Geography 101 - People and Their Environment  
Section: MH1  
Wednesday: 10:10 AM-1:00 PM  
Room: HN1022  
Spring 2014  

Instructor: Nathaniel Sheets  
Email: nsheets@gc.cuny.edu  
Please include: GEOG101 in the subject line and sign your full name to any email you send me or I cannot guarantee a response.  

Black Board web site: http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu/  

Course Overview:  
This survey course will give you a broad overview of subjects and ideas in geography. We will explore the main ideas and concepts in physical and human geography. We will cover the geographical aspects of topics including weather and climate, landforms, religion, food, cities, economics, culture and resistance. 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 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.  

Course Objectives:  
As this is a survey course, not every topic of geography will be explored but you will have a greater understanding of the scholarly studies of physical, cultural, political, economic, and urban geography by the end of the semester.  

Expected Learning Outcomes:  
By the end of this course, students will have:  

- Comprehension of the main themes of physical and human geography.  
- Understanding of the complex and dynamic interrelations between and within human and non-human systems on earth.  
- Recognition of how spatial analyses can help analyze the world around us.  
- Appreciation of the ongoing natural and human processes that structure our world.  

Required Textbook:  

Available for purchase at Shakespeare & Company, 939 Lexington Avenue and online.
Additional readings will be available on Electronic Reserve.

**Requirements:**

1. **Attendance and Participation**
   Students are expected to come to class on time and have completed the required reading and any additional assignments. If you are unable to attend a class, be sure to get notes from a classmate as you will be held accountable for information from lectures on exams. Attendance will be taken at every session.

2. **Reading and Assignments**
   All students are expected to read the required text in its entirety as assigned prior to the beginning of each week of class. In addition, each student will be required to put the concepts from the class and text in conversation with an article from a news or journal source, and write a critical response demonstrating their comprehension of the material for that month as it relates to current events. Pick an article from a news source (e.g., the New York Times) and write a critical response detailing how the author fails or succeeds to use concepts we are learning in the course, and what this failure or success does for their argument and the issue being discussed. These responses are due each month and should be submitted electronically as a one-page double-spaced document with one-inch margins in Times New Roman and 12-point font.

3. **Exams**
   There will be three exams throughout the course. The first exam will cover chapters 1-4 as well as discussion material; the second exam will cover chapters 5-8 as well as discussion material; the final exam will cover chapters 9-12 as well as discussion material. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer, and will take one hour to complete followed by the continuation of class.

**Grading:**

- Attendance and Participation 15%
- Article Responses 20%
- First Exam 20%
- Second Exam 20%
- Final Exam 25%
- Total: 100%

**Hunter College’s Statement on Academic Honesty:**
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.

*For this class, all students will be required to write “I adhered to CUNY’s Policy on Academic Integrity on this assignment” followed by their signature on all exams and*
**written work.**

**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. Otherwise, I will average the grades I have for you and record you the grade you have earned.

**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 on the course’s site on Blackboard.

**Class Schedule:**

**Week 1: COURSE OVERVIEW**

1/29: First Class/ Overview of Semester

**Week 2: INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY**

2/5 Read Chapter 1

**Week 3: NO CLASS**

2/12 NO CLASSES SCHEDULED, READ AHEAD

**Week 4: WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

2/19: Read Chapter 2

**Week 5: LANDFORMS**
2/26: Read Chapter 3; FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE

**Week 6: BIOSPHERE**

3/12: Read Chapter 4; **FIRST EXAM, STUDY CHAPTERS 1-4**

**Week 7: EARTH'S RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

3/19: Read Chapter 5

**Week 8: POPULATION AND MIGRATION**

3/26: Read Chapter 6; SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE

**Week 9: CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY**

4/2: Read Chapter 7

**Week 10: LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS**

4/9: Read Chapter 8; **SECOND EXAM, STUDY CHAPTERS 5-8**

**Week 11: SPRING RECESS**

4/16: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED, READ AHEAD

**Week 12: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

4/23: Read Chapter 9; THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE

**Week 13: CITIES AND URBANIZATION**

4/30: Read Chapter 10

**Week 14: A WORLD OF STATES**

5/07: Read Chapter 11

**Week 15: ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT; CONCLUSIONS**

5/14: Read Chapter 12; FOURTH ASSIGNMENT DUE

**WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM**

5/21: CLASS WILL FOLLOW FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE