

GEOG 581
Human Geography
Spring 2008

TR 9:40-11, 104 James Hall
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Office hours: TR 11-12; W 1-2

Purpose of the course

This course is a thematic introduction to the geography of human activity. It is intended to acquaint you with the major subject areas in human geography, including nature-society interactions, population patterns, cultural geography, place and landscape, economic development, political geography, and urbanization. As a broad introductory course, it emphasizes breadth over depth. The Department of Geography also offers courses on specific fields within human geography, such as urban or political geography, which explore those subjects in greater detail.

Examinations

There will be three exams, each covering one-third of the course. Each of the exams will be worth 25 percent of a student's semester grade, 75 percent total. The last exam will be given during the final exam period, but will not be comprehensive and will have the same format and length as the other exams. Exams may include identification, short answer, and essay questions, and are intended to measure student's general understanding of key course themes, concepts, and issues. Students are required to bring an unmarked blue book to class on exam days.

Exercises

Students are required to complete six short exercises designed to get them to think about key course themes. The exercises together will be worth 25 percent of each student's semester grade. Only a student's five highest exercise grades will count. The nature of each exercise is summarized in the course schedule below. More detailed instructions for each assignment will be distributed at least two weeks before the assignment is due. Exercises must be typeset, double-spaced and printed on only one side of each sheet, unless otherwise specified. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Grading

Final grades will be assigned based on the traditional scale in which an A represents work of exceptional quality (90 percent or better), a B is considered good (80-89 percent), a C is satisfactory (70-79 percent), a D is poor (60-69 percent), and an F is unsatisfactory (below 60 percent). The instructor may modify that scale downward if the class as a whole performs below expectations. Plus grades will be awarded to any student in the B, C, or D ranges whose semester average is within two percentage points of the minimum score for the next highest letter grade. Minus grades will be awarded to any student in the A, B, C, or D ranges whose semester average is within two percentage points of the next lowest letter grade. No extra credit is available.

Students are also required to complete a personal information card and turn it in no later than Tuesday, January 29. Any student who fails to turn in a card by that date will have one percentage point deducted from their final grade.

Attendance, missed exams, tardiness

Attendance will not be taken, but students are responsible for obtaining notes from classmates for any classes missed. The instructor will not re-teach material or provide notes to individual students. Students are responsible for obtaining information about any announcements made during class periods they miss.

Makeup exams will rarely be permitted and will only be considered when circumstances beyond a student's control prevent them from taking an exam during the scheduled class period. Students who think they have a legitimate excuse must notify the instructor by e-mail or telephone *before the exam begins*, or, when that is logistically impossible, very soon afterwards on the same day. The student must also be able to prove the excuse in writing (doctor's note, towing receipt with time listed, etc.). Conflicts with jobs, other classes, and personal activities are not satisfactory excuses. Exams cannot be taken early for any reason.

Any exercise turned in after the due date will be docked one letter grade for each school day it is late. Lateness will be excused only when circumstances beyond a student's control prevent them from submitting an exercise on time, the student notifies the instructor before the exercise is due or very soon afterward, and can prove their excuse.

Academic honesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be severely punished when discovered. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, ask the instructor or see the university's *Students Rights, Rules and Responsibilities* handbook, available at <http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/srrr0708.pdf>

Blackboard

The university's Blackboard computer system (<http://blackboard.unh.edu/>) will serve as an archive for course materials, will provide students access to their grades, and may be used as a method for distributing information between class meetings. The instructor will assume that the e-mail address linked to each student's Blackboard account is their primary e-mail address and that they check it regularly.

Textbook

Paul L. Knox and Sallie A. Marston. *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context*. Fourth edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2007.

Tentative Course Schedule

January 22: Introduction to the course.

January 24-29: Human geography. Read chapter 1.

January 29: Personal information card due.

January 31-February 7: Changing global context. Read chapter 2.

February 5: Mental mapping exercise due.

February 12-19: Nature and society. Read chapter 4.

February 19: Waste diary exercise due.

February 21: Exam 1.

February 26-March 4: Population patterns. Read chapter 3

March 6-13: Cultural geography. Read chapter 5.

March 11: Family migration exercise due.

March 17-21: Spring break; no classes.

March 25-April 1: Place and landscape. Read chapter 6.

April 1: Sense of place exercise due.

April 3: Exam 2

April 8-15: Economic development. Read chapters 7 and 8.

April 17: Instructor at Association of American Geographers' meeting; no class.

April 22-29: Political geography. Read chapter 9.

April 22: Geography of your closet exercise due.

May 1-8: Urbanization. Read chapters 10 and 11.

May 8: Electoral geography exercise due.

May 20, 8-10 a.m.: Exam 3