

GEOGRAPHY 142

Introduction to Human Geography

Winter 2015

Lillis 282

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This syllabus is subject to change. If any changes are made, you will be notified through Blackboard and email in a timely manner.

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with and help you appreciate the various interactions between people around the world and how this can explain social phenomena and environmental interaction. This class covers a range of topics, but all relate to social and environmental interaction and how this varies across space and between places. The geographical perspective is valuable in helping us interpret and critically examine events and activities throughout the world.

This syllabus contains important information concerning course policies and content. I consider this syllabus a contract between myself and the students in this course. In writing this syllabus, I have obligated myself to follow the policies and procedures contained herein. You are responsible for understanding and following these policies as well. I don't anticipate needing to make changes to the syllabus and/or schedule, but reserve the right to do so if changes are deemed necessary. You will receive verbal and written notification of major changes to course policies, procedures and content if changes are needed.

Goals:

At the end of the semester, you will:

- Identify categories of analysis of geographical phenomena;
- Understand how geographical tools helps us think spatially, and how spatial thinking can enhance our understanding of events and places around the world;
- Understand the role that a geographical approach can bring to explain the interrelationships between cultural, social, economic and environmental aspects of the landscape;
- Apply these concepts to your own personal experiences;
- Think, speak and write critically about issues that affect people and places around the world;
- Know where to find information and how to conduct basic research on different parts of the world.

Requirements:

- ***Read the assigned chapters in your textbook before coming to class.*** The lecture is NOT a repeat of the textbook, but an elaboration of certain concepts. Reading the textbook prior to the lecture will greatly assist you in understanding the concepts.

- **Attend class meetings.** Attendance will be taken occasionally and at random by various means. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get materials from a classmate. Only see the instructor when you have questions about what was covered in class after you have looked through the materials.
- **Participate in discussions.** Please express your thoughts in class. We will have frequent in-class activities and I expect some form of participation. This will include contributing to daily discussions of current events.
- **Attend discussion sessions:** These are required and are not used for busy work, but instead to provide students with the opportunity to explore and elaborate on specific concepts, with a focus on how they play out in our daily lives.
- **Three assignments:** You will have three mental mapping exercises that build upon each other throughout the term, starting with focusing on your personal experiences and moving up to global mapping. More on this later in the term.
- **One in-class midterm.**
- The **final will be cumulative.** However, we will build upon material throughout the session, so there should be no surprises. **Do not make travel plans to leave prior to the assigned final exam period: Monday, March 16th at 2:45pm**
- **Understand that minimal work will receive a minimal grade. Any late work will have 10% of the possible points deducted for each business day it is late.**

Required Materials

Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture by Erin H. Fouberg, A.B. Murphy and H.J. de Blij. 2009. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (new and used copies available in the Duck Store).

The textbook for this course will be a valuable resource for you to look more in-depth on specific issues. We will refer to it often in lecture, though lectures will often move beyond the text.

Strong recommendations

- **Download study guide prior to lectures:** each week by Sunday evening I will post a study guide for the following week's lectures. These will function as basic study guides for the exams, and will assist in your note-taking during class. I will emphasize here that the guide is just that: a guide. Questions on the exams will not be the same as the ones of the study guide, but these documents will help provide some structure for your studying.
- **Download course notes after lectures:** Each week by Friday at 5:00pm the week's lecture notes will be posted in one or two pdf files (depending on organization). I will not post them before lectures. However, the lecture slides may provide another useful way to organize your studying for the course.

Other expectations

- This class will be very interactive and students are expected to participate and be respectful of their classmates. This includes limiting the use of cell phones and computers for any other use than note-taking. If the instructor considers any classroom behavior disruptive, the student will be asked to be quiet or to turn off any electronic devices.

- You are also expected to arrive to class on time. Classes will begin promptly at 4pm, and the door will be shut when class begins. Make sure you are on the inside to avoid embarrassing yourself with a late entrance.
- When emailing the instructor, please use proper names, grammar and salutations. In addition, ***put the course name in the subject of the email***. It's also helpful to say what class you are in and actually sign your own name at the end.
 - For example:
Subject: GEOG 142- I enjoyed the class!
Hi Dr. McLees,
I just wanted you to know that I really enjoyed today's world regional geography class. I can't wait for the next one to begin!
Thanks,
Leslie

Academic Integrity Code

All students are expected to complete assignments in a manner consistent with academic integrity. Students must produce their own work and properly acknowledge and document all sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases). Students can find more complete information about the University of Oregon's Policy on Academic Dishonesty in the University of Oregon Student Handbook. Find links on the Blackboard to clarify what is meant by plagiarism and to find proper ways of using sources.

If you are found to have plagiarized (copied) off a classmate or from other materials for a test or an assignment of any sort, your first warning will be a zero on the assignment. Your second incident will result in an F in the course.

Disability Statement

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me at the beginning of the term if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu .

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is an important part of a student's educational experience. Students are expected to attend every meeting of their classes and are responsible for class attendance. Regardless of what reasons there may be for absence, students are accountable for all academic activities, and I reserve the right to require special work or tests to make up for the missed class or classes.

Grading

Attendance, participation in discussions and in-class activities	20 points
Assignments (3 @ 15 points each)	45 points
Discussions	30 points
Mid-term exams (2 @ 15 points each)	30 points
Final cumulative exam	25 points
TOTAL	150 points

Any late work, including exams, are subject to a deduction of 10% of the total grade for each business day that the work is turned in late.

Weekly outline

(The following schedule is subject to change)

	Weekly theme	Readings	Assignments
week 1	intro to geography	chapter 1	
	<i>What is human geography? What are important geographical concepts we'll examine in this course? Understanding maps and what they mean in geography.</i>		<i>hand out assmt 1: place and identity, a mental mapping exercise</i>
week 2	population and movement	chapters 2, 3	
	<i>What are the patterns of population growth and decline throughout the world? What are dominant patterns of movement and why are people moving?</i>		
week 3	culture and identity	chapters 4, 5	Assmt 1 Due
	<i>What is culture? How is identity formed? What are the relationships between culture, identity and place? How do population dynamics influence these processes?</i>		
week 4	political and urban geographies	chapters 8,9	
	<i>What are nations and states? Where does the idea of the current state system come from and how does it influence politics? What is urban and what is a city? How do cities develop and how to Euro-American ideas of urban development influence other parts of the world?</i>		<i>hand out assmt 2: street mapping: examining culture, economics, politics and the environment in your urban spaces</i>
week 5	catchup review	midterm	
	<i>wrap up loose ends, review session</i>		
week 6	development	chapter 10	
	<i>What is development and who is it for? Who decides what is developed, what is a successful development project? And how does this influence people being developed?</i>		
week 7	agriculture, industry & services	chapters 11, 12	
	<i>What are the roles of agriculture, industry and service in driving economic development? How has this played out within different regions and throughout the world as a whole in the context of the global economy?</i>		<i>hand out assmt 3: global mental mapping project</i>
week 8	human-environment interactions	chapter 13	Assmt 2 due

How have humans altered the earth's environment? What have been the pressures of change and how have humans adapted? What are factors behind a group's ability to adapt to environmental change?

week 9	globalization	chapter 14
	<i>What is globalization and how long as has it been going on? How has globalization influenced the various processes we've examined in this course? What are networks and how do they help us understand globalization?</i>	
week 10	catch-up, review	Assmt 3 due
	<i>In class review and activities to wrap up the term.</i>	

Final exam: Monday, March 16th and 2:45 pm in this classroom! Don't miss it.