Geography 10100 - People and Their Environment
Lecture Section 04

Spring 2016

When: Tuesday and Thursday 5:35PM-6:50PM

Where: Hunter West Building Room 511

Instructor: Nathaniel Sheets

Email: nsheets@gradcenter.cuny.edu
(If you want a response: please allow 48 hours, include “GEOG101” in the subject line of all correspondence, and sign your full name as it appears in CUNYfirst)

Website: http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu/

Overview: This survey course will provide a broad overview of subjects and objects examined by the discipline of geography. We will cover the physical and social aspects of climate and climate change, landforms, religion, language, food, cities, economy, culture, and politics. While you will be expected to understand the basics of each of the topics we cover, the overarching emphasis will be placed on understanding the relationships between and among them. As such, the course builds from one topic to the next, ultimately stressing the sheer geographical complexity and wonder of modern life as we reach the conclusion.

Objectives and Outcomes: This course will provide an introduction to contemporary geography—the spatial conditions and connections of our physical and social world—as well as the knowledges and disciplinary approaches for making sense of those materials and meanings, and our relations to them. Students will explore how the world is spatially organized through different and dynamic structures and systems, grappling not only with a breadth of new concepts but also how to relate these ideas and their objects to the places we know and imagine. Students will learn how geographers view and assess the world, with strong consideration given to the stakes of different approaches to studying and producing geographical relations and knowledges.

The course is recommended for any student interested in being an informed person in the 21st Century. We will explore a wide range of
phenomena, with emphasis placed on how these relate and are organized spatially through combined human and non-human processes.

Learning outcomes include:

1. Knowledge of disciplinary content, including an understanding of the objects and approaches of geographic study. These include the basic physical and chemical processes that constitute our climate and landforms; ways of abstracting and studying these overlapping and inter-relational processes as discrete spheres (atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere); and the different ways these processes are socially and spatially organized and represented in politics, economy, and culture.

2. An understanding of the use of geographic tools, including but not limited to maps and other means of representing complex social and physical phenomena.

3. A spatial understanding of social problems—beyond our immediate experience of modern urban society—and of the ongoing forces that generate and precipitate the spatial structures and forms of our experiences and differences.

4. The ability to think critically about the above topics and the ways that we have learned to consider geographical subjects, objects, and approaches.

Requirements: Students must complete all reading, exams, and assignments, in addition to regular attendance and participation. Classwork and homework assignments require students to attend class informed by the readings and prepared with questions for discussion, reflection, and clarification with the class. **No more than 2 unexcused absences will be permitted.** Students are expected to complete the readings and any additional material assigned, in advance of our meeting in the classroom. Each week will include lecture as well as assignments that will combine with attendance for 35% of the total grade.

There will be 6 quizzes, each covering the material from 2 chapters as well as any additional materials from lecture and discussion. Each quiz will account for 5% of the overall grade, comboing for 30% of the total. If you cannot take an exam as scheduled, you must alert me at least **48 hours prior to your absence** and provide appropriate documentation to be eligible for a makeup exam. The final exam will
account for 35% of the total grade. The final will be take-home format, distributed during our last class meeting, and must be submitted in-person during the mandatory final period.

**Students must complete all of the quizzes and the final, in addition to assignments, attendance, and participation, to receive a passing grade or credit for the course.**

**Grading:**

- Attendance/Participation: 35%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Final: 35%


Additional texts to be assigned by the instructor and located by students.

**Electronic Devices Policy**
No electronic devices are permitted for use during class unless you have a documented disability or need and have obtained prior approval from me. These include phones, computers, tablets, and all recording devices. Any use of approved electronic devices for purposes other than note taking, or use of devices without approval, will result in the loss of student attendance for each incidence (an unexcused absence) and will be reflected in the total grade for the course.

**Hunter College’s Statement on Academic Honesty:**
Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, 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.

**Incompletes as a Final Grade**
I do not give incompletes (IN) except under the most extraordinary, and documented, circumstances. You must contact me within 48 hours of the final exam and request IN as a grade. At that time you will schedule a date to meet with me at the college and complete a Contract to Resolve Incomplete Grades.

**Students with Disabilities:**
If you need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know. 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.

**Syllabus Change Policy**
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be announced in class and electronically.

**Tentative Schedule (subject to change):**

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Geography**
- Tuesday February 2
- Thursday February 4

**Week 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change**
- Tuesday February 9—Classes follow a Friday Schedule
- Thursday February 11

**Week 3: Landforms**
- Tuesday February 16
- Thursday February 18

**Week 4: Biosphere**
- Tuesday February 23: FIRST QUIZ
- Thursday February 25

**Week 5: Earth’s Resources and Environmental Protection**
- Tuesday March 1
- Thursday March 3

**Week 6: Population and Migration**
- Tuesday March 8: SECOND QUIZ
- Thursday March 10

**Week 7: Cultural Geography**
- Tuesday March 15
- Thursday March 17

**Week 8: Languages and Religion**
- Tuesday March 22: THIRD QUIZ
- Thursday March 24

**Week 9: Food and Agriculture**
- Tuesday March 29
- Thursday March 31

**Week 10: Cities and Urbanization**
- **Tuesday April 5:** FOURTH QUIZ
- Thursday April 7

**Week 11: A World of States**
- Tuesday April 12
- Thursday April 14

**Week 12: Economy and Development**
- **Tuesday April 19:** FIFTH QUIZ
- Thursday April 21

**SPRING RECESS**
- Tuesday April 26: NO CLASSES SPRING RECESS
- Thursday April 28: NO CLASSES SPRING RECESS

**Week 13: Synthesis with Articles To Be Assigned**
- **Tuesday May 3:** FIFTH QUIZ
- Thursday May 5

**Week 14: (Continued...)**
- Tuesday May 10
- Thursday May 12

**Week 15: (Continued...)**
- Tuesday May 17: FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED

**Final Exam:**
- Tuesday May 24 5:20PM-7:20PM: Final Exam Submitted in-Person