must wait 24 hours after the assignment, quiz, etc. is handed back to him/her before he/she can discuss/appeal the related grade with the instructor.
 2. The student must create a written defense at least one-half page long documenting why he/she believes the assigned grade was misrepresentative, etc.
 3. The student must discuss the grade with the instructor in person during the instructor's office hours or during a mutually agreed upon meeting time in the instructor's office.
 4. The student must appeal the contested grade within 7 days of the assignment, quiz, etc. being handed back or made public to the student.

97-100%	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	<60	F
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D		
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

TOPIC SCHEDULE: The following is a preliminary schedule and the instructor reserves the right to alter it according to class/student needs.

- 🌐 Week 1
 - T 1/11 Physical Geography
 - R 1/13 Physical Geography
- 🌐 Week 2
 - T 1/18 ***Physical Readings Part I Outline*** & Physical Geography
 - R 1/20 Physical Geography
- 🌐 Week 3
 - T 1/25 ***Physical Readings Part II Outline*** & Physical Geography
 - R 1/27 ***Map Quiz 1*** & Historical Geography
- 🌐 Week 4
 - T 2/1 ***Historical Readings Part I Outline*** & Historical Geography
 - R 2/3 Historical Geography
- 🌐 Week 5
 - T 2/8 ***Historical Readings Part II Outline*** & Historical Geography
 - R 2/10 Historical Geography
- 🌐 Week 6
 - T 2/15 ***Panhandle Readings Outline*** & Panhandle
 - R 2/17 Panhandle
- 🌐 Week 7
 - T 2/22 Panhandle
 - R 2/24 Sandhills
- 🌐 Week 8
 - T 3/1 ***Sandhills Readings Outline*** & Sandhills
 - R 3/3 Sandhills
- 🌐 Week 9
 - T 3/8 ***Map Quiz 2*** & Northeast (aka Lewis and Clark)
 - R 3/10 Northeast
- 🌐 Week 10
 - T 3/15 ***Northeast Readings Outline*** & Northeast
 - R 3/17 ***Midterm (Test 1)***
- 🌐 Week 11
 - T 3/22 & R 3/24 *NO CLASS-SPRING BREAK*
- 🌐 Week 12
 - T 3/29 Southwest (aka Prairie Lakes)
 - R 3/31 Southwest
- 🌐 Week 13
 - T 4/5 ***Southwest Readings Outline*** & Southwest
 - R 4/7 ***Map Quiz 3*** & South-Central (aka Frontier Trails)
- 🌐 Week 14
 - T 4/12 ***South-Central Readings Outline*** & South-Central
 - R 4/14 *NO CLASS- AAG*
- 🌐 Week 15
 - T 4/19 ***Southeast Readings Outline*** & Southeast (aka Pioneer Country)
 - R 4/21 Southeast
- 🌐 Week 16
 - T 4/26 Metro
 - R 4/28 Metro
- 🌐 Week 17
 - R 5/5 ***Final (Test 2) 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (in regular classroom)***