Geography 101: People and Their Environment
Section: 001
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10:10am-11:00am
Location: HW 615

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm, or by appointment.

Black Board web site: http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu/
This is where you will post your assignments.
(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, because everyone should have a good atlas:

Course Overview:
This survey course will give you a broad overview of subjects and ideas in geography, one of the most diverse and interdisciplinary social sciences. You will quickly realize that today’s geography is about more than just maps and mountain ranges. In addition to covering the geographical aspects of weather, climate and physical landforms, we will also delve into the geography of religion, food, cities, economics, culture and much more. While I will expect you to understand the basics of each of the topics we cover, the overarching emphasis will be placed on understanding the relationships between them. Therefore, as the course builds from one topic to the next, you will come to see the geographical complexity and vast interconnectedness of Earth’s physical and cultural landscapes.

Study Resources:
There is fantastic and free GEOGRAPHY 101 TUTORING in the luxurious Geography Conference Room (HN 1004) twice weekly (for days and times check Hunter Geography website). I strongly suggest you take advantage of this important resource.

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 5 short writing assignments and 3 tests:

**10 Points** What is Geography (2 assignments, worth 5 points each): These assignments are straightforward and meant to reflect your own thoughts and ideas about the course’s subject matter. For part 1, due at the very beginning of the course, write me two paragraphs about what you think geography is and what interests you about it. For part 2, due at the end of the course and also two paragraphs, look back at your first description, and tell me if and how your understanding of geography has changed over the semester, and also if your initial interests have changed. These assignments should be fun and simple, and you do not need to do outside research for them. They will hopefully bookend the course for you in a meaningful way, and they will help me understand the evolution of your thinking.

**15 Points** Critical Analysis (3 assignments, worth 5 points each): One of these assignments will be due at the end of each of the three course sections. I want you to raise an interesting analytical question about some of the content within each course section, and then write a brief answer. These are not to be personal reactions, but instead insightful 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. For example, the “Wealth and Natural Hazards” Critical Thinking box in Chapter 3 raises an interesting contrast in housing locations in different cities based on topography and income. How and why do these relationships change for different cities? Can natural hazards and varying levels of wealth affect the spatial layout of a city? Do weather and climate patterns discussed in Chapter 2 factor into these planning decisions? 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.

All assignments must be typed, not handwritten, and posted to Black Board. Be thoughtful in your responses, and be crisp and clear in your writing – I will deduct points for grammatical errors, incomplete sentences, typos, stuff that just plain doesn’t make sense, etc. Geographers are by and large social scientists, and therefore we need to write well. Engage your audience (me, in this case), and you will be “way ahead of the pack.” Those words are by a great friend of mine and a sociology professor, Harry Levine. He also penned the phrase: “Becoming a good writer is a shrewd career move.” Check out his piece “A Good Sociologist is a Good Writer” at: http://dragon.soc.qc.cuny.edu/Staff/levine/a-good-sociologist.html

It will be worth your while.

Exam Regime:

**25 Points** Section 1 Review Test -- Friday, March 5

**20 Points** Section 2 Review Test -- Friday, March 26

**30 Points** Section 3/Final Exam -- Wednesday May 19th 9:00am – 11:00am

100 Total Points
All tests and exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. They will NOT be cumulative. Anything that is discussed in lecture – which will usually go beyond the textbook material – is fair game for tests, so attendance is important.

Missed Exams: You must tell me at least a week in advance if you think you will miss an exam, and even then it must be for an extremely compelling reason. If a documented emergency arises, we can discuss options for making up the exam. In general, however, any make-up exams that I do grant will take place before the scheduled full-class exam.

This is a course of up to 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.”

If you find a great paper, essay, or quote that you want to include in your work, by all means cite it. This shows that you are incorporating relevant ideas into your thinking. That is what good research is all about. The worst thing you could do is include it without citing it. Nowadays, you just can’t get away with quoting something without a citation. One of the reasons Google is Google is because it has the “it works” factor. In other words, one can search practically any document on Google (and Google Scholar) and find its origin. This is only to remind you that the relative ease of online research today comes in tandem with the relative ease of locating the source of material cited (or not) in a paper. Uphold your writing integrity and you will do great in this course!

Class Schedule:

Section 1: Earth, Land and Environment
Week 1: Friday January 29th – 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
  Wednesday, February 3
  Friday, February 5

Week 3: Chapter 2: Weather and Climate
  Tuesday, February 9
  Wednesday, February 10
  Friday, February 12 – NO CLASS
Week 4: Chapter 2: Weather and Climate (continued)
   Tuesday, February 16
   Wednesday, February 17
   Friday, February 19

Week 5: Chapter 3: Landforms
   Tuesday, February 23
   Wednesday, February 24
   Friday, February 26

Week 6: Chapter 4: Biosphere
   Tuesday, March 2
   Wednesday, March 3
   Friday, March 5 – Section 1 Review Test

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS 1 must be posted to Blackboard by March 3rd**

Section 2: People, Place, and Culture
Week 7: Chapter 5: Population
   Tuesday, March 9
   Wednesday, March 10
   Friday, March 12

Week 8: Chapter 6: Cultural Geography
   Tuesday, March 16
   Wednesday, March 17
   Friday, March 19

Week 9: Chapter 7: The Geography of Languages and Religions
   Tuesday, March 23
   Wednesday, March 24
   Friday, March 26 – Section 2 Review Test

**CRITICAL ANALYSIS 2 must be posted to Blackboard by March 24th**

SPRING BREAK -- Monday, March 29 – Monday April, 5

Section 3: Complex Geographies and Interrelations
Week 10: Chapter 8: Food
   Tuesday, April 6
   Wednesday, April 7
   Friday, April 9

Week 11: Chapter 9: Resources and Environmental Management
   Tuesday, April 6
   Wednesday, April 7
   Friday, April 9
Week 12: Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization  
Tuesday, April 13  
Wednesday, April 14  
Friday, April 16 – American Association of Geographers Conference (schedule TBA)

Week 13: Chapter 11: Political, National, and International Geographies  
Tuesday, April 20  
Wednesday, April 21  
Friday, April 23

Week 14: Chapter 12: Economic Geography  
Tuesday, April 27  
Wednesday, April 28  
Friday, April 30

Week 15: Economic Geography (cont.) + Globalization  
Tuesday, May 4  
Wednesday, May 5  
Friday, May 7

Week 16: Chapter 13: Globalization (cont.) + Conclusions  
Tuesday, May 11 – Globalization II  
Wednesday, May 12  
Friday, May 14 – LAST CLASS – Conclusion and review for the final exam

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

**WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY PART 2 must be posted to Blackboard by May 18th**

**FINAL EXAM – Wednesday May 19th 9:00am – 11:00am**

(Study a lot, but DON’T CRAM! – It only makes you nervous!)