

Fall 2009
Geography 101: People and Their Environment

Sections 003 and 107 -- Tuesday and Friday, 09:45-11:00 a.m.

Location: HW 415

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Office hours (Starting Week 3): Tuesday and Friday 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)

Course Overview:

Geography is about much more than maps and locations. This survey course will give you a broad overview of subjects and ideas in geography, possibly the most internally diverse of the (social) sciences. We will cover the geographical aspects of topics including weather and climate, landforms, religion, cities, economics, culture and much more. While you will be expected to understand the basics of each of the topics we cover, a large 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.

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.

Required Textbook:

Bergman and Renwick, *Introduction to Geography w/DVD*, 4th ed., Prentice Hall (Pearson) 2007. ISBN 9780135133743.

(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:

Goode's World Atlas. 2004. 21st edition. Rand McNally.

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 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, and should provide a brief discussion. Once again, these must be thoughtful and well written.

20 Points Section 1 Review Test

20 Points Section 2 Review Test

35 Points Final Exam

100 Total Points

All tests and exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. *Anything that is discussed in lecture is fair game for tests*, so attendance is important.

This is a course of 100 students. This means that I am unable to keep tabs on you and that structure is important. 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. 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 August 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**

Tuesday, September 8 – Introduction: Geography and Relations

Friday, September 11 – Maps as Metaphors: history of geography through maps

Week 3: Read Chapter 2: Weather and Climate

Tuesday Sept. 15

Friday Sept. 18 – **NO CLASS**

Week 4: Read Chapter 3: Landforms

Sept. 22, 25

Week 5: Read Chapter 4: Biosphere

Tues. Sept. 29 – **NO CLASS/CLASSES FOLLOW MONDAY SCHEDULE**

Fri. October 2 – Resume Class

****CRITICAL ANALYSIS 1** must be posted to Blackboard by October 2nd**

Section 2: People, Place, and Culture

Week 6: Population

Tues. Oct. 6 – Section 1 Review Test + Lecture

Fri. Oct. 9

Week 7: Cultural Geography

Oct. 13, 16

Week 8: The Geography of Languages and Religions

Oct. 20,23

****CRITICAL ANALYSIS 2** must be posted to Blackboard by October 23rd**

Section 3: Complex Geographies and Interrelations

Week 9: Food

Tues. Oct 27 - Section 2 Review Test + Lecture

Fri. Oct. 30

Week 10: Resources and Environmental Management
November 3, 6

Week 11: Cities and Urbanization
November 10, 13

Week 12: Political, National, and International Geographies
November 17, 20

Week 13: Economic Geography
November 24
November 27 – **NO CLASS**

Week 14: Economic Geography (cont.) + Globalization
December 1, 4

Week 15: Globalization (cont.) + Conclusions
Mon. Dec. 8 – Globalization II
Fri. Dec. 11 – Conclusion and review for the final exam

****CRITICAL ANALYSIS 3 must be posted to Blackboard by December 11th****

****WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY PART 2 must be posted to Blackboard by December 17th****

FINAL EXAM = December 21, 9:00-11:00 AM

Be there or be square . . .