

FALL 2009
GEOG 101: People and their Environment
Saturdays 12:10 to 3:00 p.m.
Sections 002 and 160
Hunter North 1036

Instructor: Prof. Henry Sirotin
Email contact: hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu
Office hours: Friday, 1:00 – 2:00 pm and Saturday, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, HN1032, and by appointment.

Required Text: Getis, Getis, and Fellman, *Introduction to Geography*, 12th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2010. ISBN 978-07-352282-1

Recommended: *Goode's World Atlas*, 21st ed., Rand McNally, 2005.

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.

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. I will provide at least one week's notice on the date of the exams.

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.

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.

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. Headphones, ear buds, and in-class text messaging are a sign of disrespect both to the instructor and to your fellow students. The use of entertainment devices including, but not limited to, i-Pods and games, text-messaging, and computers for anything but note taking during class will result in an invitation to leave the room for the day. The only exception to this shall be in situations where a student attends class while a known emergency condition is developing in the immediate family, and I should be notified of this at the beginning of class.

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.

Other Notes

Keep in mind that, as this class meets only once a week, 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.

Calendar:

Aug 29 th	First day of classes
Sept 19 th	No class, Rosh Hashana
Nov 28 th	No class, Thanksgiving
Dec 12 th	Last day of class
Dec 19 th	Final exam, at the regular class hour.

Course Outline:

1. Geographical Concepts [chaps. 1, 8 (pp. 267-280), optional: 13]
 - 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. 2]
 - a. Maps

- b. Remote Sensing
- c. Geographic Information Systems

Exam

3. The Physical World

- a. Weather and Climate [chap. 3]
- b. Landforms [chap. 4]

Exam

4. The Economic World

- a. Population [chaps. 6, 8 (pp.280-291)]
- b. The Economic Structure [chaps. 10, 8 (pp.291-296)]

Final Exam