

Geography 101: People and their Environments, 10581 – Section 04

Tuesdays and Thursdays– 5:30pm-6:45pm

Classes in person in North Building – Room 1036

Instructor: Prof. Rafael A. Mutis García

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-4:30pm in HN1032

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Course Overview & Learning Outcomes, Texts

Course Overview

Welcome! 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 lives, with its environmental and social complexities. This course is an introduction to both physical and human geography, with topics ranging from climate change and plate tectonics to globalization, political boundaries, and world cultures and their interactions. 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.

We are here to learn together in a respectful atmosphere and this will mean that we take each other seriously.

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.
- * Analyze course topics using geographic concepts such as scale and spatial process.
- * Understand the breadth of geography as an academic discipline with a variety of professional applications.

Required texts:

Dahlman, C and W. Renwick (2014) *Introduction to Geography: People, Places, and Environment*. (6th ed) Pearson. ISBN: 9780321843333 . **PLEASE GET THE 2014 SIXTH EDITION!**

There is a copy on reserve, but that is just 1 for 100 students. Shakespeare & Co. has copies available to buy, and you can also check chegg.com (to rent or buy), Amazon.com, AbeBooks.com for less expensive copies. Please be sure to get the 6th (2014) edition.

Other required and supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard. We will go over how to use Blackboard, but the Hunter IT people are very helpful and patient, and they offer good guidance in using Blackboard successfully.

Learning Activities and Grading

<i>Learning Activity</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
Discussion Group Participation	30%
Map Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	10%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	15%
Extra Credit (on final grade)	5%

Hunter Policies -

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act of 1990-

All students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation.

For information and an appointment contact the Office located in Room E1214B, or call 212-772-4857 /or VP 646-755- 3129 or contact accessability@hunter.cuny.edu

Policy on sexual harassment/misconduct- <http://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/Sexual-Misconduct.pdf>

Policy on academic integrity: <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/>

Expectations -

Class participation - Asking questions and helping make the class lectures and readings more interactive for all of us is a helpful way to learn and to enrich our classes together. This will require that you have done the readings for the particular theme/the chapter in the textbook we are discussing that day. Please be brief and to the point in your comments or questions, so we can all participate in such a big class, throughout the semester, as much as possible.

Discussion Groups - You will participate in these ten discussions throughout the semester on given class dates by discussing topics of the day, and previous topics within small groups of five (5) with your peers. This requires that you have read the chapter for that class day and that you have thought critically about it. This is a great opportunity to share what you learned from the readings and the lectures with your peers, and is a great way to learn from different perspectives, to get a more complete understanding of the materials, and to have sustainable conversations in such a large class.

You will discuss these topics with each other in small groups of five, and your group will then take turns briefly presenting what you discussed to the rest of the class. Since we have such a big class, you groups will take turns presenting. In addition, you will need to turn in a page that summarizes your discussion and notes every one's contributions. Everyone will have the same

guiding questions to be able to think through and articulate critically what you learned and share that with each other and the larger class.

Map Quizzes - Recognizing and being able to identify countries, regions and topographies on the planet is an important part in learning to think geographically. There will be ten of these throughout the semester, and they will be based on the places we learn about in the interactive lectures, videos and graphics we discuss throughout the semester. These will be taken on Blackboard, and more details soon.

Exams - The midterm and final exams will be cumulative, up to the dates that these are taken in class, and will involve thinking critically about all the themes we are learning about and discussing. Because this class is so large, we will use Scantron tests. I imagine that you can purchase the Scantron answer sheets from Shakespeare & CO., but I have to confirm that.

Group Presentations - You will present what you learned about a particular theme/chapter at the end of the semester in a creative and summary way. This will include what you learned in this class, what you found interesting and surprising about geography for a particularly chapter or theme that you chose. This will also be your discussion group for the semester.

Extra Credit - You can earn up to five (5) points on your final grade when you briefly articulate concrete experiences (personal, neighborhood, country, or related learning ones such as something you read or saw) connected to the topics we are discussing on any particular class throughout the semester.

Plagiarism and cheating will entail serious consequences, following the CUNY and Hunter College rules of conduct. Please be responsible for your education, and do not put any of us in a situation where disciplinary action will be required. We are here to learn together and debate your thought-out opinions based on verifiable facts as we will be studying physical and human geographies and their interactions.

Class dates, topics and assignments

August 25 - Introductions, to the course, requirements & expectations

August 30 - Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography

September 1 - Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography discussion groups

September 6 - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change

September 8 - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change discussion groups

September 13 - Chapter 3: Landforms

September 15 - Chapter 4: Biosphere; **Map Quiz 1**

September 20 - Chapter 5: Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection

September 22 - Chapter 5: Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection discussion groups; **Map Quiz 2**

September 27 - Chapter 6: Population and Migration

September 29 - Chapter 7: Cultural Geography

October 4 - Chapter 7: Cultural Geography discussion groups; **Map Quiz 3**

October 6 - Chapter 8: Languages and Religions

October 11 - Midterm Exam

October 13 - Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture

October 18 - Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture discussion groups; **Map Quiz 4**

Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization

October 20 , 25- Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization discussion groups: **Map Quiz 5**

October 27, Nov 1 - Chapter 11: A World of States discussion groups; **Map Quiz 6**

November 3 - Chapter 12: Economy and Development

November 8 - Chapter 12: Economy and Development discussion groups; **Map Quiz 7**

November 10 - Colonization and imperialism

November 15 - Climate Change Prevention, Mitigation & Resiliency; **Map Quiz 8**

November 17 - Critical Cartography Discontents; discussion groups

November 22 - Carceral Geographies & Abolition; **Map Quiz 9**

November 24 - **No class**

November 29 - Food sovereignty; **Map Quiz 10**

December 1 - In-depth Discussions on Relevance of In-Class Media; discussion groups

December 6 - Work on Group projects

December 8 - Group project presentations

December 13 - Group project presentations

December 15 - Review, evaluations and lessons learned

December 20 - Final Exam