

Geography 101 Sec W01-LEC
Introduction to Geography
Department of Geography and Environmental Science
SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor:	Ramiro Campos
Term:	Winter 2025 (W01-LEC)
Office:	ONLINE—see Brightspace for the Course Zoom Link
Class Meeting Days:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Class Meeting Hours:	9:00 am - 12:08 pm
Instructor Email	rcampos@hunter.cuny.edu
Class Location:	ONLINE
Office Hours:	Tues, Wed, and Thurs, 1 pm to 3 pm by ZOOM ONLY, by appointment ONLY
Course Mode:	Online, synchronous

Course assignments will require Brightspace Supported Browsers.

Catalog Description: Requirement Designation **FIS - Flexible Core - Individual and Society**

Survey of earth environment (atmosphere, land, water); how it varies spatially and how people interact with it. Contemporary economic, political, and social patterns and problems are discussed. (3 credits) [Satisfies general education]

Course Goals:

This course introduces you to the different regions of the world, their physical geography, climate, ecology, culture, people, politics, history, and economics. While the course does require you to know the countries and places in different regions, and a knowledge of such facts is important, emphasis will be given to those social and ecological interactions that have shaped and are reshaping our world today.

We will examine several historical and contemporary themes such as colonialism and modernization. We will also study contemporary themes such as migration, industrial agriculture, urbanization, conflict, etc. and how these forces shape the different regions of the world.

Ultimately, the course is not just about learning facts about how complex our little blue planet is but also (perhaps more) about understanding and critically examining the processes that shape and change the world. Having a broad and integrative approach to understanding cultural, economic, political and environmental phenomena will in turn allow for students to develop the critical thinking and reflective skepticism that can lead to environmental and social sustainability.

Student Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course students will be able to

1. Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
2. Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
3. Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
4. Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.
5. Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.
6. Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.

Course Format

The course is broken down into 4 Units. Each Unit will have a particular theme; Physical Geography, Living Environment, Development, and Looking Forward.

- Each Unit has a Due Date where all the assignments are due. There will be a recommended schedule of when to ideally complete the assignments so that you can pace yourselves.
- Unit ONE: Physical Geography, 4 quizzes, and a short reflection paper
- Unit TWO: Living Environment: 3 quizzes, and a short reflection paper
- Unit THREE: Development: 2 quizzes, and a short reflection paper
- Unit FOUR: Looking Forward: 1 quiz, an extra credit writing assignment, and a and a short reflection paper.

You are welcome and encouraged to submit assignments earlier than the due date.

Required Materials

- **Textbook** *Introduction to Geography: People, Places & Environment* by Carl H. Dahlman and William H. Renwick, 6th Edition ISBN-13: 978-0321843333
 - You can use this as a print text or e-text.
 - You are welcome to rent this textbook on Amazon.
- **Homework/Quizzes**
- Homework (which are NOT the long assignments) will consist of
 - A series of open-book, online quizzes meant to assess your understanding of the lecture and textbook material.
 - A series of open-book, online quizzes based on geographic/earth science themes, such as landform locations, weather and climate locations, world cities, agricultural and soil patterns, economic development.
 - Regular reading of the course chapters in the sequence provided in the course outline below.
 - Preparing for vigorous discussions of the prompts made available to you for our Discussion series.
 - All quizzes will be made available on Brightspace.
- **Exams**
 - There are no exams this Winter semester.
- **Participation**
 - Prompts will be posted on the Brightspace Link titled "Discussion Sessions" and are based on the readings and web links. For participation points, please see the participation rubric on Brightspace and at the end of this document.
- **The Reflection Papers will be graded by**
 - how well you answered the prompt, how well you examined all the material provided for the assignment, if you meet the word count minimum, **and how many course concepts you utilized** as appropriate to this assignment.
 - whether your post had a clear introduction and body with clear flow, with no spelling or grammatical errors, and how well your response went beyond description and how well you synthesized the materials provided to illuminate course concepts.
 - how well you incorporated superb outside academic knowledge and/or your own personal and/or family/work knowledge to further illuminate course concepts.

TL/DR: Chapter series and expected dates (please note: Unit Dates are tentative)

Unit One Chapters: (Jan 2 – Jan 7)

1. Introduction to Geography
2. Landforms
3. Weather, Climate & Climate Change

Unit Two Chapters: (Jan 8 – Jan 13)

4. Biosphere
9. Food and Agriculture
6. Population and Migration

Unit Three Chapters: (Jan 14 – Jan 16)

10. Cities and Urbanization
11. A World of States
12. Economy and Development

Unit Four Chapter: (Jan 23 -- 24)

5. Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection (part 3 and 4)

Important Considerations:

- Keep up with the readings and assignments.
- Pay attention to the course outline. It is your road map!
- Participate in discussions, ask questions, and send me emails!
- You are responsible for all material in class (and readings), including any lectures you may have missed.
- It is your responsibility to check your CUNY email for messages from me. I may send emails to you regarding your individual performance in class or regarding important class announcements.
- Be aware that if you do not devote at least 4-5 hours of study for this course per chapter, and especially if you fall behind on the coursework, your grade will reflect the effort you gave.
- You should consider yourself a scholar in this course, not just a student. You will be expected to learn how to produce knowledge, not just receive it.

Hunter College Policy 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 CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

The ONLY AI allowed in this course is Grammarly. It is YOUR responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

<https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/conduct-review-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/examples.html>

Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230. If you need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/hr/repository/updated-policies/Policy%20Against%20Sexual%20Harassment.pdf>

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College. a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444) b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772- 4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

Preferred Gender Pronoun

I affirm all forms of gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to inform me about your preferred gender pronoun or if you do not have a pronoun.

Professor Acknowledgements

1. I acknowledge the stress, anxiety, and depression of the pandemic and post-pandemic (which disproportionately affect female and BIPOC students) and these may translate into:
 - Connectivity Issues & Limited Technology
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Food Insecurity
 - Unemployment

Please feel free to meet with me individually about challenges and I will recommend or investigate resources.

2. I acknowledge my own set of privileges: lighter-skinned, US-Born, Native English speaker, male, upper middle-class, cis-gendered, able-bodied, and that this may translate into
 - Inconsiderateness while discussing religion, migrant status
 - Interrupting of students while they speak
 - Dismissal of ideas that are novel or obsolete (like not liking Mets fans)

- Normalizing ideas that may be considered obsolete/violent/exclusive/discriminatory

Basis for Overall Semester Grade.

Assessment/Assignment	% of Final Grade
5 map quizzes (5% each)	25
5 content/textbook-based quizzes (5% each)	25
4 Reflection Paper assignments (10% each)	40
<u>Participation/Discussion Sessions</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	100

Weekly participation (graded at the end of the semester) will be graded by these considerations:

1. how prepared you came to class, (attendance is not enough)
2. how reliable were you to answer questions asked by the instructor, (answer the questions!!)
3. how often YOU asked questions of the course material in class, whether readings or assignments
4. and how much you contributed to the learning environment.

Please refer to the Participation Rubric on Brightspace for more information.

Most of your semester grade will depend on you dedicating **at least 40-70 hours per week** preparing for the assignments and reading the course text and supplemental material. Other specifics as to the nature of the assignments will be explained on Brightspace for each assignment. No late assignments will be accepted past the due date. No grades of "incomplete" or INC will be given except in cases of extreme circumstances. A CR/NC grading option is available as per Hunter College guidelines.

The Hunter College grading system is used in this course. Please see:

<https://hunter-undergraduate.catalog.cuny.edu/policies-and-requirements/academic-requirements/grading-policies/grading-definition>

Grade Dissemination

All grades will be posted on Brightspace in a timely manner.

Course Policies: Grades

There are no individual extensions for assignments, quizzes, or the final exam UNLESS in the case of a documented medical emergency. Please see point 11 on the following page.

Extra Credit Policy: Please see point 8 of the following page.

Grades of "Incomplete": No incomplete grades will be given.

Email: Please e-mail me **ONLY** after you have checked Brightspace for any announcements. My e-mail address is rcampos@hunter.cuny.edu.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

1. Students are expected to attend all classes. This is not an asynchronous course. Students are expected to use a computer (not a smartphone) with reliable Wi-Fi to attend class. Participation is worth 20% of the final grade.
2. Students are expected to not leave early for other obligations, whether work or internships. Attendance will be taken at different times during the lecture session. Any student who misses attendance (does not type in the attendance word within 30 seconds of it being announced) will be considered absent. Attendance may be taken twice or thrice each session.
3. TWO or more unexcused absences will result in the student forfeiting all of their participation points. Please be sure to refer to the rubric to understand how I measure participation. Attendance is not participation.
4. The course will be divided into 4 units, each with readings, assignments, multiple-choice quizzes, and map quizzes. Most units will cover 2-3 chapters each.
5. Each unit will have: a short multiple-choice quiz, a short reflection paper, and a map quiz
6. Each session will begin with a set of 20-40 minutes of discussion based on prompts based on readings or videos. These opening discussion sessions will make up the bulk of your participation grade.
7. This course will require FOUR 500-word papers. Minimum word length will receive a minimum passing grade. For more information, please see the Reflection Paper Rubric and "A Note on Grades" (on Brightspace).
8. I will provide ONE extra credit assignment for the Fourth Unit. I provide this extra credit for those students who might need a boost during the last half of the semester or those who have a hard time fully participating during Discussion periods.
9. Should you need to contact me outside of office hours, please email me at rcampos@hunter.cuny.edu, with GEOG 101 in the subject line and sign your name as it appears in CUNYFirst. I will do my best to respond within 4 hours, except for the weekends, when I might take longer.
10. Students are expected to use their CUNY email address to communicate with the instructor. No Gmail please.
11. Due to the fast pace of the winter course, no penalties will be given for late assignments/quizzes. All coursework must be submitted by January 23, 2024, by 11:59 pm.
12. Students who do not complete at least 80% of their map quizzes will be given a WU grade.
13. Two instances of academic dishonesty will be grounds for automatic failure.

Course Hours

This course meets for 32 hours (11 sessions of 2 hours 53 minutes each with 15 minutes of break time).

A successful student will budget:

<u>60 Hours for Supplementary Assignments</u>	
Reading /re-reading course chapters 2 hours/chapter	18
Completion of 4 Papers (5 hours each)	20
Videos/Readings (1 hour per session)	12
<u>Quizzes (10 quizzes, 1 hour each)</u>	<u>50</u>
	60

Rubrics will be used to grade Participation and all Brightspace assignments and exams.

Please check Brightspace for the different rubrics used for the different assessments used in this course.

PLEASE REVIEW THE COURSE OUTLINE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Course Outline
All Dates/ Chapters Tentative

DATE	TOPIC	INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL	ASSIGNMENT DUE:
Jan 2	UNIT ONE: Physical Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 1: Intro to Geography Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz
Jan 6	UNIT ONE: Physical Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2: Landforms Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz
Jan 7	UNIT ONE: Physical Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3: Weather, Climate, Climate Change Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz *map quiz *reflection paper
Jan 8	UNIT TWO: Living Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 4: Biosphere Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz
Jan 9	UNIT TWO: Living Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz
Jan 13	UNIT TWO: Living Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: Population and Migration Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz *map quiz
Jan 14	UNIT TWO: Living Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6: Population and Migration Please review supplemental material on Brightspace	*quiz *map quiz *reflection paper
Jan 15	UNIT THREE: Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*map quiz
Jan 16	UNIT THREE: Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11: A World of States Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz *map quiz
Jan 21	UNIT THREE: Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 12: Economy and Development Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz *map quiz *reflection paper
Jan 22	UNIT FOUR: Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 Please review supplemental material on Brightspace 	*quiz
Jan 23	UNIT FOUR: Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 Please review supplemental material on Brightspace	*quiz *map quiz *reflection paper
Jan 23		ALL ASSIGNMENTS DUE AT 11:59 PM	