

# Geography 101: People and the Environment

Section 051 [Course Code 1415]  
CUNY Hunter College – Fall 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00pm – 8:15pm in Hunter North 1036 (HN1036)

Instructor: Ryan Ehrhart      E-mail: [REhrhart@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:REhrhart@hunter.cuny.edu)

Required Text: Getis, Getis, and Fellman. *Introduction to Geography*, Twelfth Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

You may wish to purchase an atlas to increase your geographic awareness. Thus a suggested text is *Goode's World Atlas*. There are also 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.

Tuesday	Sept	1	Introduction	1
Thursday	Sept	3	Geographic Concepts	1
Tuesday	Sept	8	Maps	2
Thursday	Sept	10	Maps; Landforms	2 & 3
Tuesday	Sept	15	Landforms; Weather & Climate	3 & 4
Thursday	Sept	17	Weather & Climate	4
Tuesday	Sept	22	Global Climate Change; <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>	
Thursday	Sept	24	Natural Resources	5
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>First Exam</b>	
Tuesday	Oct	6	Exam Review; Regions	13
Thursday	Oct	8	Regions	13
Tuesday	Oct	13	Population Geography	6
Thursday	Oct	15	Population Geography	6
Tuesday	Oct	20	Cultural Geography	7
Thursday	Oct	22	Cultural Geography	7
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Region paper due; Cultural/Spatial Interact</b>	7 & 8
Thursday	Oct	29	Spatial Interaction	8
Tuesday	Nov	3	Spatial Interaction/Political Geography	8 & 9
Thursday	Nov	5	Political Geography	9
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Second Exam</b>	
Thursday	Nov	12	Exam Review; Themes of Geography	
Tuesday	Nov	17	<i>The Corporation</i>	
Thursday	Nov	19	Economic Geography	10
Tuesday	Nov	24	Economic Geography	10
Tuesday	Dec	1	Urban Geography	11
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Themes paper due; Urban Geography</b>	11
Tuesday	Dec	8	Human Impact on the Environment	12
Thursday	Dec	10	Human Impact on the Environment	12
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Third Exam 6:20pm – 8:20pm</b>	

### **Grading:**

- 5% Attendance and Participation
- 20% First Exam on Chapters 1-5 on Thursday October 1
- 10% Regional Analysis writing assignment—due on Tuesday October 27
- 20% Second Exam on Chapters 6-9, 13 on Tuesday November 10
- 25% Themes of Geography—geographic research project—due on Thursday Dec 3
- 20% Third Exam on Chapters 10-12 on Thursday Dec 17—6:20pm – 8:20pm

### **Exams:**

Parts of all 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 mainly 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 and 13. 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.

Make-up exams will not typically be given. In order to have a chance to do a make-up writing assignment, a student must present a doctor's note excusing their absence from the exam. The make-up assignment will be an additional 1000-word assignment, equivalent to the Themes of Geography research project. In each case, the make-up assignment will be due one week after the exam was given. In order to receive a grade for a Third Exam make-up writing assignment, a topic and due date must be arranged with me by Friday Dec 18.

### **Assignments:**

All written assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard. If you have not successfully used Blackboard before, I encourage you to send me a test document before you send in your region paper.

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 use another e-mail account, include your name in the subject heading.

I will try to give everyone comments on their region paper, so it is important that your Hunter e-mail account is available for this purpose. Also it is possible that some other class announcements might be transmitted via e-mail. For lengthier materials though, Blackboard will be used, so it is important that you check Blackboard as well.

The first and second papers must be on separate topics. If you want to write on a topic that we talked about in class, clear it with me first because I do not want a topic to be written on by more than one student. If a written assignment is late, 1 point (1% of your entire course grade) will be deducted for every day that it is late. Submission of an assignment will be considered late if it is received in the digital drop box later than 11:59 pm of the day it is due. If you do not have access to a computer with an internet connection, I will accept hard-copy papers, but they will be due by the beginning of class that day, and comments will be hand-written.

**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 to further your skills on regional analysis. The key is to not start with a region, but to start with a 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. You may want to read parts of Chapter 13, particularly the section on ‘The Nature of Regions’ (468-470) to help you focus your ideas and select a particular type of characteristic that you are going to write about. The assignment is fairly short—it should be between 400 and 800 words—but you should include analysis of why your particular area of study can be considered a region. Remember that the region you select can be quite small (the Chinatown neighborhood of Manhattan, for example) or it may be very large (the ‘Sunbelt’ region of the United States, for example). Describe the location in both absolute and relative

locational terms. Describe its spatial extent and boundaries and how these boundaries may be shifting and why. Describe whether it is a formal region or a functional region or a vernacular region and why. Describe how the region may sit in a hierarchy of other regions. Describe how homogeneous the region is. Are there scholars who challenge the boundaries of the region? Do some even dispute that it is a coherent region at all? 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 need to start with a cultural or physical characteristic and then analyze the spatial distribution of that characteristic to conclude whether or not there is a region present. Include a bibliography at the end of the paper. And do not forget to make citations everywhere you are getting information from your sources. When you are saving your file on your computer, please name it using your last name, first name, dash, region. For example, Jennifer Jones' file will be named: Jones Jennifer—region.doc

**Themes of Geography—geographic research project:** This is a more serious opportunity for you to 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. It is possible that your subject will not have relevant dimensions in all five themes, but I want you to choose something that you can analyze using at least four of the themes. When you are writing, you should explicitly explain how you are analyzing your subject using these themes. I encourage (but do not require) you to choose a geographic scale that is different from the scale of the analysis from your Regional Analysis Paper. I warn you though, the global scale is almost certainly too broad for a paper of this length. Please try to select something unique—and it must be a different topic than your Regional Analysis Paper. Feel free to make this relevant to something that is important in your life. 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. Include a bibliography at the end of the paper. The length of the paper should be between 1000 and 1500 words, not including the bibliography. When you are saving your file on your computer, please name it using your last name, first name, dash, themes. For example, Jennifer Jones' file will be named: Jones Jennifer—themes.doc

### **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. It is near the bottom. On the Blackboard access site (<http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu/>) click on the Bb6 CUNY login link and then choose Hunter College and you should see a link for Geography 101: People and the Environment. All of your written assignments should be done as .doc Microsoft Word documents or at least in .rtf (rich text format) if you are using a different program. (I cannot accept Word Perfect documents though.) Your documents can be uploaded into Blackboard by clicking on Tools and then Digital Drop Box and then choosing the file from your computer. Once it is uploaded, remember to type in your name and click submit. Grades will be accessible electronically as well by accessing Blackboard.

**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>

**\*\*\* PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES/PAGERS DURING CLASS \*\*\***