Geography 10100-People and Their Environment  
Lecture Section 05  

Fall 2015

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

Where: North Building Room 1036

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 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 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 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 practical and measurable conditions of our spatial world, as well as the knowledge and disciplinary approaches for making sense of those materials 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 knowledge.

The course is recommended for any student interested in being an informed citizen 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 maps, remote sensing and aerial photography, and geographic information systems.

3. A spatial understanding of social problems beyond our immediate experience of modern urban society, and of the precursors that laid the groundwork for that society and the differences of our experiences in it.

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

Requirements: Students must complete all reading, exams, and assignments, in addition to their attendance and participation. I will regularly assign group tasks in class that will require discussion, reflection, and writing. No more than 2 unexcused absences will be permitted to pass or receive credit for the course. Students are expected to have completed the week’s assigned readings before the first meeting of the week, so that they are prepared for lecture, discussion, and in-class assignments. Each week will include lecture as well as assignments to be completed in class. These assignments will combine with attendance for 35% of the total grade.

There will be 6 quizzes, each covering the material from 2 chapters each as well as any additional materials and discussion from the class. Each quiz will account for 5% of the overall grade, combing 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. It will be take-home format and distributed during our last class meeting, to be submitted in-person during the mandatory final period as scheduled by the College.
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. CR/NC forms must be submitted to me no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the final exam. No CR/NC form will be accepted after the final exam begins.

Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>35%</td>
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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, 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.

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:**

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Geography**
- Thursday August 27

**Week 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change**
- Tuesday September 1
- Thursday September 3

**Week 3: Landforms**
- Tuesday September 8
- Thursday September 10: CLASSES FOLLOW A MONDAY SCHEDULE

**Week 4: (Continued...)**
- Tuesday September 15: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED
- Thursday September 17: FIRST QUIZ ('W' assigned to course withdrawal begins today)

**Week 5: Biosphere**
- Tuesday September 22: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED
- Thursday September 24
- Friday September 25: CLASSES FOLLOW A TUESDAY SCHEDULE

**Week 6: Earth’s Resources and Environmental Protection**
- Tuesday September 29
- Thursday October 1

**Week 7: Population and Migration**
- Tuesday October 6: SECOND QUIZ
- Thursday October 8

**Week 8: Cultural Geography**
- Tuesday October 13
  - Thursday October 15

**Week 9: Languages and Religion**
• Tuesday October 20: THIRD QUIZ
• Thursday October 22

Week 10: Food and Agriculture
• Tuesday October 27
• Thursday October 29

Week 11: Cities and Urbanization
• Tuesday November 3: FOURTH QUIZ
• Thursday November 5

Week 12: A World of States
• Tuesday November 10
• Thursday November 12

Week 13: Economy and Development
• Tuesday November 17: FIFTH QUIZ
• Thursday November 19

Week 14: (Continued…)
• Tuesday November 24: SIXTH QUIZ
• Thursday November 26: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

Week 15: Synthesis with Articles To Be Assigned
• Tuesday December 1
• Thursday December 3

Week 16: Conclusions
• Tuesday December 8
• Thursday December 10: Final Exam Distributed

Final Exam:
• Tuesday December 22, 5:20PM-7:20PM: Final Exam Submitted in-Person