

Capitol Reef National Park, Utah



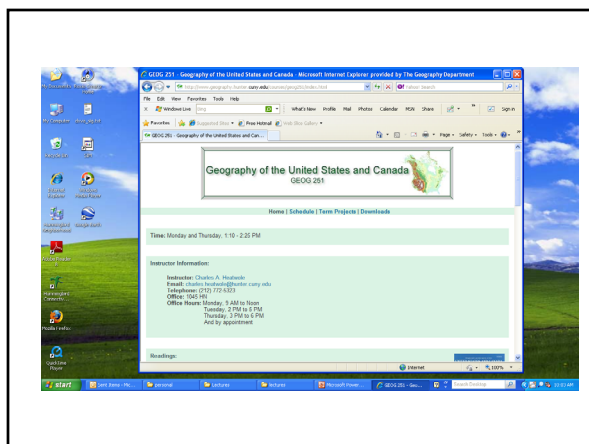
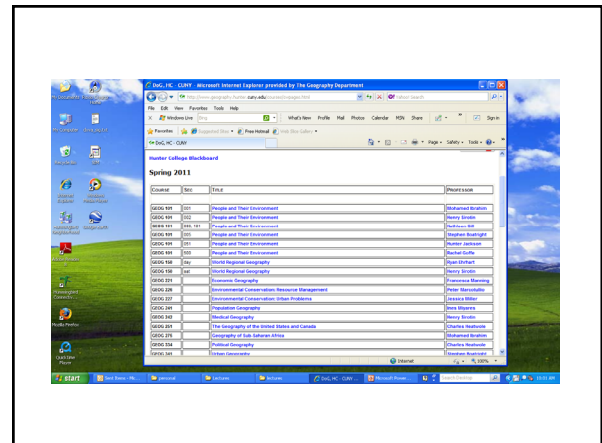
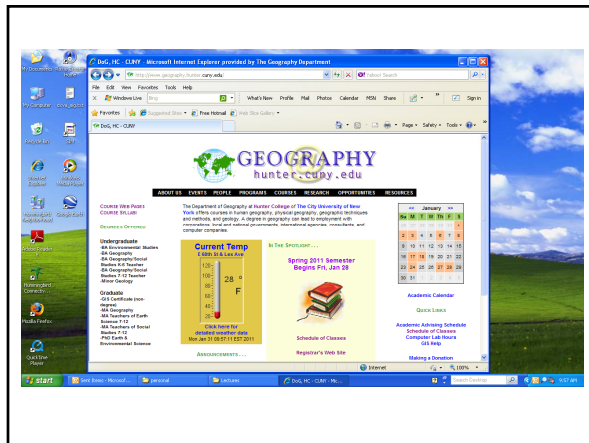
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To access course information, go to:

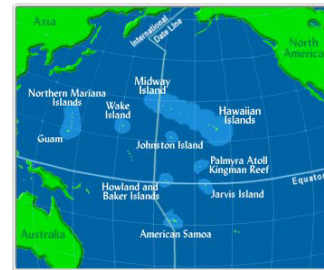
<http://www.geography.hunter.cuny.edu>

Then



COURSE GOALS

- Convey a sense of “the look and feel” of the United States and Canada;
- Learn the locations of important demographic, cultural and physical phenomena that characterize the two countries;
- Understand why the above happen and how they interact to produce unique landscapes and conditions;
- Appreciate the major human and environmental trends affecting our study area; and (maybe most of all)
- Increase your interest in getting out and seeing the U.S. and Canada.



**Farm on the plains of
Saskatchewan, Canada**



**Central
Park**



Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming



(c) Florida Stock - Schwabacher Landing, Grand Teton National Park

Gateway Arch, St. Louis



Coast of Oregon



A farm in Ohio



Saguaro National Park, Arizona



Chicago



**View from
Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah**



Shenandoah National Park, VA



Stowe, Vermont



Abandoned housing, Baltimore



Smog over Los Angeles



Recreation and heavy industry near Gary, IN



Post-industrial landscape, Detroit



Result of the recent Gulf Coast oil spill



REGION

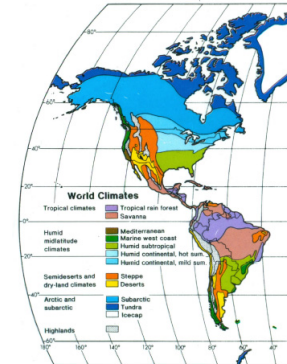
ONE OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL GEOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS

DEFINITION:

“A PORTION OF EARTH’S SURFACE THAT HAS ONE OF MORE UNIFYING CHARACTERISTICS.”

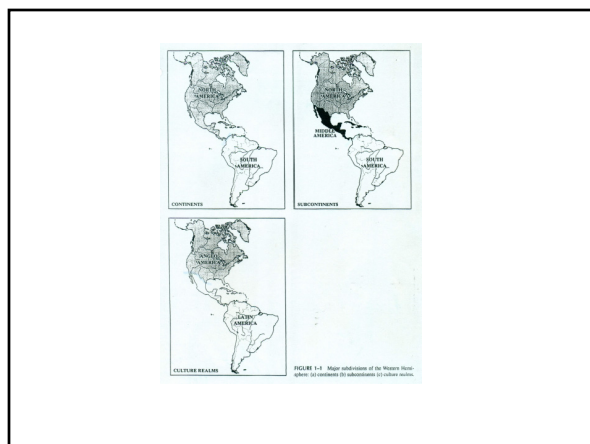
PURPOSES:

- MAKE THE WORLD MORE INTELLIGIBLE (MORE “KNOWABLE”) BY DIVIDING IT INTO UNITS THAT HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON.
- ANALOGOUS TO “HISTORICAL PERIODS”
- DATA MANAGEMENT



Why combine the U.S. and Canada into a single sub-global region?

- Historic division between “Anglo- America” and “Latin America.”
- Both are former British colonies.
- Common primacy of the English language and Protestantism.
- Inherited concepts of parliamentary democracy and land tenure.
- Similar economic and demographic characteristics.
- Major trading partners.
- Generally amiable relations.
- Shared landforms and climates.
- Similar patters of land use and urban form.



A portion of the wall separating The United States and Mexico



A portion of the wall separating The United States and Mexico



U.S. – Canadian Boundary at Waterton Lake (Montana | Alberta)



Comparative Demographic Data, mid-2007

	<u>USA</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Mexico</u>
Infant Mortality	6.5	5.3	21
GNI PPP Per cap (\$ 000)	44.2	34.6	11.3

Source: Population Reference Bureau (www.prb.org)

Size Comparison

Canada = 3,855,103 sq. mi.
(World's second largest country)

United States = 3,794,083 sq. mi.
(World's third largest country)

Therefore, Canada is larger by 61,020 sq. mi.

[New York + Connecticut =
a little less than 60,000 sq. mi.]

POPULATION COMPARISON

UNITED STATES = 311,946,632

CANADA = 34,238,035

U.S. / CANADA RATIO = 9.1 : 1

Sources:

U.S data: www.census.gov, January 24, 2011

Canada data: www.statcan.gc.ca. Latest
update, October, 2009.



The “Canadian Main Street” is the highly populated corridor that extends from Windsor, Ontario, across the northern shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and thence along the St. Lawrence River to Quebec City. It includes Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, and accounts for well over half of Canada’s population.

Big Ideas

- A contested continent
- Population growth and movements, old and new
- Increasing human diversity
- Technological innovation
- Urban growth and sprawl
- Resource use and misuse
- Industrialization and de-industrialization
- Movers & shapers: Plate tectonics & the Ice Ages
- Water for movement and well-being
- Lots of latitude – the Tropics to the Arctic
- A physical environment under assault.

Location of St.-Pierre and Miquelon

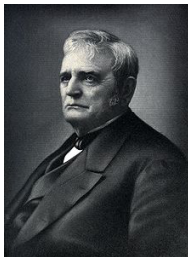
These two small islands are remnants of France’s once-vast North American empire.



Some technological Innovations of particular geographical importance

- | | |
|---|--|
| • The cotton gin | • The steel plow |
| • Barbed wire | • Tractors and related farming equipment |
| • Canals | • Air conditioners |
| • Railroads (subways) | • Center-pivot irrigation |
| • Steel and steel mills | • Ski lifts |
| • Electricity and electrical engines | • Containerization |
| • The automobile and internal combustion engine | • Hybrid seed |
| • Paved roads | • Electronic and wireless communications |

John Deere (1804-1886)



- American blacksmith and manufacturer
- In 1837 he invented the first commercially successful steel plow, which enabled the conversion of prairie to farmland.
- Founded Deere & Company

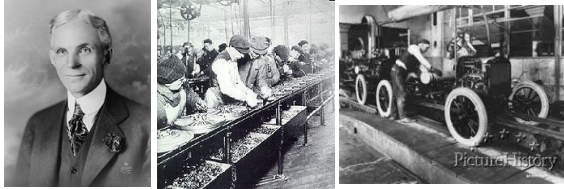
Prairie soil profile



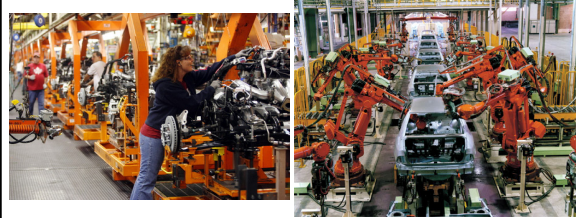
- The dark, fertile soils of the prairie could not be cultivated with the wooden plows of European immigrants.
- Only with the invention of the steel plow were the plains converted from a vast grassland to America’s agricultural heartland.

Henry Ford (1863-1947)

Industrialist, automobile manufacturer, and pioneer of the assembly line technique of mass production



A Modern Automobile Assembly Line



Leaving Las Vegas for the Suburbs



Isaac Brekken, *The New York Times*



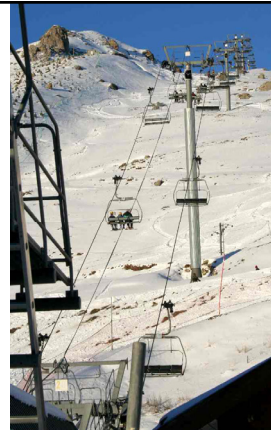
Las Vegas suburb



Las Vegas suburb



Las Vegas urban sprawl



Robert B. Daugherty (1922-2010)



- Omaha businessman who headed Valmont Industries, a major manufacturing firm.
- In 1953 he brought the rights to what would become "center pivot irrigation" and popularized the idea.
- Transformed The Great Plains (and elsewhere) to huge irrigated circles.



**Mahogany Hammock Boardwalk Trail
Everglades National Park, FL**



Kauai, Hawaii



Gates of the Arctic National Park, AK



Baffin Island, Canada

