

Geography 100: Introduction to Human Geography

Spring Semester 2007



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Office Hours T. Th. 10:00 – 11:00 AM
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Also by appointment
Class Meeting Tillman Hall 401
Section 2: T. Th. 11:00 -12:15 PM
Section 3: T. Th. 2:00 - 3:15 PM
Prerequisite None

Course Description

The course satisfies General Education and Social Sciences Requirement. WIU catalog describes the course; "Analysis of the spatial patterns of population, population trends, human migrations, ecological processes, and the impact of people on the natural environment."

Course Goals and Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

The purpose of this class is to introduce students the study of geography as a social science by emphasizing the relevance of basic concepts in geography to cultural, human concerns. Geography is a holistic discipline, i.e. its study encompasses an unlimited variety of phenomena, processes, and events on the earth's surface. Elements of the natural environment as well as aspects of culture are the main concerns to a geographer. Geography is a study of the places where resources are located and the reasons why they are there. Our course content includes how cultures have influenced the development of nations and their cultural landscape. The spatial distribution of cultural characteristics such as languages, religions, demographic patterns, and the natural resources of the states and economic activities are some of the major topics.

Upon satisfactory completion of this class students will better understand their own society of the world by examining the similarities and differences in human activity from place to place. Students will develop critical thinking skills and use them to explore and criticize suggested explanations of the uneven distribution of human activities.

Textbook

Rubenstein, James M. 2005. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, Prentice Hall, 8th ed. Students are expected to read the textbook according to the reading assignment schedule below. (7th edition may also be used)

Main Recommended Reading: Pitzl, G. 2003-2004. *Geography: Annual Edition*, McGraw-Hill/ Dushkin Publishing Co. will be on reserve in the main library. Other recommended readings are available on **websites** provided during the class.

Course Calendar

Week	Readings and Assignments
Week 1	Chapter 1, Geographic Background / Concept
Week 2	Chapter 2, Population
Week 3	Chapter 2, Population
Week 4	Chapter 3, Migration
Feb. 8	<u>EXAM 1</u>
Week 5	Chapter 4, Folk and Popular Culture
Week 6	Chapter 5, Language
Week 7, 8	Chapter 6, Religion
Mar.8	<u>Exam 2</u>
March 12-16	Spring Break
Week 9	Chapter 7, Ethnicity
Week 10	Chapter 8, Political Geography (Map Quiz)
Week 11	Chapter 9, Development
Week 12	Chapter 10, Agriculture
April 5	<u>EXAM 3</u>
Week 13	Chapter 11, Industry
Week 14	Chapter 12, Services
Week 15	Chapter 13, Urban Patterns
Final Exam	Section 2: May 10 (Th) 10:00 AM Section 3: May 8 (T) 3:00 PM

*These dates are approximate and subject to change with advance notice during the semester.

Student Evaluation

There will be four objective, multiple-choice exams and 13 WesternOnline quizzes. Go to www.WesternOnline.edu and use your Ecom ID to enroll. There will be self-test quizzes provided on the WesternOnline for each chapter of the textbook (total 130

points). You may take quizzes as many times as you wish to improve your grade. Also taking tests many times will ensure you to do well for the exams, since some of the exam questions are from the test bank. The students are required to read the textbook and also required to attend all the classes. There will also be a 10-points map quiz. Class attendance is so important that **poor attendance may lower the final grade by one letter grade**. There will be no make-up exams and the final exam is **not comprehensive**. The final grade is the percentage of the total points. Bonus point will be available based on the summary of articles from ***Geography: Annual Edition***.

Grade Breakdown

Exam 1	100 points	A -	> 480 points
Exam 2	100 points	B -	479 – 420 points
Exam 3	100 points	C -	419 – 320 points
Exam 4	100 points	D -	319 – 280 points
Quizzes	140 points	F -	< 280 points
Total	540 points		

Critical Thinking Skills to be achieved from my class

1. Maintains a skeptical stance. Try to develop a questioning attitude toward simple explanations.
2. Analyzes. Analysis refers to the ability to break down material into its component parts so that its organizational structure may be understood.
3. Tolerates ambiguity. Ambiguous means having more than one meaning, it applies to that which allows for more than one interpretation.
4. Comes to grips with complexity. An important aspect of this ability is that often there are no easy answers to important issues or questions.
5. Identifies assumptions. You try to identify the assumptions of your own arguments and the underlying assumptions of others' positions.
6. Assumes perspective of another. 'Walk a mile in their shoes.' This includes a willingness to explore ideas contrary to one's own beliefs and the ability to see problems and issues in a broader perspective than one's own culture
7. Adopts multiple perspectives. Try to see a problem from many angles. There are as many perspectives as there are people, reflecting, race, class, and gender.
8. Synthesizes. Synthesis refers to the ability to put parts together to form a new whole. One aspect of this is seeing connections among various experiences (different readings, different courses, personal experience, and current events).
9. Recognizes bias. You strive for fair-mindedness by testing your impressions in all ways possible in order to reduce the amount of personal prejudice or bias.
10. Evaluates. Evaluation is concerned with the ability to judge the value of material. The judgments are to be based on definite criteria.