

Introduction to Human Geography
Geography 105, CRN 12065, 4 Credits
Winter Term, 2007
T/Th, 11:00 - 12:50 a.m.
PCC Sylvania, SS 121
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Course Overview: Geography means “a picture of the world” or “to measure the world.” Human Geography is the study of human life on the face of the earth. In today’s increasingly inter-connected world, there is probably no greater skill a student can gain than the tools of the geographer for understanding the larger world we live in.

Goals: There are three goals for this class.

1. To learn the logic of the discipline of geography as it describes human and natural processes and inter-relations
2. To become articulate in using the vocabulary of geography and in discussing the central themes of the study of geography
3. To prepare ourselves to be active, educated, participating citizens in the modern world

Materials: Jordan-Bychkov, et al, *The Human Mosaic: An Thematic Introduction to Cultural Geography*. NY: W.H. Freeman, 2006. (Required)

In addition, there are links to materials on our class website¹ which must be printed out and brought to class on the required day. Anything I ask you to print out will be fairly short, and you will not be violating any copyright laws by obtaining this material.

Core Content: Introduction and Fundamentals
Population and Migration
Culture and Landscape: Language, Religion and Ethnicity
Political Geography
Roundtable presentations

Requirements: There are three requirements for this class: (1) keep up on the reading, complete seven reading notes, (2) do eight short writing assignments, (3) do one short term project, in which you make a roundtable presentation and participate in a class conference.

¹These require Acrobat Reader 5.0, which is a free downloadable program. Please see me if you do not have this program, or cannot access it from the campus computers.

The grade is based on a total of 400 points:

Writing assignments	150	(25 pts. x 6 assignments)
Reading Notes	140	(20 pts. x 7 assignments)
Roundtable Presentation	60	
Class Conference	50	

Grading: 400 points: 360 – 400 = A; 320 – 359 = B; 280 – 319 = C; 240 – 279 = D.

Reading Notes: We will read chapters 1 - 7 in the *Human Mosaic*, though not in order. There are reading notes posted on our class website for each chapter. These notes are due (mostly) on Thursdays. They are worth 20 points each, and may be completed by hand if they are legible, or may be printed or copied. **Late reading notes lose five points for each class session they are late, including submitting them via email after class.**

Writing assignments: There are six (6) writing assignments posted on the class website. They are worth 25 points each, and are due at the beginning of each class on Tuesdays, as we use them as a basis for group activities. They should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, two to three pages, with good spelling and grammar. **Late writing assignments lose five points for each class session they are late, including submitting them via email after class.**

Term Project/Roundtable Presentation: We are often buffeted and confused about headline news, especially about outbreaks of civil war and ethnic strife, or even genocide, in other parts of the world. You will select one of the seemingly intractable ethnic conflicts in the world today and for the Roundtable Presentation, you will present your analysis of the conflict in terms of the elements of human geography we will cover during the class. At the class conference, we will decide upon potential settlements to these conflicts by using the global political and civil society structures available to us in this globalized era. More information on the project will be posted on the class website as the term continues.

Bonus Points: There are 30 bonus points available to you. If you attend all classes, you will automatically earn 15 of the bonus points. You may also see one of the films at the Cascade African Film Festival or the Portland International Film Festival and hand in a paper for a potential 15 points. More information is posted on the website.

Conduct of the Class: Each class begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 12:50 p.m.. Class will begin on time and continue for the entire length. There will be one break.

Classroom Manners: Best standards of classroom behavior apply.

1. Be courteous to your classmates and your instructor.
2. Turn off your cell phones and pagers.
3. If you come late or have to leave early, enter and leave the classroom without disturbing your classmates. Take a seat close to the door so you don't walk in front of the class or instructor.

4. During lectures or presentations, please refrain from talking. Hold your comments or questions to the end of a lecture or presentation.
5. Listen to your classmates attentively and respond to what they have to say respectfully.
6. Use clean language, appropriate for an academic setting.
7. If you need to consult with your instructor about something, do it before or after class, but not during class.
8. If you have an emergency, please feel free to leave the classroom. Emergency usually means something physical. Meeting a friend, making a call, buying a soda, or visiting the bookstore are not emergencies, they are personal business. Make arrangements to do this kind of task before or after class or during the break.
9. Best classroom behavior does not include listening to music, wandering around, studying for another class, reading a newspaper, text messaging, or any other form of not paying attention or participating. It does include sitting up straight in the chair, keeping one's feet off the furniture, and staying awake.
10. Food and drink are not allowed in class.

Caveats (or, a word to the wise):

Keep up with the class. Come prepared for class. Keep up on the readings, bring class preparation on the right days. Bring your writing assignments on the day they are due. Do your term project during the term, rather than wait until the end of the term. Bring your textbook to class.

Students with special needs can be accommodated. Students who have disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (ST 229, 503-977-4341, TTY 503-246-4072) for assistance in requesting classroom accommodations.

Do your own work. There is no credit given for work that you did not do yourself. You may do research on the Internet and cite sources from books, journals, interviews and the Internet, but be sure to cite your sources. If you are not sure how to do that, ask.

Scheduling surprises: Every effort will be made to keep to the class schedule, but in case of unforeseen circumstances, the class calendar may have to be adjusted. In that case, a revised calendar will be presented to the class as soon as possible, and it is the students' responsibility to know what they are supposed to do according to the revised calendar.

Come to me with any questions, suggestions, or problems. Do not wait until the end of the term to let me know that you are having a problem. You will find that I am approach-able, and that I respond well to reasonable adult behavior.

Teacher's Answer to Students' FAQs 😊

No, I don't have a stapler. Check the syllabus. Check the calendar. Did you keep the grade-tracking sheet? If you turn in your forgotten assignment via email when

you get home, it counts as late. Did you bring your textbook? Yes, we're doing something in class next time.

Drops and withdrawal policy:

If after you have attended some sessions you decide to withdraw, you must go to the registration department of PCC and make it official. Otherwise, you run the risk of getting an F in the class. If you have health or family problems during the term that make it difficult or impossible to finish the class, notify me immediately. If you have completed 75% of the course requirements and are in good standing (i.e., you are not failing), we can arrange for you to get an Incomplete. That will require signing a contract after we have determined how and when you will make up the remaining class requirements.

Contacting Me

The best way to contact me is through email. **Put the words "Geography 105" in your subject line.** I check my email in the mornings when I arrive on campus, but I sometimes forget to check it over the weekends.

You can also telephone me at the campus number. Again, I check my phone messages in the mornings when I arrive on campus, but I sometimes forget to check them over the weekend. **Leave a contact method in your message** (except long distance), and it also helps me if you tell me what day and time you called.

BOTTOM LINE: This is the class you came to college to take - - to learn more about the world. It is the first of a three-part series. 106 studies "countries and capitals;" 107 covers economic geography and world development issues. I truly hope you enjoy this class, that you learn more than you thought you didn't know, and that you improve your academic and intellectual skills.