

HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

**CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY**  
**GEOG 247-Section 01**

Fall 2017

Code 10396

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**Office Hours:** Before and after class on Mondays and Thursdays; also by appointment.  
**Classroom:** Room 1022 North Bldg.

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**Purpose:**

This course will introduce you to the field of cultural geography by (1) looking at its major themes, (2) understanding relationships between cultures and environments, (3) looking at the physical processes and human interaction that are instrumental in creating cultural identity, and (4) applying geographic principles and reasoning to cultural scenarios and also, to past and current events.

**Required Textbook:**

Jordan-Bychkov, T., Domosh, M., Neumann, R. and Price, P. *Jordan's Fundamentals of the Human Mosaic: A Thematic Introduction to Cultural Geography, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, New York: W.H. Freeman and Co., 2014. ISBN-13: 978-1464110689 (paperback). Also, available as a used book, an e-book and a rental.

**Supplemental Book:**

Oakes, T. and Price, P., editors. *The Cultural Geography Reader*, New York: Routledge, 2008. ISBN-13: 9780415418744 (paperback). Also, available as a used book and an e-book.

**Online bookstore link:** <http://hunter.textbookx.com/institutional/>

**Link to our books:** <http://hunter.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/1478507/>

**Recommended:**

**Any world atlas** that shows world and regional distribution of cultural themes thus providing you with a visual reference for the topics covered in class. Atlases with thematic sections include *Goode's World Atlas* and *National Geographic's Collegiate Atlas of the World*.

**Course Home Page:** Assignments and handouts are distributed via the **course home page** on the Geography Department web site <http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/cwpages.html> and in class, NOT on BlackBoard.

**Course Objectives:**

The goals of the course are: **(1)** to learn about the field of cultural geography and its component parts within five principle themes: region (area), diffusion (spread), ecology (physical environment), interaction (complex relationships) and landscape (human imprint); **(2)** to explore, navigate through, and use the geographic information available on the Internet to illustrate aspects of origin and spread of "culture" on earth; **(3)** to learn how to analyze and interpret this information geographically; and **(4)** to make regional comparisons based on mapped and statistical information that have resulted in unique landscapes throughout the world. For those in the education sequence, in addition to **1-4** above, **(5)** to gather and use information within the guidelines of the *National Geography Standards* for presentation at a grade-specific level.

### Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, you will be able to: **(1)** discuss and expound on aspects the field of cultural geography by alluding to the “*story behind the occurrence and distribution of cultural phenomena*,” **(2)** navigate the Internet to find geographic information and maps related to the subject at hand, **(3)** interpret maps and statistics geographically, and **(4)** make world regional comparisons leading to informed decisions using geographic principles and spatial concepts. For those in the education sequence, in addition to 1-4 above, **(5)** meld this knowledge with the *National Geography Standards* for presentation to students at specific grade levels.

### Grading:

1. **Exams (30%).** There will be two exams worth 15 points each. All exams must be taken. There is a penalty for a missed exam
2. **Topical Exercises (70%).** There will be **five** topical exercises relating to the five classic themes of the course. The exercises will be distributed as a packet and each one will have a separate due date. Any one may be turned in before the due date. Each exercise is worth **14 points** for a total of 70 points. **NOTE:** There will be a grade reduction penalty for lateness.
3. **Extra Credit.** *(You may attempt both A and one option from B. Late submissions will not be accepted. See calendar for due dates.)*

**(A) Exam Extra Credit.** Each regularly scheduled exam will have an extra credit section worth 5 additional points. Correct answers will increase the exam grade; wrong answers will not affect the grade. Make-up exams do not include extra credit.

**(B) Select one of the following from Option B and do a thorough response to earn full extra credit. See calendar for due dates. No late submissions accepted.**

**(B1) Research Paper.** For up to **7 points** added to your term average and therefore influencing the final grade, write a focused research paper consisting of a **5-page narrative** plus a **bibliography** plus **maps and illustrations** on a **pre-approved** topic that either **(a)** deals with a tangible aspect of cultural geography or **(b)** a discussion of the life and works of a noted cultural geographer focusing on that person’s contribution to the field of study and academic thought. The paper must be concise, focused on the approved topic and show the geography behind the theme. A **minimum of two maps** must be included in the paper, one showing the location of the topic and the other illustrative of the area or event or theory being discussed.

**(B2) Discussion Paper.** For up to **7 points** added to your term average and therefore influencing the final grade, write a short discussion paper consisting of a 4-5 page narrative **plus** a **bibliography plus** applicable maps and illustrations on discusses one of the theories and concepts of cultural geography as presented in the textbook/ supplemental readings. The paper must be concise, focused on the topic and be in the form of a discussion looking at **all sides** of an issue. **NOTE: You must discuss both the pros and cons of the topic.**

**(B3) Geography in the News.** For up to **7 points** added to your term average and therefore influencing the final grade, collect and anno-

tate **14 recent news articles** (newspaper, magazine, journal or Internet; not blogs, editorials, or op-eds) published between June 2017 and December 2017 illustrative of a cultural geography issue discussed in class or in the textbook. In each **2-page double spaced essay** briefly summarize the article (half page) and show in one and half pages the geography embedded within it (***Ask yourself the question: Where's the geography?***). The extra points will be allotted proportionally based on how many articles are submitted and correctly analyzed. Short submissions will not earn full credit. Properly cite the article in the header by including the source, date and the title. Include a copy of the article with your analysis, either as an electronic printout or a photocopy of the original. Staple the article to the appropriate essay.

5. **Class participation** will help to determine borderline grades.
6. **Class attendance** policy follows Hunter guidelines and attendance will be taken. While not numerically linked to the final grade, historically poor attendance results in poor grades.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

1. **You are responsible** for the content of all the lectures, reading assignments and class handouts. Assignments and handouts are distributed via the course home page on the Geography Department web site (<http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/cwpages.html>) and in class.
2. **Attendance is important.** Historically, there has been a direct correlation between poor attendance and poor grades. The readings from the textbook, the Web and handouts may supplement lectures.
3. **All exams must be taken and required assignments submitted.** Failure to do so by the end of the semester will result in a reduced grade unless arrangements are made with me in advance. Then an IN (incomplete) grade may be given. Late written presentations will be penalized. Do not schedule your travel plans to begin before the date of the final exam! See calendar below.
4. **Extra credit assignments are optional.** Your final grade will not be adversely affected if you choose not to do them. The deadlines associated with them are firm. Late submissions will not be graded.
5. **Approval is required prior to beginning any research project.** The topic of your extra credit research or discussion paper must be approved in advance to make sure the topic is manageable. ***Any student planning to do the research or discussion paper extra credit option must submit in writing a proposal with a justification*** showing your interest in the topic proposed and an outline of major points to be covered. It is important that your proposal be narrow in scope and focused on a topic.
6. **Lateness penalty.** There will be a penalty for lateness of assignments with specific due dates including missed exams. This will reduce the grade earned by either 5 points or one +/- letter grade

7. **Neatness counts.** All graded work must be typed, printed and presented neatly. On exams, if I cannot read your writing, it is wrong. Consult the Hunter College Reading and Writing Center for citation and bibliographic formats (<http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu>).
8. **Hunter College rules and regulations are strictly enforced** including those governing the grades CR/NC and IN.
9. **Academic Dishonesty.** Cheating and plagiarism are grounds for failure and disciplinary action by the College. 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. The Internet is a resource for information, NOT a source of verbatim script. Every person has a unique writing style and use of grammar. **Do not cut and paste text found at an Internet web site into your write-ups, research paper or project without proper citation.** Any assignment may be randomly scanned by a search engine seeking key words. Plagiarism comes with an automatic failure for the assignment and referral to the Dean of Students for appropriate action. **Don't do it!**
10. **Office of AccessABILITY.** 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 E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212-772-4857)/ TTY (212- 650- 3230). **You must be registered with the Office of AccessABILITY to qualify for the accommodations.**
11. **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct.** In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.
  - a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)
  - b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose ([jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry ([colleen.barr7@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barr7@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

The CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link is:

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

CALENDAR for Fall 2017 GEOG 247 Cultural Geography  
This class meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:10 PM – 2:25 PM in Room 1022HN.  
Exam dates and work submission deadlines are subject to change.

Mon., Aug. 28 First class meeting.

Mon., Sep. 04 Labor Day (No class)

Thu., Sep. 14 Exercise 1 is due.

TUESDAY, Sep. 19 >>> THURSDAY SCHEDULE AT CUNY: WE MEET!

Thu., Sep. 21 No class

Mon., Oct. 02 Tentative date of EXAM I

Thu., Oct. 05 Exercise 2 is due

Mon., Oct. 09 Columbus Day (No class)

Thu., Oct. 26 Exercise 3 is due.

Thu., Nov. 16 Exercise 4 is due.

Thu., Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Day (No class)

Thu., Dec. 07 Exercise 5 is due.

Last day to hand in the **pre-approved** extra credit project  
(research paper or discussion paper).

Mon., Dec. 11 Last class lecture.

Thu., Dec. 14 Exam II (Final Exam) from 1:45-3:45 PM. Note different time.

Last day to hand in *Geography in the News* extra credit assignment.

### COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

1. Introduction to the Human Presence on Earth
2. Themes in Cultural Geography
3. Setting the Scene: The Physical Base for Culture
4. The Human Imprint - Folk and Popular Cultures
5. The Human Basis of Cultural Diversity – Demographics, Language, Ethnicity, Politics, Religion
6. Experiencing Culture - Travel and Tourism
7. Agriculture and its Impact on the Landscape
8. Economic Development and its Impact on the Landscape
9. Urbanization and its Impact on the Landscape
10. Cultural Areas within Cities: Neighborhoods

**CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY READINGS**

TOPICS	Required Textbook	Supplemental Reader
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1. Course Introduction	None	None
2. Themes in Cultural Geog.	Ch 1	<i>Culture</i> , pp 15-19 <i>Thick Description</i> , pp 29-39 <i>Concept of Culture</i> , pp 40-49 <i>Beyond Culture</i> , pp 60-67 <i>Morphology of Landscape</i> , pp 96-104 <i>Process</i> , pp 113-122 <i>The Word Itself</i> , pp 153-158 <i>Nature</i> , pp 207-211
3. Setting the Scene: The Physical Base for Culture	Ch 1	<i>Culture from Volkerkunde</i> , pp 83-89 <i>Physiogamy of France</i> , pp 90-95 <i>Creating a Second Nature</i> , pp 212-291
4. Folk and Popular Cultures	Ch 2	<i>Community</i> , pp 20-28 <i>Looking at Landscape</i> , pp 171-175 <i>Geography is Everywhere</i> , pp 176-185 <i>Reconfiguring Site and Horizon</i> , pp 194-200 <i>Nature at Home</i> , pp 226-231 <i>Human-Animal Divide</i> , pp 241-249
5. The Human Basis of Culture – Population	Ch 3	<i>National Geographic-The Rooting of Peoples and the Territorialization of National Identity</i> , pp 275-282 <i>Traveling Cultures</i> , pp 318-324 <i>The Production of Mobility</i> , pp 325-333 <i>On Not Excluding Half the Humans in Human Geography</i> , pp 365-372
6. The Human Basis of Culture – Population		
<b>7. EXAM I</b>	<b>REVIEW CLASS NOTES and READING ASSIGNMENTS</b>	
8. The Human Basis of Culture – Language	Ch 4	
9. The Human Basis of Culture – Ethnicity	Ch 5	<i>Representing Whiteness in the Black Imagination</i> , pp 373-379 <i>Mapping the Pure and Defiled</i> , pp 380-387
10. Human Control – The Politics of Culture	Ch 6	<i>The Idea of German Culture in the Third Reich</i> , pp 123-129 <i>Search for Common Ground</i> , pp 130-137 <i>Back to the Land</i> , pp 138-145 <i>Imperial Landscape</i> , pp 165-170 <i>No Place Like Heimat - Images of the Home(land)</i> , pp 297-303

11. The Human Basis of Culture – Religion	Ch 7	
12. Travel and Tourism	None	<i>The Tourist at Home</i> , pp. 343-350 <i>Destination Museum</i> , pp 448-456
13. Agriculture	Ch 8	<i>California: The Beautiful and The Damned</i> , pp 159-164 <i>Orchard</i> , pp 232-240
14. Economic Development	Ch 9	<i>Economic Development and the Landscape</i> , pp 105-112 <i>A Global Sense of Place</i> , pp 257-263 <i>New Cultures for Old?</i> pp 264-274 <i>Culture Sits in Places: Globalization/Localization</i> , pp 287-295 <i>Commercial Cultures: Transcending the Cultural and Economic</i> , pp 413-421 <i>The Expediency of Culture</i> , pp 422-430
15. Urbanization	Ch 10	<i>The Invention of Regional Culture</i> , pp 439-447
16. Urban Landscapes	Ch 11	<i>Contested Terrain: Teenagers in Public Space</i> , pp 395-401 <i>Whose Culture? Whose City?</i> pp 431-438
<b>17. EXAM II (final) REVIEW CLASS NOTES and READING ASSIGNMENTS</b>		

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# Geography

Five Themes to Help Understand the World and its People

