

# **Geography 101: People and their Environments**

**Mondays and Thursdays– 2:45 PM– 4:00 PM**

**North Building – C002**

Course/Section Number: 7920 – Section 04  
Instructor: Ms. Ekaterina Bezborodko  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Instructor's Email: eb926@hunter.cuny.edu

## **Course Overview**

Geography is one of the most wide-ranging university disciplines, with its mission to explain the interactions of the human and natural worlds to produce our modern life, with its environmental and social complexity. This course is an introduction to both physical and human geography, with topics ranging from climate change and plate tectonics to globalization and political boundaries. It is an introduction to the major subfields of the discipline, major patterns of natural and human activity at the global level, and major theories and techniques for thinking spatially. A special emphasis is placed on the interrelatedness of these phenomena, with topics building upon each other throughout the course.

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Identify major forces of the physical world – atmospheric, biological, and geochemical processes and the resulting distribution of biomes, weather patterns, and landscapes.
- Identify major trends in human activities such as population dynamics, migration, cultural practices, economic activities, and impacts on the environment.
- Describe how these interact and impact each other to produce complex phenomena such as globalization and climate change.
- Read maps and related spatial graphics for basic information and to make inferences and connections.
- Consider and compare a variety of theoretical outlooks on major world problems such as environmental degradation, inequality, and political conflict.
- Understand the breadth of geography as an academic discipline with a variety of professional applications.

## **Materials**

Required readings will be posted on Blackboard. Expect to read 2-3 articles/book excerpts or 4-5 shorter news media articles each week. Readings need to be done by the time you come to class on the day for which the reading is posted.

Optional: The course will broadly follow the outline of this textbook, but all crucial information will be available in the required readings/materials. You are welcome to buy an inexpensive used copy or consult the book on reserve at the library as a study guide. Dahlman, Carl and William Renwick.

***Introduction to Geography: People, Places & Environment***, 6/E. ISBN-13: 978-0321843333 ,ISBN-10: 0321843339 2014 Prentice Hall.

Optional: Recommended: Goode's World Atlas – any edition within the last five years is suitable; other recent atlases that cover both physical and political features are acceptable.

## **Requirements**

**Attendance, Reading, Self-guided Study** You are expected to read all materials and study all maps presented to you. Attendance is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended and will be tracked with a sign-in sheet. Regular attendance will be rewarded when considering borderline final grades (1 point away from next letter grade), and for students who request additional help with understanding the material. I will not use office hours re-explain lecture content to students who regularly miss lectures without documented reasons. College courses often require students to master a certain amount of materials through self-directed study. I will provide guidelines and materials for what I expect students to cover on their own, in relation to the concepts explained in lectures. Optional reading quizzes will be available to check your understanding of both lecture and independent materials. I am available for questions if confusion arises.

## **Map Quizzes and Map Exercises**

There will be four map quizzes, each of which requires you to identify countries, cities, and major physical features on a continent. Each regular exam will include a separately-graded map quiz, and the final exam will include two of them. You can expect to spend about 5 minutes on each quiz, so as to leave plenty of time for the exam. The three map exercises are out-of-class assignments using assigned maps, to be completed on Blackboard. The goal is to practice your map interpretation skills while analyzing major spatial patterns of phenomena covered by this course.

## **Exams**

Three exams will be administered, including the final. These cannot be rescheduled except for documented emergencies. A large part of the exam will be essay questions that you will have a chance to prepare for ahead of time, and you are not likely to be able to thoroughly answer all exam questions without actually considering your essay answers ahead of time. However, you will not be able to bring any essay outlines with you to the closed-book exams.

## **Anonymous Surveys**

There will be two anonymous surveys via Blackboard, one at the start and one at the end of the course. I will be able to see whether you completed them or not, but will not be able to trace your individual answers to your name. The first survey will help me take into account your interests and academic preparation, while the second survey is your chance to evaluate course materials and tell me what you enjoyed most and least. This is separate from and in addition to Hunter's formal student evaluation process, which pertains to my conduct as instructor, which is administered through a separate portal, and does not affect your course grade.

## **Blackboard**

Our course page on Blackboard will be used to communicate important announcements such as schedule changes and to administer the optional quizzes and the required map exercises. Please make sure you check the e-mail account that is linked to Blackboard (usually your official college e-mail).

## **Classroom Etiquette**

Please arrive to class on time. Turn off all cell phones and similar devices. There should be no texting or browsing the internet during class. Please save side conversations for a later time, and raise your hand to talk. If your phone use or talking is audible, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

## **Emails and meeting requests**

You are very welcome to get in touch with any questions about the course, the field of geography, and any topics we study. You are also welcome to request an in-person meeting via e-mail – please note that without prior arrangement, I’m not likely to be in the adjunct office. Please include “GEOG 101” in the subject line, and sign with your full name. Emails without signatures or subject lines will not be answered. I will make all efforts to answer e-mails within two working days.

## **Grading**

Map quizzes	12% (4 x 3% each)
Map exercises	21 % (3 x 7% each)
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20 %
Final Exam	25% (1/4 cumulative, 3/4 based on last third of course materials)
Anonymous Survey	2% (2 x 1%)

- Extra credit may be available through extra quiz questions or other opportunities, TBA.
- Exams and late map exercises can only be rescheduled based on documented or exceptional circumstances, such as illness, bereavement, or documented family emergency. Please contact me as soon as possible. If you will need to reschedule due to a religious observance or other pre-scheduled event, it is your responsibility to address this *before* the exam or due date.
- An Incomplete (IN) grade will not be give unless you have an exceptional and documented emergency. For an **IN** to be awarded you must contact me about making up any missed assignments and fill out the *Contract to Resolve an Incomplete Grade* form **within 72 hours** of the day/time of the final exam. The IN will become an FIN at the end of the following semester if you do not complete the work.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NCR) forms will be accepted before the final exam - submit them **by December 18, 2017, 1:45 pm**. No forms will be accepted after the beginning of the final exam. To qualify for the CR/NCR option students must have completed all of the course work (exams, quizzes, exercises, etc.). CR-NCR grades will be assigned based on

the rules outlined on the CR/NCR form. If you think you'll need this option, *please* speak to your department advisors and also to me to make sure it is in your best interest.

### **Hunter College Statement on Academic Integrity**

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.

### **ADA Policy (from 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 E 1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

### **Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms 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 relationships. 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.barry@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu) or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:

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

### **Schedule**

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE – NOTICE WILL BE GIVEN IN CLASS AND VIA BLACKBOARD; EXAMS AND EXERCISES DUE DATES WILL REMAIN THE SAME UNLESS RESCHEDULED DUE TO COLLEGE-WIDE EMERGENCY CLOSURE

### **M, August 28 and Th, August 31**

Introduction to Geography: What is geography? Geographical concepts. Mapping the world.

PLEASE TAKE FIRST SURVEY BY AUGUST 31

**NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 4 – LABOR DAY**

**Th, September 7, M, September 11, Th. September 14**

Weather, Climate, and Climate Change Dynamics

**M, September 18, Tuesday, September 19 (follows Thursday schedule)**

Landforms, geological processes, and geological hazards.

**NO CLASS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

**M, September 25 and Thursday, September 28**

Biological processes, ecology, and biomes.

**M, October 2: Population Dynamics**

Distribution and prediction of population, demographic transitions around the world, gender and age ratios.

**Map Exercise 1 Due**

**Th, October 5: Exam 1 & Map Quiz 1: Americas**

Exam will cover everything up to, and not including, population dynamics.

**M, OCTOBER 9 – NO CLASS**

**Th, October 12: Health Geography**

Population dynamics of health geography – emerging diseases, access to healthcare, environmental justice and health.

**M, October 16: Introduction to Economic Geography**

Economic systems, comparing economies around the world, measuring poverty

**Th, October 19 and M, October 23: Agriculture**

Agricultural systems and their distribution, agriculture and climate change, urban agriculture

**Th, October 26 and M, October 30: Cities and Urbanization**

Urban forms around the world, global gentrification, urban ecology

**Th, November 2: Energy Resources**

Fossil fuel, traditional, and alternative energy sources; their distribution and use across agricultural and urban landscapes

**M, November 6: Introduction to Political Geography**

State forms, government types, and their distribution around the world

**Map Exercise 2 Due**

**Th, November 9: Exam 2 and Map Quiz 2: Europe and post-Soviet Asia**

Exam will cover everything from Population Dynamics to Energy Resources, and will *not* cover Introduction to Political Geography

**M, November 13: Political Geography continued**

The dilemmas of nation states, borders, and refugees

**Th, November 16: Political/Economic Geography**

Governing global economies and environments: forms of cooperation, points of dispute

**M, November 17: Global Economy Beyond States**

Labor and capital migration case studies

**NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

**M, November 27, Th, November 30<sup>th</sup>, M, December 4: Cultural Geography: Language and Religion**

**December 11: Cultural Geography of the Future – Ideas and Movements**

**DECEMBER 18: FINAL EXAM – AND MAP QUIZZES 3 (Asia) &4 (Africa) \*\*\*\*\*1:45-3:45\*\*\*\*\***  
**SAME ROOM, DIFFERENT TIME**

**Exit Survey due by December 18**

**75% of the exam will cover Political Geography – Cultural Geography**

**25% of the exam will cover topics from prior exam**