Course Overview & Learning Outcomes, Texts

Course Overview

Welcome! Geography is one of the most wide-ranging university disciplines, with its mission to explain the interactions of the human and natural worlds to produce our lives, with its environmental and social complexities. This course is an introduction to both physical and human geography, with topics ranging from climate change and plate tectonics to globalization, political boundaries, and world cultures and their interactions. It is an introduction to the major subfields of the discipline, major patterns of natural and human activity at the global level, and major theories and techniques for thinking spatially. A special emphasis is placed on the interrelatedness of these phenomena, with topics building upon each other throughout the course.

We are here to learn together in a respectful, collegial atmosphere and this will mean that we take each other seriously and learn from each other.

Learning Outcomes –

By the end of the course, students should be able to -

* Identify major forces of the physical world – atmospheric, biological, and geochemical processes and the resulting distribution of biomes, weather patterns, and landscapes.
* Identify major trends in human activities such as population dynamics, migration, cultural practices, economic activities, and impacts on the environment.
* Describe how these interact and impact each other to produce complex phenomena such as globalization and climate change.
* Read maps and related spatial graphics for basic information and to make inferences and connections.
* Analyze course topics using geographic concepts such as scale and spatial process.
* Understand the breadth of geography as an academic discipline with a variety of professional applications.

Required text-


There is a couple of copies on reserve in the Library, but that is just 2 for 100 students. Shakespeare & Co. has copies available to buy, the e-books are much cheaper, and you can also check book sellers on the internet for less expensive copies. Please be sure to get the 6th (2014) edition.
Other required and supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard. We will go over how to use Blackboard, but the Hunter IT people are very helpful and patient, and they offer good guidance in using Blackboard successfully.

**Learning Activities and Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Activity</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Group Work &amp; Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Group Project Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit (on final grade)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Hunter Policies -**

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act of 1990**-
All students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and an appointment contact the Office located in Room E1214B, or call 212-772-4857 /or VP 646-755-3129 or contact accessability@hunter.cuny.edu

**Policy on sexual harassment/misconduct**-

**Policy on academic integrity** -
[https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/](https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/)

Plagiarism and cheating will entail serious consequences, following the CUNY and Hunter College Rules of Conduct. Please be responsible for your education, and do not put any of us in a situation where disciplinary action will be required. You can certainly study together, help each other out in your discussion groups or in the larger class work we do. But you cannot use some one else's work as your own. We are here to learn together and debate your thought-out opinions based on verifiable facts as we will be studying physical and human geographies and their interactions.

**Expectations -**

**Class participation** - Asking questions and helping make the class lectures and readings more interactive for all of us is a helpful way to learn and to enrich our classes together. This will require that you have done the readings for the particular theme/the chapter in the textbook we are discussing that day. Please be brief and to the point in your comments or questions, so we can all participate in such a big class, throughout the semester, as much as possible.
**Discussion Groups** - You will participate in these twelve discussions (like your introduction discussion one) throughout the semester on given class dates by discussing topics/chapters for the day within small groups of five (5) of your peers. This requires that you have read the chapter for that class day and that you have thought critically about it. This is a great opportunity to share what you learned from the readings and the previous lectures with your peers, is a great way to learn from different perspectives, to get a more complete understanding of the materials, and to have sustainable conversations in such a large class. By 11:59pm the next day after you discussed it in class in your group, you will need to summarize your discussion in a one-page summary. Be sure to include that everyone in your group is represented, in answering the particular questions about the discussions of the chapter(s) in your textbook. Since it is a one-page summary, you cannot have every one answer every question in that summary but be sure to include everyone’s voice in your group and get their consent to include their comments and its content. For a group of five, for example, you will each have 2 turns to document what your group discussed. You will need to exchange contact information with each other, and possibly do longer discussions outside of our classroom lectures, since time is short.

This will be good practice for each of you in listening and doing documentation work. For your graded summaries, you will discuss these topics with each other in small groups of five, turn in summaries of what you discussed. (post them in your Group Blog on Blackboard by the due date).

**Map Quizzes** - Recognizing and being able to identify countries, regions and topographies on the planet is an important part in learning how to think geographically. There will be ten of these throughout the semester, and they will be based on the places we learn about in the textbook, the interactive lectures, videos and graphics we discuss throughout the semester. These will be taken in class, on a blank global map.

**Exam** - The midterm exam will be cumulative, up to the dates that it is taken in class and will involve thinking critically about all the themes we are learning about and discussing. The group presentation will take the place of the final exam, so you will need to use concepts we learn about together in our class discussions and from the textbook, other supplementary articles, book excerpts & in-class graphics and videos.

**Group Presentations** – In addition to discussion your and your group’s intersectionality and topography, you will present what you learned about particular themes at the end of the semester in an applied, creative and summary way for 10 minutes. This will include what you learned in this class, what you found interesting and surprising about geography for a particular chapter/theme that you chose and applying those concepts to your group in an intersectional and topographical way to give us a complete picture who you are using spatial analysis. There is a document with a good deal of detail of the requirements on Blackboard. After each group presentation, every one will participate in giving you RESPECTFUL feedback with clarifying questions, what you did well, and what you can improve on for next time.
**Extra Credit** - You can earn up to five (5) points on your final grade when you briefly articulate concrete experiences (personal, neighborhood, country, cultural, or related learning ones such as something you read or saw) that is connected to the topics we are discussing on any particular class throughout the semester.

**Class dates, topics and assignments**

**August 29** - Introductions, to the course, requirements & expectations; intro discussion groups

**August 31** - Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography & Logistics

**September 5** - Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography & Logistics

**September 7** - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change

**September 12** - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change; **post 1st group report on Sept 13, by 11:59pm**

**September 14** - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change; **discussion groups- post Ch. 1 & 2 summaries on Sept 15, by 11:59pm**

**September 19** - Chapter 3: Landforms, Chapter 4: Biosphere

**September 21** - Chapter 5: Earth’s Resources and Environmental Protection; **discussion groups- post Ch. 3 & 4 summaries on Sept 22, by 11:59pm**

**September 26** - Chapter 5: Earth’s Resources and Environmental Protection; **discussion groups- post Ch. 5 summary on Sept 27, by 11:59pm**

**September 28** - Chapter 11: A World of States

**October 3** - Chapter 11: A World of States; **discussion groups- post Ch. 11 summary on Oct 4, by 11:59pm**

**October 5** – Chapter 12: Economy and Development

**October 10** – No class; **classes follow Monday schedule**

**October 12** - Chapter 12: Economy and Development; **discussion groups- post Ch. 12 summary on Oct 13, by 11:59pm; Midterm Exam**

**October 17** - Chapter 6: Population and Migration

**October 19** - Chapter 7: Cultural Geography

**October 24** - Chapter 8: Languages and Religions; **discussion groups- post Ch. 6 & 7 summaries on Oct 25, by 11:59pm**

**October 31** - Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture
November 2 - Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture; discussion groups- post Ch. 8 & 9 summaries on Nov 3, by 11:59pm

November 7 - Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization

November 9 - Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization; discussion groups- post Ch. 10 summary on Nov 10, by 11:59pm

November 14- Colonization, imperialism and colonialism

November 16 - Climate Change Prevention, Mitigation & Resiliency; post 2nd group report

November 21 - Critical Cartography Discontents

November 23 – No class

November 28 - Carceral & Abolition Geographies

November 30 – Food sovereignty; post your 3rd group report on Dec 1st, by 11:59pm

December 5 - Questions & Answers; review geographic concepts and tie videos and graphics to them

December 7 – Group work in-class. finalize group presentations; all group reports and missing group work due on Blackboard

December 12 – Reading Day; no class

December 14 - Group project presentations (Groups 1-5)

December 19 - Group project presentations (Groups 6-10)