# Geography 101: People and the Environment

**Section 051 [Course Code 1202]**  
CUNY Hunter College – Spring 2010

19:00 – 20:15 (7:00pm – 8:15pm) Mondays & Wednesdays in HunterWest 415 (HW415)

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There are some maps available through the textbook’s website: [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073051268/student_view0/](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073051268/student_view0/)

Additional readings may be posted on Blackboard in the Course Documents section.

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**Grading:**

- 5% Attendance and Participation
- 20% First Exam on Chapters 1-5 on Monday March 1
- 10% Regional Analysis writing assignment—due on Wednesday March 24
- 20% Second Exam on Chapters 6-9 on Wednesday April 21
- 25% Themes of Geography—geographic research project—due on Monday May 10
- 20% Third Exam on Chapters 10-12 on Monday May 24—6:20pm – 8:20pm

Attendance of all lectures is expected and absences will only be excused afterward if a doctor’s note is presented. Taking part in class discussions is also an important part of your experience in the course.

Grades will be posted on Blackboard – Grade Center. Lecture notes and exam hints will also be posted as PowerPoint files on Blackboard – Lectures.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will learn the major concepts and themes of geography (location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and region) and be able to analyze contemporary environmental and social issues using the five themes. They will be able to use spatial analysis of place characteristics to make an argument for the presence of a formal region. They will also gain general knowledge of weather & climate, spatial interaction, environmental problems, and many of the subfields of geography such as population, cultural, political, economic, and urban geography.

**Exams:**

Parts of the exams will include analyzing maps or other data projected at the front of the classroom. If your distance vision is impaired, please arrive early to claim a seat near the front.

Although exams will focus almost entirely on the new material covered since the last exam, they will necessarily be cumulative as well, since we will be building on the concepts learned throughout the semester.

**First Exam:** 40 multiple choice questions covering lectures and readings from Chapters 1 – 5. Each question will be the equivalent of 0.5% of your course grade.

**Second Exam:** 40 multiple choice questions covering lectures and readings from Chapters 6 – 9. Each question will be the equivalent of 0.5% of your course grade.

**Third Exam:** 40 multiple choice questions covering lectures and readings from Chapters 10 – 12. Each question will be the equivalent of 0.5% of your course grade.

**Assignments:**

You all have Hunter e-mail accounts. You must regularly check this account or you can redirect it to an account that you regularly check. Please use this e-mail account to send
me your paper topic ideas. If you write to me from a different e-mail account, include your name in the subject heading.

The first and second papers must be on separate topics. **All paper topics need to be approved by me first.**

If a written assignment is late, 1 point (1% of your entire course grade) will be deducted for every day that it is late.

**Incompletes will not be given in this class.** If late written assignments are not received by 5:00pm on Tuesday May 25th, then the grade for the course will be an **F**.

I prefer papers to be submitted **electronically** through e-mail, but they may be submitted as a **hard copy** as well.

If you submit your paper **electronically**, it must be sent as an attachment to an e-mail using **Microsoft Word**. Please try to embed any images within the paper. Do not use Word Perfect, since I will not be able to read a document using that software. If you do not have Microsoft Word, you may cut and paste the text of your paper into the body of an e-mail, and if you have any images, you can attach those as jpeg or pdf files.

If you submit a **hard copy**, please **single space**, and use one inch margins and twelve point type. **Do not waste paper** by using a title page or large breaks between sections. It is understood though that inclusion of a map may sometimes require a separate piece of paper if it is a large image.

**Papers will be checked for the veracity of the sources and for plagiarism.**

**Citations:**

*Remember to cite the sources of your information! If you do not, then this is plagiarism!*

When you are citing a source in the body of your text (whether you are paraphrasing or using a direct quotation), simply use the author’s last name and year of publication, followed by a colon and the page number, if applicable, at the end of the sentence. This should all be in parentheses. For example:

**Paraphrasing information from a source:**
Five thousand protesters gathered at the WTO conference in Hong Kong (Ronquillo 2005: 12).

-or-

**Using a direct quotation from a source:**
“Remoteness allows a high level of dissociation between costs and benefits, between elite consumption benefits and ecological damage” (Plumwood 2002: 71).
Bibliography:

When you are doing your bibliographies, I would like you to use the APA format. Here is a link which will help you with any questions you have on how the bibliographic entries should look. If you are accustomed to using MLA format, this is acceptable as well. The link below also has a link within it for examples of MLA entries.

http://library.ncc.edu/apaguide.htm

Regional Analysis writing assignment: This assignment is designed as an exercise in how geographers determine regions. The key is to not start with a region, but to start with a place characteristic (cultural or physical) and analyze its distribution in the landscape. If you can show evidence that this characteristic is present over a certain area (i.e. there is internal consistency) but absent from the surrounding areas (i.e. there is external difference), then you can make an argument for the presence of a formal region. Think critically about the concept of region. Do not accept the existence of a region without showing evidence that explains how the spatial distribution of a certain characteristic makes it an example of a region. You may want to read parts of Chapter 13, particularly the section on ‘The Nature of Regions’ (461-463) to help you focus your ideas and select a particular type of characteristic that you are going to write about. The assignment should be between 400 and 800 words, not including the bibliography at the end of the paper. And do not forget to make citations everywhere you are getting information from your sources.

Grading Criteria for the Regional Analysis assignment:
1) Is it clear that the student started by analyzing a particular physical or cultural characteristic (or group of related characteristics) rather than starting with a pre-determined region?
2) Is there sufficient evidence/data presented to prove the existence of the region? Is the scale of the data appropriate for the argument?
3) Is the location described in absolute and relative terms? Are the boundaries and the spatial extent described?
4) Are the dynamics of the region described? Is it changing spatially: growing or shrinking, and if so, specifically where? Why?
5) Is the region getting more or less homogeneous? Why?
6) Hierarchy: Does the region exist as one part of a larger more general region? And/or can the region be subdivided into sub-regions?
7) Is the paper factually accurate?
8) Are citations made in every instance where information is taken from a source?
9) Is the bibliography done in the correct form?
10) What are the quality of the bibliographic sources?
11) Is the paper well written—with a logical structure and flow?
12) Is the paper well written—without spelling and grammatical errors?
13) Is the paper between the minimum and maximum word requirements?
14) Was the assignment submitted on time?

**Themes of Geography—geographic research project:** In this paper, you will research a particular issue in its geographic contexts. Most papers will deal with environmental, social, political, or cultural issues. The purpose of the assignment is to increase your skills in doing research with the Five Themes of Geography (Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement and Region) in mind. When you are writing, you should explicitly explain how you are analyzing your subject using these themes and put the names of the themes in **bold** type. Please try to select something unique—and it must be a different topic than your Regional Analysis Paper. Try to demonstrate how this is a dynamic issue. (Remember that movement is one of the themes.) Think about what is driving the changes in this particular geographic phenomenon. Dig into the topic and think about whether differential power relationships are a factor (perhaps things like gender, race/ethnicity, class, etc.). Use sources like newspapers, journal articles (*Progress in Human Geography* or *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers* are two possible sources), or books. Online resources can be acceptable, but choose them with care. Some information on the internet lacks scholarly credibility. You are required to cite at least three sources, though many of you will find that more will be necessary. The quality of the sources can affect your grade. The length of the paper should be between 1000 and 1500 words, not including the bibliography. Do not forget to make citations everywhere you are getting information from your sources.

**Grading criteria for the Themes of Geography research paper:**
1) Are there citations when the student is getting information or ideas from a resource?
2) Are the citations done properly?
3) What are the quality of the resources and are there at least three scholarly resources?
4) Is the bibliography done properly and are all of the sources that were cited also listed in the bibliography?
5) Is the paper well written—with a logical structure and flow?
6) Is the paper well written—without spelling and grammatical errors?
7) Was the assignment submitted on time?
8) Does the paper fall between the 1000-word minimum and 1500-word maximum requirements?
9) Has the student clearly and accurately described a particular and specific issue that will be the subject of the paper?
10) Has the student successfully, explicitly, and with some degree of sophistication, related this issue to the themes of geography?
   A) Has there been accurate and insightful description of absolute and/or relative location?
   B) Has there been appropriate discussion of physical and/or human characteristics of the locale(s) under consideration?
   C) Are relevant dimensions of human/environmental relationships discussed? For example, has the student described relevant economic activities and/or environmental effects in this place.
D) Has the topic been examined in terms of movement and spatial interaction? Has the student described the geographic dynamics of the issue?

E) Has the topic been examined in terms of region? Are the existence of elements of internal uniformity and external differences from surrounding territories a relevant dimension of the topic under consideration?

**Accessing Blackboard:**
On the Hunter website ([www.hunter.cuny.edu](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu)) you can use the Quicklinks pull down menu to find Blackboard. When you get to Blackboard 8.0, you should find a link for our class, Geography 101.

**Academic Integrity:** 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. 

*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. See the following report by the Hunter College Senate for more details: [http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate/assets/Documents/Hunter%20College%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate/assets/Documents/Hunter%20College%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf)*

*** PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES DURING CLASS ***