

Geog 342: Geography of Wisconsin

Online, Summer 2017

Instructor. Joe Mason, mason@geography.wisc.edu.

Overview of the Course. This course will cover both physical and human geography of Wisconsin. We will start with the physical environment (rocks, soils, landforms, streams, lakes, wetlands, climate, and vegetation), and then discuss the human geography of Wisconsin, and how it was developed over time by people living and working in the unique landscapes of this state. Besides gaining a basic understanding of Wisconsin's geography, you will learn to use a variety of concepts, tools, and information sources to interpret the physical environment and human geography of specific places within the state. For example, you will use online information sources and web mapping tools to study the original vegetation and soils of an area of the state, and then look up information on how the ownership and use of that area has changed over time. You will probably find practical uses for this experience in future courses or jobs, or just to learn more about places you live in or visit.

Course Organization. You will access all course materials (except the textbook) through **Moodle** (<http://courses.moodle.wisc.edu>). The course is divided into several modules, each containing reading assignments, lecture videos, slide shows, assignments, and quizzes. Each module will be made available at a specific time during the semester, according to the schedule below. Each module is organized into a series of steps, listed in the order that you should work on them (although you will always be able to go back and look at earlier lectures or readings). After a module is available, you can work on it at your own pace, as long as you complete all of the assignments by their due dates and take the quizzes during the assigned time windows.

Textbook and other readings. The required textbook is *Wisconsin's Past and Present: A Historical Atlas*, by the Wisconsin Cartographers' Guild (ISBN-10: 029915940X). There will also be assigned readings from other sources that are available through Moodle.

Communication. If you have questions or are having any technical problems with the course, **please email the instructor at the address listed at the top of this page**. If the answer to your question or problem is important for the rest of the class to read, the information will be sent to the whole class email list. Any important announcements will be sent out the same way. **These messages will go to your UW email address** because that's what I have available. Therefore, it would be a good idea to check that email address at least once a day. I will not have regular on-campus office

hours; however, I will be on campus for most of the time the class is running, and if you would like to meet with me in person, that can be arranged by email.

Group wikis. One of the course requirements is to contribute to group wikis, basically a way for you to read other students' project reports, comment on them, and suggest revisions to strengthen them. You'll do this in one of two or three groups that you will automatically be assigned to. When you click on the link for the group wiki you should get access to the correct one for your group. If you run into any problems with this, let us know.

Accessibility. Closed captions are available for all of the lecture videos, and there is a transcript for the podcast you'll listen to in the urban geography section. If there are any other accessibility issues, please let us know as soon as possible.

Academic Misconduct. Before turning in written assignments, please make sure you know the definition of plagiarism. It includes using any text you did not write yourself in your own words, without acknowledging that you are using it and giving the source. This includes text you get from another student paper or any other source, and it is often easy to detect. You are also expected to complete quizzes without help from anyone else. Plagiarism or other academic misconduct may affect your grade or have other consequences. For information on what is considered academic misconduct, and possible consequences, see <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>.

Schedule

For assigned projects and essays, ***deadlines are all at 12 midnight (Central Time)*** on the date listed. For example, if the deadline is given as July 2, that means you have until the last minute of July 2 to get it in on time (but get it in sooner if at all possible, of course—technical problems with Moodle or your computer always seem to happen five minutes before an assignment is due). Assignments and essays can be handed in any time before the deadline.

Quizzes must be taken within the time window listed. This means anytime, day or night, from 12:01 am on the start date to 12 midnight on the end date (all times are Central Time zone). If you have technical difficulties with the quiz, however, I will probably not get to them right away if it is between 10PM and 7 AM. If you start a quiz, you need to finish it in one try, so plan ahead.

Contributing to group wikis. After turning in your first two project reports, you will also need to add it to a group wiki so other students can comment on it and/or suggest edits (the whole process is explained in detail when you get to that point on the course Moodle page). You will also need to comment on and/or edit three other students' reports. ***This needs to be done within the timeframe given below, in order***

for you to receive credit for the project as a whole. You will only be able to access the wiki and see other students' projects **after** the project due date passes, and you will to make your comments in the following three days.

Module 1. The Physical Geography of Wisconsin: Rocks, Landforms, Soils, and Vegetation

June 3. Material for this module becomes available.

June 11-13. Quiz on Physical Geography must be completed.

June 15, Physical Geography Project due.

June 18, student contribution to Physical Geography wiki due.

Module 2. Cultural Geography of Rural Wisconsin: Native Nations, Immigrants, and Agricultural Landscapes

June 9. Material for this module becomes available.

June 18-20. Quiz on Native Americans, the Dawes Act, and Immigration must be completed in this time window.

June 21, Essays on Immigration to Wisconsin due.

June 23, Project on Native Nations, Immigration, Rural Settlement and Land Use due.

June 26, student contribution to Native Nations, Immigration, Rural Settlement and Land Use wiki due.

Module 3: Part 1. Logging, the Cutover, and Conservation, and Part 2. Urban Geography

June 19. Material for all of Module 3 becomes available.

June 28. Project on Logging, Cutover, and Conservation due (***no wiki contribution for this project***).

June 29-July 1. Quiz on Logging, the Cutover, Conservation, and Urban Geography must be completed in this time window.

July 2. Essays on Logging, the Cutover, Conservation, and Urban Geography due.

Grading

For essays and other written assignments, you will be given more detailed information on how your work will be graded. Your overall course grade will be based on a total of 200 points, distributed as follows:

Quiz on Physical Geography (multiple choice, online) 15 pts

Project on Physical Geography (*including contribution to wiki*) 32 pts

Quiz on Native Americans, the Dawes Act and Immigration (multiple choice, online) 12 pts

Short Essays on Immigration to Wisconsin 32 pts

Project on Native Nations, Immigration, Rural Settlement and Land Use (*including contribution to wiki*) 32 pts

Project on Logging, Cutover, and Conservation 28 pts

Quiz on Logging, the Cutover, and Conservation, and Urban Geography (multiple choice, online) 14 pts

Essays on Logging, Cutover, Conservation, and Urban Geography 35 pts

Guaranteed (“worst-case”) grading scale. When final grades are assigned I will start with the following scale. If it appears that any assignments or quizzes were more difficult than intended, I will consider lowering the breaks between letter grades. The breaks with **not** be raised; that’s why this is a “worst-case” scenario.

A	93-100% (184-200 points)
AB	88-92.5% (174-183 points)
B	80-87.5% (160-173 points)
BC	74-79.5% (146-159 points)
C	60-73.5% (120-145 points)
D	47-59.5% (94-119 points)
F	less than 47% (94 points)