

Hunter College of the City University of New York
POSTCARDS FROM AMERICA

SNOW DAY MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT – Spring 2017
CANADA'S NATIONAL CORE

CUNY has instructed its Colleges to have instructors make up the time lost to the two snow closings this semester so as to adhere to NYS Education Department guidelines for credit-hour work. Options given include group distance-learning activities, assignment of special outside-the-classroom activities such as library research, field work, take-home exercises, or to reschedule missed class time on May 19 using the Reading/Study Day before the final exam period.

Instead of rescheduling class time, I have decided to make the “Canada’s National Core” PowerPoint lecture a take-home assignment. The written response to this assignment will be due after Spring Break on Friday April 21, 2017.

NOTE: Material on Canada’s National Core will be included on Exam II scheduled for Friday, April 7th.

ASSIGNMENT

Select **ONE** of the 5 topics listed that is introduced in the “*Canada’s National Core*” PowerPoint presentation found on the Course Home Page. Expand on the information provided on the slides to address and discuss the issue in the question. Answer all parts of the question. Provide maps and/or diagrams where appropriate. Estimated time to complete this assignment (research + writing) is 2 hours.

Guidelines:

1. Each topic should have a response of 1-2 pages in length, single spaced.
2. Be sure to **stay on topic**.
3. Add footnotes to back factual information.
4. Provide clear, readable maps or diagrams where appropriate. These can be on a separate page.
5. Use at least two sources of information, other than unsourced information from *Wikipedia*.
6. Do not cut and paste from on-line sources. Use your own words and sentence structure. (*Everyone has their own writing style as do on-line sources!*)
7. Add a bibliography.

Select **JUST ONE** topic from the five choices listed on the next page >>> .

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Slide 6 defines “national core” and lists three aspects used by political geographers to evaluate an area as a core.** Using this definition, research and explain how each applies to Canada’s National Core region by enhancing the points made in the related slides. Provide examples of the landscapes that constitute the National Core linked to a map of the region.
- B. Slide 12 makes reference to the War of 1812 when it addresses the selection of Ottawa as the capital city of Canada.** It alludes to the fact that Ottawa was far enough away from the border with the United States to be “safe.” Research the situation leading to the **War of 1812** between the United States and British Canada, focusing on the importance of the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes region. Describe and illustrate sites of significant battles in the St. Lawrence Great Lakes region. Discuss the outcome of the war as codified in the Treaty of Ghent in 1814, concentrating on border issues between the US&C. Provide maps of battle sites to illustrate the locations and activities discussed.
- C. Slide 14 introduces the Quebec Secessionist Movement.** Research and explain the background of this movement in terms of the cultural and political geography of the region. Discuss the political ramifications for Canada, the United States and the would-be country of Quebec should Quebec, in fact, secede and become an independent nation. Discuss several examples of “what”- “if” scenarios. Provide visual examples of Quebec’s “*French cultural landscape*.”
- D. Slide 22 introduces the St. Lawrence Seaway segment of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System.** Research the circumstances in the 1950s leading to the decision of the US&C to jointly design, build and manage this navigational corridor that linked Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean. Talk about and illustrate all its segments from the Atlantic Ocean to Duluth, MN, focusing on the segment between Quebec City and Windsor. How did the Seaway System affect the inland ports and change the economic landscape of the lake port cities and their surrounding regions?
- E. Slide 25 talks about the site and situation of the city of Toronto.** Research the founding and growth of Toronto. Give a detailed explanation of both its site and its situation. Discuss how Toronto developed over time to become the 5th largest city of North America. Provide local and regional maps. Include illustrations of the present-day urban landscape within the Toronto Metropolitan Area.

OPTION: You may do a second topic for extra credit as part of Section 4B on the syllabus. Be sure to mark it “Extra Credit.”