

GEOG 10100 People and their Environment
Spring 2017
Sec 002, Code 04258: Saturday 1.10 - 4 pm
HN 1022

Instructor: Prof. Henry Sirotin
Office: 1032 Hunter North
Office Hours: Saturday 4-5 pm and by appt.
Email: hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu; please make sure that all email messages include GEOG 101 in the subject line, and also sign your text with your full name. I do not respond to unsigned emails from addresses like kissmesweetie2960.

Course Description and Objectives: Meets the Hunter Common Core Individual and Society (Social Sciences) requirement and GER/2B for those under GER.

The course will cover an introduction to the nature of contemporary geography, geographic methods, and elements of the two major subdivisions of the field, physical (the natural world) and human (the cultural world), as seen from the spatial perspective. You will learn how geographers view and assess the world, how elements of the natural world (climate and landforms) that significantly affect human activity are themselves created, and two how they are synoptically synergized with key elements of human geography- population dynamics and economic systems.

The course is recommended for any student interested in being an informed citizen in the 21st Century. You will learn global spatial relationships, the fundamentals of weather, current thinking on global population issues, and the basics of spatial economic analysis.

Learning outcomes include

1. Knowledge of disciplinary content, including an understanding of geographical analysis, an understanding of the basic processes that form the climate and land spheres in which humans live, an understanding of the demographic transition in population studies and the factors that produce it, and an understanding of spatial economics and the role it plays in society.
2. An understanding of the use of geographic tools, including maps, remote sensing and aerial photography, and geographic information systems.
3. An understanding of social and economic problems beyond that of the modern urban society in which we live, and of the precursors that laid the ground work for our society, as seen in spatial perspective.
4. The ability to think critically about the above topics.

Required Textbook: Dahlman and Renwick, *Introduction to Geography*, 6th ed., Prentice-Hall, 2013, ISBN 9780321843333. [The text is available at Shakespeare Books, 939 Lexington Ave. (across the street from Hunter). For value copies, including used, e-book, and rentals, check <http://www.allbookstores.com/book/compare/9780321843333>>]

There is also a considerably cheaper Global edition available on Amazon, if it is for sale in the U.S. You may also use the 5th ed. But note that *earlier editions have significant errors and are not acceptable.*

I will be communicating with you both in class and by Blackboard, so make sure your Blackboard account is active. I will not be responsible for bounce backs from your accounts, Please note that this has been a particular problem with transfers still using CUNY Community College accounts.

Grading:

There will be two class exams and a final exam, all in short answer format. The exams will not be cumulative. The final grade will be determined on an average of the three exams, with allowance for class participation, and will be assigned as a letter grade based on the numerical standards that can be found in the Hunter College Undergraduate Catalogue. Exam dates are tentative, with the exception of the Final Exam, but I will provide at least one week's notice on the specific date.

Please be aware that the number of students I have each term makes it impossible for me to offer extra credit assignments.

All exams, or approved make-ups, must be taken. Makes-ups will be scheduled at my convenience. To receive an incomplete (IN) a student must present evidence of a satisfactory reason and must have done "C" work or better PRIOR to the filing of the incomplete; otherwise, the student will receive a grade of WU. Students who desire an IN will have to sign a Departmental contract with the instructor.

Regarding attendance, I do not have a set policy, but note that 20% of my exams are based exclusively on lecture notes, 20% exclusively on the reading, and 60% on both.

Classroom Electronics:

I permit the use of electronic recording devices and dictionaries during lectures. ALL other personal electronics should be turned off before coming into the classroom. This includes cell phones, Blackberrys, etc. A computer may be used FOR TAKING NOTES ONLY, but if what you are doing becomes a distraction to others around you, I will ask you to shut it off.

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED DURING EXAMS. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic grade of zero for the exam, and the possibility of further disciplinary action.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity:

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. 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

ADA Policy

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.

Other Notes:

Keep in mind that this is an intensive class, so missing one session is the equivalent of missing a full week’s work. I would suggest you develop a “buddy system” with one or more classmates to cover notes should you miss a session.

Well-behaved children are welcome at any time.

Except for changes that substantially affect grading, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be given in class and through Blackboard notification.

Calendar:

Jan 31 st	First day of class
Apr 15 th	No class; Spring Break
May 13 th	Last day of class
May 20 th	Final Exam, in the classroom, 1.10 -4 pm

Course Outline:

1. Geographical Concepts [chap. 1] [Feb 4th, 11th, 18th]
 - a. Human geography: the cultural landscape
 - b. The process of spatial analysis: distribution, pattern, consequence
 - c. Spatial description: location, region, scale
 - d. Spatial process: interaction, diffusion
2. The Geographer’s Tools [chap. 1 cont.] [Feb 25th, Mar 4th]
 - a. Maps
 - b. Remote Sensing
 - c. Geographic Information and Global Positioning Systems

First Exam [Mar 11th - very tentative]

3. The Physical World
 - a. Weather and Climate [chap. 2] [Mar 11th 18th, 25th]
 - b. Landforms [chap. 3] [Mar 25th, Apr 1st]

Second Exam [Apr 8th - very tentative]

4. The Economic World
 - a. Population [chap. 5] [Apr 8th, 22nd]
 - b. The Economic Structure [chaps. 8, 12] [May 6th, 13th]

Final Exam [May 20th - in the classroom, 1.10-4 pm]