Geography 101: People and Their Environment
Sections 003 and 181 - Spring 2010
Tuesday & Friday, 09:45-11:00
Location: HW 415

Christian Anderson, Instructor
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Email: canderson@gc.cuny.edu
Office hours (Starting Week 3): Tuesday 11:15–12:00, or by appointment

Black Board web site: http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu/
(Email bb@hunter.cuny.edu if you have technical problems)

Required Textbook:
(Be sure you get this and NOT the Getis and Getis that other sections are using)

Recommended if you are going to stick with geography:

Course Overview:
This survey course will give you a broad overview of subjects and ideas in geography, possibly the most internally diverse of the (social) sciences. As it turns out, geography is about much more than maps and locations. We will cover the geographical aspects of topics including weather and climate, landforms, religion, food, cities, economics, culture and much more. While you will be expected to understand the basics of each of the topics we cover, the overarching emphasis will be placed on understanding the relationships between them. As such, the course builds from one topic to the next, ultimately stressing the sheer geographical complexity and wonder of modern life as we reach the conclusion.

This course fulfills Stage 2 (Broad Exposure) Group B: Social Science but does NOT fulfill the "W" requirement.

Resources you should take advantage of:
There is fantastic and free GEOGRAPHY 101 TUTORING in the luxurious Geography Conference Room (HN 1004) twice weekly (days and times tba). Really, you should go.

Also, for this and every other class, the Hunter College Reading and Writing Center provides students with tutoring and help services across the disciplines and at all academic levels. Students who need assistance can be directed to http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu or sent to Room 416 Thomas Hunter Hall, telephone 212-772-4212. These services are free to registered students.

Evaluation Structure:
Your grade for this course will be determined through a combination of elements:
10 Points What is Geography, Parts 1 and 2 (five points each): This assignment is simple. For part 1, due at the very beginning of the course, write me two paragraphs about what you think geography is, and why. For part 2, due at the end of the course, look back at your first description, and tell me if and how your understanding of geography has changed over the course of the semester. It’s a straightforward assignment, but these must be thoughtful and well written (as in no typos, complete sentences – polished, quality ideas).

15 Points Critical Analysis (3 of them, worth 5 points each). One of these will be due at the end of each section. Essentially, I want you to raise an interesting analytical question about some of the content from each section, and then write a brief preliminary answer. You should not view these as reactions, so much as intelligent points that you might want to explore further as you continue your education. You can model your question on some of the “Critical Thinking” boxes from the chapters, or you can make up your own. Each analysis should be no more than three paragraphs long, should include a brief question involving content from more than one chapter within that section, and should provide a brief discussion. Once again, these must be thoughtful and well written.

25 Points Section 1 Review Test

20 Points Section 2 Review Test

30 Points Section 3/Final Exam

100 Total Points

The tests are not cumulative. All tests and exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. Students who have taken this class with me in the past have asked me to warn you that my tests are unusual. There is very little multiple choice, and a lot of short answer. You may be asked to draw diagrams of concepts. Sometimes there will be more than one correct answer to a question. Anything that is discussed in lecture is fair game for tests, so attendance is important. If you attend class and have a pretty thorough understanding of the things we talk about, you should do fine.

Please note that this is a course of 100 students, which means that I am generally unable to give you all the individual attention that you deserve. So you need to be totally responsible for keeping track of assignment deadlines, managing your work and your learning, and keeping track of your own progress. Please email me, or come to my office hours if you ever have any questions or concerns, or if you want to talk about how the class is going. I will not accept late assignments, and I will not give incompletes unless there are exceptional and well documented circumstances.

HUNTER COLLEGE’S STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY:
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

And I might add that creative originality and integrity are essential if you want to develop the kind of knowledge that is going to do you any good in life. When you cheat at school, the one you are really cheating is ultimately your future self.
Class Schedule:

Section 1: Earth, Land and Environment
Week 1: Friday January 28th – First Class/Introduction

Week 2: Read the Preface and Chapter 1: Introduction
**WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY PART 1 must be posted to Blackboard before class starts on February 2nd**
  Tuesday, February 2 – Introduction: Geography and Relations
  Friday, February 5 – Introduction, Continued + a little weather

Week 3: Read Chapter 2: Weather and Climate
  Tuesday February 9
  Friday February 12 NO CLASS

Week 4: Chapter 3: Landforms
  Monday February 15 – NO CLASS
  Friday February 19

Week 5: Read Chapter 4: Biosphere
  Feb 23, 26
**CRITICAL ANALYSIS 1 must be posted to Blackboard by February 26th**

Section 2: People, Place, and Culture

Week 6: Read Chapter 5: Population
  Tues March 2 – Section 1 Review Test
  Fri. March 5

Week 7: Read Chapter 6: Cultural Geography
  Tues. March 9
  Fri. March 12

Week 8: Read Chapter 7: Geography of Languages and Religion
  March 16, 19
**CRITICAL ANALYSIS 2 must be posted to Blackboard by March 19**

Section 3: Complex Geographies and Interrelations
Week 9: Chapter 8: Food
  March 22 – Section 2 Review Test
  March 26

MARCH 29-APRIL 5 = SPRING BREAK (EXTRA TIME TO STUDY! WHOO-HOO!)

Week 10: Food (Continued) + Chapter 9: Resources and Environmental Management
  Tues. April 6th (Food)
  Fri. April 9th (Resources)
Week 11: Resources (Continued)
Tuesday April 13
Friday April 16 – ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS CONFERENCE – SCHEDULE TBA

Week 12: Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization
April 20, 23

Week 13: Chapter 11: Political and National Geographies
April 27, 30

Week 14: Chapter 12: Economic Geography
May 4, 7

Week 15: Chapter 13: Globalization + Conclusion
May 10
May 14: Last Day of Class

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS 3 must be posted to Blackboard by May 14th**

**WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY PART 2 must be posted to Blackboard by May 20th**

**FINAL EXAM = May 24, 9:00-11:00 AM – same room**
Be there or be square . . .