



GEOG-210 – Geography of British Columbia

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2026

Course Outline Review Date: 2031-04-01

Program Area: Math and Sciences

Description:

This course presents a regional geographic analysis of British Columbia and investigates the physical, cultural, economic, and historical characteristics of the various provincial regions. Students will examine patterns of settlement and development, with particular emphasis on industries of importance to the Columbia Basin region and the Kootenays, including forestry, mining, and tourism. Quantitative and qualitative methods in the context of Human Geography will also be introduced and examined to provide an understanding of regional patterns and processes.

Program Information:

This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Calendar for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Sciences, Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45

Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

None

Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy [2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) or contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Green, A., Ricker, B., McPhee, S., Ettya, A., & Temenos, C. (2014). *British Columbia in a global context*. BCcampus. <https://opentextbc.ca/geography/>

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- explain the physical geography of British Columbia including landforms, water, geological systems, and hydrology;
 - analyze regional diversity including Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous places;
 - discuss the importance of B.C. industries to regional economies;
 - describe patterns of settlement and spatial diffusion;
 - analyze human geographical patterns in B.C. by application of quantitative methods; and
 - examine regional patterns of health in British Columbia related to access to health care and patterns of disease.
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Course Topics:

The content of the course will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Geography techniques and concepts
- Physical processes and human implications
- Overview of the Geography of BC
- Geophysical hazards: Landscapes of Risk
- Historical Geography: European Impact
- First Nations: Reclaiming the Land
- Resource Management in a Global Economy
- Forestry: The dominant industry
- The Salmon Fishing Industry: Mobile Resource Management
- Metal Mining: The Opening and Closing of Mines, including a focus on the Sullivan Mine
- Energy Supply and Demand, including the Elk Valley
- Agriculture: The land and what it can produce including the Kootenay River region and Creston.
- Water: The Critical Resource
- Tourism B.C. and the Rocky Mountains/East Kootenay in Particular
- Manufacturing, Transportation and Trade
- Single Resources Communities
- The Urbanization of BC
- The Columbia Basin Region and the Columbia Basin Trust
- The East Kootenay region
- Geographies of health in British Columbia

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Assignments	55%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Evaluation Notes: A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.