

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
University of Toronto

GGR 254S GEOGRAPHY U.S.A.
WINTER 2015
****Preliminary****

Instructor:	Robert Lewis
Office:	Sidney Smith Hall 5003
Phone/Email:	(416) 978-1590 / lewis@geog.utoronto.ca
Class Times:	Wednesday 10-12 in Lash Miller, room 159
Office Hours:	Tuesday 12-1; Wednesday 12-1 pm; or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Three broad aspects of the geography of the United States are considered in this course:

- [1] the making of the United States as a continental economic, social and political empire;
- [2] the social and economic impacts of changes to American regions; and
- [3] the challenges facing American metropolitan areas since the end of World War Two.

Particular attention is given to the creation of an urban-industrial complex after the 1840s; the changing fortunes of the American South and the Manufacturing Belt in the postwar period; the metropolitan geographies of poverty and racism; the rising importance of the suburbs after 1940; the geographical effects of changes to twentieth-century immigration policy; and the contested and inequalities of the politics of place.

COURSE READINGS, LECTURES AND EXAM

Class readings are available in two ways. They have been bundled together in a reading package, which is available at Scholar House Productions, 100 Harbord Street (west of Spadina). They are also available on links on Blackboard As you will see on page 2, the individual readings are linked to specific lectures. I assume that you are familiar with the readings before class time. You are expected to read all of the material in the reading package. Slides of class lectures will be posted on Blackboard the evening before the lecture. The exam consists of definitions and essays and is based on the class readings and lecture material.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment 1 (out January 14; due February 4)	20%
Assignment 2 (out February 11; due March 11)	40%
Final exam (during faculty exam period)	40%

TERM ASSIGNMENTS

There are two written assignments. You will be assessed on your ability to summarize, analyze and synthesize research literature in Geography (and the social science and humanities more broadly). Both assignments focus on a critical evaluation of readings from the course package. The exam consists of definitions and essays, and are based on course readings and class lectures. As always, evaluation of your written work (both assignments and tests) rests on your ability to write a critical-interpretative essay using clear, correct English, which shows a basic command of diction, grammar, syntax and punctuation. Paper copies of assignments 1 and 2 are due in class on February 4 and March 11 respectively.

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

January 7	Introduction	
January 14	Exceptionalism and Empire	Agnew and Sharp; Schien
January 21	Territorial and urban-economic expansion	Meyer; Conzen
January 28	The Rise and Fall of the Manufacturing Belt	High
February 4	The Rise of the Sunbelt and the Gunbelt	Grantham
February 11	Residential segregation and the ghetto	Knox; Casey-Leininger
February 18	Reading week - no class	
February 25	Urban poverty and urban underclass	Kraus; Glasmeier
March 4	Suburban America	Hayden
March 11	Immigration and the border	Heyman
March 18	Politics of place	Kroll-Smith and Brown-Jeffy; Dreier
March 25	Ethnicity, immigration and community	Alberts; Price et al.
April 1	Course wrap up.	

NOTES

- (1) The penalty for late assignments is 5% of the earned grade for each weekday late.
- (2) Instructor-student interaction occurs in the classroom and during office hours. Email contact is limited to questions requiring simple yes/no answers, making appointments, and dealing with emergencies. Please come to my office hours if you wish to discuss matters related to the class.
- (3) If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.
4. Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without a proper citation. Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Please consult the “Rules and Regulations” section of the Arts and Science Calendar for more information.

COURSE READINGS

- John Agnew and Joanna Sharp, "America, frontier nation: from abstract space to worldly place," in J. Agnew and J. Smith (eds.), American Space / American Place (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2002), 79-105.
- Richard Schien, "Populating the continent: the post-Columbian experience," in F. Boal and S. Royle (eds.), North America: a Geographical Mosaic (London: Arnold, 1999), 70-87.
- David Meyer, "The national integration of regional economies, 1860-1920," in T. McIlwraith and E. Muller (eds.), North America: The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent (Totowa: Rowman and Littlefield, 2001), 307-31.
- Michael Conzen, "The impact of industrialism and modernity on American cities, 1860-1930," in T. McIlwraith and E. Muller (eds.), North America: The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent (Totowa: Rowman and Littlefield, 2001), 333-55.
- Steven High, "The deindustrializing heartland," in S. High, Industrial Sunset: the Making of North America's Rust Belt, 1969-1984 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003), 92-130.
- Dewey Grantham, "The Sunbelt South," in D. Grantham, The South in Modern America: a Region at Odds (New York: Harper Collins, 1994), 259-80.
- Paul Knox, "Social interaction and residential segregation," in P. Knox, Urbanization: an Introduction to Urban Geography (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1994), 199-210, 217-31.
- Charles Casey-Leininger, "Making the second ghetto in Cincinnati: Avondale, 1925-70," in H. Taylor, Jr. (ed.), Race and the City: Work, Community, and Protest in Cincinnati, 1820-1970 (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1993), 232-57.
- Neil Kraus, "Local policymaking and concentrated poverty the case of Buffalo, New York," Cities, 21 (2004): 481-90.
- Amy Glasmeier, "One nation, pulling apart: the basis for persistent poverty in the USA," Progress in Human Geography, 26 (2002): 155-73.
- Dolores Hayden, "Edge nodes," in D. Hayden, Building Suburbia. Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000 (New York: Vintage, 2003), 154-80.
- Josiah Heyman, "Why Interdiction? Immigration control at the United-State-Mexico Border," Regional Studies, 33 (1999): 619-30.

Steve Kroll-Smith and Shelly Brown-Jeffy, "A tale of two American cities: disaster, class and citizenship in San Francisco 1906 and New Orleans 2005," Journal of Historical Sociology, 26 (2013): 527-551.

Peter Dreier, "Katrina and power in America," Urban Affairs Review, 41 (2006): 528-49.

Heike Alberts, "Changes in ethnic solidarity in Cuban Miami," Geographical Review, 95 (2005): 231-48.

Marie Price, Ivan Cheung, Samantha Friedman and Audrey Singer, "The world settles in: Washington, DC, as an immigrant gateway," Urban Geography, 26 (2005): 61-83.