

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 2251 GEOGRAPHIC INQUIRY AND INTERPRETATION

WINTER 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: W. R. Horne

Email: rhorne@lakeheadu.ca

Office Hours: After Class or by appointment

DELIVERY MODE/ LIVE

Times: **Lectures: M/F 10:30 -11:30 OA2017**

Lab: Th:: 12:30-2:30 OA2008

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Approaches to the collection, analysis, display, and interpretation of information pertaining to geographical landscapes. Introduction to philosophical and methodological traditions of geographical inquiry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Develop an understanding of cartographic concepts and map reading skills.

Develop an ability to analyze and interpret spatial information

Improve skills at presentation of geographic information

Introduce to philosophical and methodological traditions of geographical inquiry.

Course website See MyCourseLink (D2L) or
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/users/H/rhorne/teaching>

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Lectures: Text: Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences Iain Hay and Philip Giles (2006) 2nd Canadian Edition. We will use in weeks 5 though 12

Feldman & Getis (2009) Human Geography Chapter One is posted on D2L

Holt-Jensen, Arild (2009) Geography History and Concepts 4th ed. Sage: Los Angeles
(You do not have to buy this book, but it is useful for weeks 2 & 3 on reserve in library)

Labs Text: Human Geography Lab Manual (2013) Hackett, Noble and Gunn, Oxford
This book is out of print and required material will be available on D2L

EQUIPMENT:

Labs require Access to internet

Drawing instruments (pencils, ruler, basic geometry set -compass & protractor & triangles

Graph Paper (1cm squares) Only a few sheets are needed so share a pad with classmates

EVALUATION

Component	Value	Due Date	Individual/Group
10 Labs @ 5%	50%	weekly	/groups/pairs
Assignment	20%	March 21 th	Individual
Exam	30%	Set by Registrar	Individual

Labs: weekly assignments practicing various skills

Labs are due no later than the Wednesday lecture period. No late submissions.

Participation: Lab work may be done in groups. There is no mark for participation. If you are having difficulty with a group member, please let me know asap. You may do labs on your own but it will take longer.

Assignments: Details to Follow shortly **Final Exam:** A Short Answer test covering the material from the lectures

MISSED EXAMS

Make-up examinations will only be given with written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at <http://registrar.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/F.HealthCertificate.pdf> (see next page).

Final examinations run to Apr 19th. Do not make plans until exam dates are posted. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate holiday travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

GRADING SCHEME

A+ 90 to 100%	Outstanding understanding of the course concepts including integration of materials and ideas, ability to apply knowledge to situations
A 80 to 89%	Above average to excellent knowledge, ability to apply knowledge to situations
B 70 to 79%	Satisfactory knowledge including ability to recognise and apply major course concepts, and to progress to next level of course
C 60 to 69%	Some grasp of course concepts; will likely encounter difficulty with higher levels
D 50 to 59%	Failed to meet minimum requirements of the course
E 40 to 49%	Failure
F 1 to 39%	Failure resulting from academic dishonesty
F 0	

Students are advised to refer to the University Calendar to ensure that they have adequate grades and/or average to proceed in their program.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic Reading	FRIDAY
1	Jan 8/10	Are You a Geographer Jobs for Geographers: Feldman Chp 1	No Lab
2	Jan 15/17	Early Geography Holt Jensen Modern Geography	16 th Lab 1 Place Names due Jan 22nd
3	Jan 22/24	Geographic Terms: Feldman Chp 1 Concepts and Maps: Feldman Chp 1 Mental Maps	23rd Lab 2 Distance Decay due Jan 29
4	Jan 29/31	Types of maps Hay & Giles Chp 9 Map Projections	28 th Lab 3. Food Deserts Due Feb 5 th
5	Feb 5/7	Aerial Photography Bar Graphs	Feb 6 th Lab 4 Mental Maps Due Feb 12
6	Feb 12/14	Line Graphs Hay & Giles Chp 8 Line Graphs II, Tables	Feb 13 th Lab 5 Downtown Field Trip due Feb 26 th
	Feb 17/21	Study Week	No Lab
7	Feb 26/28	Making a Presentation Hay/Giles Chp 10 Making Posters Hay & Giles Chp.7	Feb 27 Lab 6 Street Evaluation due Mar 5
8	Mar 5/7	Showing movement Making Map boundaries	Mar 4- 6 TBA Lab 7 Poster evaluation Due Mar 12 Mar 7 Final Withdrawal Date
9	Mar12/14	Is Geography Science Primary Data Hay & Giles Chp 2	Mar 13 Lab 8 Population Pyramids due Mar 19
10	Mar 19/21	Secondary Date Hay & Giles Chp 2 Class Presentations	Mar 20 Lab 9 Choropleth Map due Mar 26
11	Mar 26/28	Sampling Referencing Hayes & Giles Chp 5&6	Mar 27 Lab 10 Web page examination Due Apr 2
12	Apr 2/4	Referencing II Hay & Giles Chp 12	No Lab Apr 3th

IMPORTANT DATES: Any important announcements, including changes in due dates will be announced in-class and posted on Desire2Learn.

COURSE POLICIES

- behavioral standards: See the [Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity](#))

- attendance: Exam is based on lecture content attendance is expected,
- group work/collaboration – is allowed on labs. Other work should be based on individual effort.

Policy & resource statements

A. "Land Acknowledgement"

Lakehead University respectfully acknowledges its campuses are located on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples.

Lakehead Orillia is located on the traditional territory of Huron-Wendat who were forced out in 1649. The area was then occupied by the Anishinaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy.

Lakehead University is committed to a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

B. Academic Integrity

A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity ("[The Code](#)") - and, in particular, sections 26 and 83 through 85. Non-compliance with the Code will NOT be tolerated in this course and the Code will be adhered to in terms of disciplinary action. The Code provides a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity.

C. Copyright Compliance

I understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which I am given access in this course (the "course materials"), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law.

(a) I may access and download the course materials only for my own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and

(b) I am not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound

component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor.

(c) I must delete or otherwise destroy all course material after completion of the final exam.

I further understand and agree that, if I infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University’s academic values.

D. Exam/Assignment Integrity

I understand and agree that:

(a) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.

(b) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam. Smart phones and wrist watches with access to the internet must be turned off and stored in a coat or bag away from where I am writing the exam.

I further understand and agree that, if I violate either of these two rules, or if I provide any false or misleading information about my completion of course assignments or exams, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University’s academic values.

Resource: [Student Illness & Missed Exams](#) (pdf) (updated Sept. 2021)

E. Generative AI Policy/Syllabus Statements

GenAI Use Prohibited

Generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI or GenAI) is a category of AI systems capable of generating text, images, or other media in response to prompts. These systems include ChatGPT and its variants Bing (built by OpenAI) and Bard (built by Google) among several others. Other Generative AI models include artificial intelligence art systems such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and DALL-E.

Any use of GenAI systems to produce assignments for this course is not permitted. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity (“Use of Unauthorized Materials”).

GenAI Use Permitted

GenAI tools can provide valuable assistance and support in academic work. However, it is

essential to use them responsibly and ethically. The following information and guidelines apply to the use of AI-based tools in this course:

- a.
 - a. **Student Responsibility** – It is the responsibility of the student to understand the limitations of AI-based tools. While these tools can provide suggestions and insights, final decisions and critical thinking should come from the student's own understanding and effort. Before submitting, review your work with this in mind. If you don't understand what type of GenAI usage is appropriate, ask the course instructor for clarification.
 - b. **Formative Usage** – In this class, you may use GenAI for formative, but not summative, work. That means it can be used as a “possibility engine” (brainstorm tool), a “study buddy,” a “collaboration coach,” a “guide on the side,” a “personal tutor,” a “co-designer,” etc. to help you learn course content, but it cannot be used as the primary vehicle for any work that is submitted for marks or evaluation. (See UNESCO's “[ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education Quick Start Guide](#),” page 9, for explanations and examples of these and other roles GenAI can productively serve in a formative capacity.)
 - c. **Error & Bias** – AI content is created by computer algorithms that have been trained using large amounts of data. The AI learns from patterns and examples in the data to generate new content that resembles what it has been trained on. If the training data used to train the AI model is biased or limited in scope, the AI may reproduce content that is inaccurate, incomplete, offensive, and/or biased. Students should weigh this as they consider material produced by AI.
 - d. **Trustworthiness** – Generative AI can be vulnerable to manipulation and misuse. It can be used to generate fake news, misinformation, or deepfake content, which can have harmful consequences. Students should check AI generated content against reputable sources.
 - e. **Plagiarism** – Since [writing and critical thinking ability] are learning outcomes of this course, all work submitted for evaluation must be the student's original work. Using the work of others (including content curated/generated by AI) without proper citation is considered plagiarism. See “[Citing Artificial Intelligence](#)” for assistance with correct documentation.
 - f. **Citation of Sources** – If you use material generated by an AI program for an assignment in this course, it must be cited like any other source (with due consideration for the quality of the source, which may be judged as poor). Failure to do so will be considered a violation of academic integrity. [See Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity](#).

Any work submitted for this course cannot be submitted for another course without the written permission of both instructors. Such action constitutes plagiarism.

F. Lakehead's Accommodation Statement (official statement)

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities/medical conditions. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic

accommodations for students with disabilities/medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability/medical condition and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please email sas@lakeheadu.ca or visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

Supports for Students – there are many resources available to support students. These include but are not limited to:

- [Health and Wellness](#) [Student Success Centre](#) [Student Accessibility Centre](#)
- [Library](#) [Lakehead International](#) [Indigenous Initiatives](#)

G. Notice for Recording Lectures and Class Activities (official statement)

"If required in GEOG 2251 Section WAO instruction in the classroom will be recorded for confidential access by students registered in the course but who are unable to attend class due to the pandemic or other necessity. To the greatest extent possible only the image and voice of the instructor will be recorded for this purpose but, due to class interaction, the images and voices of students present in the classroom may be incidentally recorded and, thus, be available for access by course students in remote locations. These recordings, however, are strictly confidential and may be used only by the instructor and students registered in the course and only for purposes related to the course. They may otherwise not be used or disclosed. Students in the classroom who are concerned about being recorded in this fashion may request the instructor to exclude them from the recording to the greatest degree possible on the understanding that total exclusion cannot be guaranteed. The recordings are made under the authority of sections 3 and 14 of The Lakehead University Act, 1965. Questions about the collection of the images and sounds in the recordings may be directed to [Chair] [or Dean] of [Name of Academic Unit], [Thunder Bay or Orillia campus address], [Unit's telephone number]".

H. Policy on Requiring Students' Webcams to Be On During Class

Requiring student's use of a webcam is permissible only when it is required to achieve a specific learning outcome and when students have received prior written notification (i.e. within their course syllabus, or assignment description).

Requiring recording of a session with a student is permissible only when the recording itself is part of the learning activity and outcome and when students have received prior written notification (i.e. within their course syllabus, or assignment description).

I. Student Privacy Statement

During recording, to protect your privacy and those of others, each student should ensure that no other person is present in their video frame. If you choose not to have your image or voice recorded, turn off your webcam, and mute your microphone. Questions can be typed in the Chat window. If you are concerned about your full name being captured in the Participant list or the Chat function, you can use a pseudonym. These privacy decisions must be communicated to your instructor in a timely manner.

J. Writing Support Syllabus Statement

Your ability to write clearly and with purpose is crucial to your academic success. Because the writing process takes time and expectations vary across disciplines (and from one instructor to another), it is important to manage this process carefully. The following guidelines will help you do that:

1. Start early – The writing process involves several steps: prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. You will do your best work when you follow all the steps. Prewriting involves thinking about what you've learned on a topic, often assisted by note-taking, so that your reflections become your writing. It is often the longest and most important step!
2. Read the guidelines – Every assignment has a specific purpose, audience, length, and format. Pay close attention to these specifications and revisit them as you work on the assignment. Also, remember that different academic disciplines use different styles of documentation. In this course, we will use [____], information about which may be found [____].
3. Seek support – Writing is hard work, but you are not alone. Your instructor is there to help you. Don't be afraid to ask for guidance or drop in during office hours.
4. Put in the time – Writing is a valuable skill, and any time spent developing your writing ability will contribute to your success, both in university and in your personal career.
5. Visit the Academic Support Zone – The Academic Support Zone's writing coaches will work with you at any stage of the writing process from interpreting the guidelines and finding sources to composing and editing drafts. Rather than editing your work for you, writing coaches will engage you in conversation about your writing and help you develop your skills in alignment with assignment expectations and course objectives.

Find Lakehead University's free writing support at <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/academic-success/student-success-centre/academic-support-zone> and visit mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca to book an appointment.

Regulations

It is the responsibility of each student registered at Lakehead University to be familiar with, and comply with all the terms, requirements, regulations, policies and conditions in the Lakehead University [Academic Calendar](#). This includes, but is not limited to, Academic Program Requirements, Academic Schedule of Dates, University and Faculty/School Policies and Regulations and the Fees and Refund Policies and Schedules (Lakehead University Regulations webpage,

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

- (a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

Note: Any work submitted for one course cannot be submitted for another unless approval is given by both instructors involved. **THE SUBMISSION OF ANY WORK COMPLETED BY ANOTHER PERSON AS YOUR OWN WILL BE TEATED AS ACADEMIC DISHONESTY.**