

# Human Geography

**M-W 2:00-3:20 + Discussion**  
**Lawrence Hall Room 177**

**Prof. Shaul Cohen** [scohen@uoregon.edu](mailto:scohen@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours Wednesday 3:30-4:30 A.B.A. Condon 107G

## GTF's

**Belén Noroña** [mnoronoa@uoregon.edu](mailto:mnoronoa@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours Wednesday 1:00-1:50 Condon 202

**Adam Morse** [amorse@uoregon.edu](mailto:amorse@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours Monday 1:30-2:30 Condon 208

**Kuan-Chi Wang** [kuanchi@uoregon.edu](mailto:kuanchi@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours Monday 4:00-6:00 Columbia 246

This course serves as a gateway to the broad subject – or set of subjects – that make up human geography. There is no way to capture more than a fragment of what and how people are living around the world, so we will focus on specific elements of human activity as we search for common threads or patterns that constitute the human experience. Rather than providing you with a finite set of answers about what is going on in the world, we will develop a set of questions that can form the basis for inquiry about how we live – in similar yet distinct ways – all across the planet. This will give you a sense of what a “geographic perspective” is, while drawing your attention to some of the many fields of inquiry and interest within the discipline of human geography.

**Course Materials:** We will read from a variety of different sources that span several formats. Each week there will be required reading in the 2015 edition of the text “Human Geography” by John Rennie Short, which can be purchased in the UO bookstore, which comes with a free atlas. You must read the New York Times Monday-Friday. We will also be reading from magazines such as ESPN, The New Yorker, Atlantic Monthly, and others, and pdfs for those articles will be available to you through Canvas.

## **Course Requirements:**

Attendance is an essential part of this course. We will be talking about our reading materials in both class and discussion sections, but we will be adding additional material in both places as well. You must therefore read, show up, take notes, complete assignments, write essays, and take tests. The tests will be inclusive of everything we do.

## **Reading Schedule (subject to substitutions)**

**Week 1** – Introducing the course, ourselves, and our worlds. Read Short Chap 10 on Culture, start reading the NY Times.

**Week 2** – Cultural differences, cultural conflicts. Read Short Chap 12 on the Nation-State and “A Loss for words: Can a dying language be saved” on Canvas.

**Week 3** – The power of the state in a carved up world. Read Short Chapter 11 on Empire and The Tower of Babel, Genesis 11:1-9.

**Week 4** – In tension with our world. Read Short Chapter 6 on the Environment and “Head Count: Fertilizer, fertility, and the clashes over population growth” on canvas.

**Week 5** – Busting at the seams. Read Short Chapter 3 on Population and “Where are the children?: For extortionists, undocumented migrants have become big business” on Canvas.

**Week 6** – Making money in the world, making a world of money. Read Short Chapter 7 on economic sectors **Mid-term Monday of this week**

**Week 7** – The rise of cities. Read Short Chapter 13 on The Urban Transformation and “Beyond the breach: New Orleans that Katrina left behind” on Canvas

**Week 8** – What goes on inside a city. Read Short Chapter 15 on internal structure and

**Week 9** – Thanksgiving is this week, no discussion sections, no class on Wednesday. Read Short Chapter 9 on population and food and “The village that will be swept away” on Canvas.

**The class Final will be administered on Canvas and must be completed no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Course Policies:**

Please respect others in class. This includes your own conduct and commentary, spoken, written, and unspoken. Please keep side conversations to a minimum; if you don't I will certainly notice, as will those seated near you. If you have concerns or complaints, please communicate clearly, and in a timely fashion. If you have needs, requests, concerns, apprehensions, etc., don't keep them a secret! Effective measures on our part require some initiative on your part. In this vein, be aware that I am firm on the dates given to you concerning tests, papers, and other assignments. There is a 20% penalty for material turned in one day late, and 10% additional penalty for each day thereafter. Without advance warning and sufficient cause I will not grant incompletes. Leaving town early, an abundance of exams, general stress and other such reasons will not qualify for an incomplete. Questions about your grade should be directed to your GTF, and if subsequent conversation is helpful I am glad to discuss grades with you, but you must notify me of your desire to do so within one week of receiving the grade and having a conversation with your GTF (final course grades excepted.) Do not work together on essays or tests. A tip for the wise: the quality of your writing counts. If you have concerns about your essays, or think you could benefit from assistance, take advantage of the writing lab.

Laptops may be used only for note taking. Any other use of a laptop in class can result in an F grade for the course and the forfeit of course credit. If you are using a laptop you must sit in the first three rows of the classroom. Cell phones should be turned **off**. If your cell phone rings or if you're using it for texting during class you will go down one full grade for the course. Each year I have gotten complaints from students about the distraction that comes from texting, web surfing, messaging, and game playing that goes on around them. Let's eliminate that this term!

And don't say "like"....

**Course Grades:** There are a maximum of 100 points available in this course.

-A maximum of 15 points are given by your GTF and are based on participation in discussion section both through your contributing to conversation and your completion of exercises. Attendance counts as well.

-A maximum of 15 points can be earned through completion of in-class quizzes which are not announced in advance, and can **only** be made up if you have a valid medical excuse or university-sanctioned field trip or activity that conflicts with class.

-A maximum of 35 points can be earned from your three response essays which will be assigned in your discussion section. All of you will write a response to the essay on New Orleans, which is worth 15 points, your other two readings will be picked by your GTF and are worth 10 points. These responses are 2-3 pages in length each.

A maximum of 35 points can be earned from the mid-term and final exams, worth 15 and 20 points respectively. The mid-term will be in class in short-answer format, the final will be online.

Final grades will be according to the following rubric:

98-100 pts	A+
94-97 pts	A
90-93 pts	A-
87-89 pts	B+
83-86 pts	B
80-82 pts	B-
77-79 pts	C+
73-76 pts	C
70-72 pts	C-
67-69 pts	D+
64-66 pts	D
0-63 pts	F

**Campus Resources:**

Various issues and challenges can come up in the context of University life. Some resources that are available to you and that you are entitled to as a member of our community include:

-[University Teaching and Learning Center](#). In the basement of PLC, there are many services including drop-in writing and math labs, tutoring, test prep, and other things. They also have mini-courses on time management, computer software, and other things.

-[University Health Center](#). If you don't feel well, you may not do well (and vice versa). There are many services for your physical and psychological needs. Don't be shy; issues that you have are almost certainly more common than you might think.

-[Office of Student Life](#). Support of all kinds can be found in the Office of Student Life, and they can help you navigate the resources available to you on campus (and elsewhere). Their job is help you, they have resources and knowledge about what's possible. Check there for information about such things as the Bias Response Team, Non-traditional Student support, Conflict Resolution Services, and many others, the list is long.

-[ASUO](#). It's yours, you pay for it, you vote for it. It has as its mission and goals: to represent and advocate for all students, through the protection and promotion of the physical, cultural and educational development of the University. The ASUO Executive works to protect, allocate, and manage the student incidental fees. Through this fee we provide services to students and student organizations, create a marketplace of ideas on campus, and act as liaison between students, administration, and the Eugene community.

There are many ways in which we form a community and provide support for one another. If you aren't finding what you need, ask around. If someone is in need, try to be helpful!