

Geography 100: People and their Environment
10100 – 01 Summer Session I, 2024
Mondays and Wednesdays– 3:30pm-6:28pm,
On-line synchronous

Instructor: Prof. Rafael A. Mutis García
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-2:30pm
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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/borders, world cultures and their interactions. It is an introduction to the major fields within 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.

In order to do this well, and together, we will learn together in a respectful, collegial atmosphere of learning and thinking critically, and this will mean that we take each other seriously, listen and learn from each other, and together.

Learning Outcomes –

By the end of the course, you, the 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 foundational information and to make inferences and connections.
- * Analyze course topics using geographic concepts such as scale and spatial processes.
- * Understand the breadth of geography as an academic discipline with a variety of professional applications.

All assignments must be posted on by your group on Blackboard for our class by the due dates. You will post as a group, that I randomly selected at the beginning of the semester. You will post your 6 Chapter Summaries & Group Reports on you Group Blogs. You will need to read all chapters, but I am giving you a break in summarizing 6 of those. The midterm exam will also be taken on Blackboard & will be timed at 1.5 hours.

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 it successfully. Please check in with them, since this is how you will be posting your assignments on your group blog, which you will get assigned on day 1.

Required text-

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 couple of copies of the textbook on reserve in the Library, but that is just 2 for all students in several sections of this course. Shakespeare & Co. (on Lexington Ave & 68th Street) has copies available to buy, the e-books are much cheaper, and you can also check book sellers on the internet for less expensive copies. **Here is the link to order it from the Hunter College Bookstore, which is Shakespeare & Co. - GEOG 10100, Section 01: [People and their Environment](#) .**

Please be sure to get the 6th (2013/14) edition; NOT the global nor the regional edition.

Reading all of the chapters in the textbook is the foundation of this class, and you will need to summarize as a group 6 of those chapters. These will be assigned at the beginning of the semester.

Other required and supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Learning Activities and Grading –

Learning Activity	% of Final Grade
Attendance	15%
Group Work & Participation	25%
Class Lecture Participation	20%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Group Project Presentation	30%
Extra Credit (on final grade)	5%

Hunter Policies -

Policy 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 Academic Integrity Procedures.

Students with Disabilities:

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 E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212- 772- 4857)/TTY (212- 650- 3230).

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms 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 relationship. 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. 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, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)

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 or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry 5 (colleen.barr7@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123. Policy on Sexual Misconduct can be found at <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/title-ix>

Preferred Gender Pronoun

All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, we will have the chance to indicate the name that we prefer to be called and, if we choose, to identify pronouns with which we would like to be addressed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and support classmates in doing so as well.

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/chapter in the textbook we are discussing that day. Please be brief and to the point in your summaries and in your participation in the class lectures, so we can all learn from each other in our class, throughout the semester, as much as possible.

Group Work - You will participate in discussions & write up six (6) chapter summaries answering the four questions in separate formal one-page assignments per chapter. You will then post these to Blackboard throughout the semester on given class dates after discussing topics/chapters within small groups of your peers. This also 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 previous interactive class lectures with your peers, is a great way to learn from different perspectives, to get a more complete understanding of the materials, and to have sustainable conversations in our on-line class.

By 11:59pm the next day after we first discussed the theme/chapter in the class, you will need to summarize your group discussion in a one-page summary by answering the four questions for each chapter; see the Rubrics for Group Chapter Summaries & Group Reports on Blackboard. Be sure that everyone in your group is included/represented, by answering the questions about the chapter(s) in your textbook. Since it is a one-page summary, you cannot have every one answer every question in that summary but be sure to clearly include everyone's thoughts in your group and get their consent to include their comments and its content. For each group of five, for example, you will each have 2 turns to document/coordinate what your group discussed and post it on Blackboard in your Group Blog, by the due date. I will give you your assigned groups, and you will need to exchange contact information with each other on Day 1, and possibly do longer discussions outside of our classroom lectures, since time is short and we have a lot of exciting material to cover. You will also need to post two(2) detailed Group Progress Reports, see the due dates on the syllabus, and these will help you prepare for your Group Presentation as your final exam at the end of the semester.

Midterm Exam - The midterm exam will be cumulative, up to the date that it is taken in class and will involve thinking critically about all the themes we are learning about and discussing. This will include 10 short essay questions which you will answer on Blackboard, and will be timed, for one sitting on the due date.

Group Presentations – In addition to a spatial discussion of your and your group's intersectionality and topography, you will present what you learned about particular themes of your choosing, at the end of the semester in an applied, creative and summary way for 10 minutes for each group. This will include your choice of what geographical concepts you learned in this class, what you found interesting and surprising about geography themes that you chose and applying those concepts to your group in an intersectional and topographical way to give us a complete picture who you are using spatial analysis. There is a document called Group Project Parameters on Blackboard for our class with a good deal of detail of the requirements; please read it carefully throughout the semester so you can be on track to give a great group presentation. After each group presentation, everyone will participate in giving you **RESPECTFUL feedback** with clarifying questions, what you did well, and what you can improve on for next time.

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

Class dates, topics and assignments

May 29 - Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography & Logistics

June 3 - Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change: **post separate Ch. 1 & 2 summaries by June 4, 11:59pm**

June 5 - Chapter 3: Landforms & Chapter 4: Biosphere; **post separate Ch. 3 & 4 summaries by June 6, 11:59pm**

June 10 - Chapter 5: Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection; **post Ch. 5 summary by June 11, 11:59pm**

June 12- Chapter 11: A World of States; **post 1st Group Progress Report by June 13, 11:59pm**

June 17 – Chapter 12: Economy & Development; **post separate Ch. 11 & 12 summaries by June 18, 11:59pm**

June 19 – Juneteenth Holiday (no class on this day)

June 24 - **Midterm Exam (online on Blackboard, timed for 1.5 hours)**; Chapter 6: Population and Migration; **post Ch. 6 summary by June 25, by 11:59pm**

June 26 - Chapter 7: Cultural Geography

July 1 – Chapter 8: Languages and Religions; **post separate Ch. 7 & 8 summaries on July 2, 11:59pm**

July 3 - Chapter 9: Food and Agriculture- **post 2nd Group Progress Report by July 5, 11:59pm; post Ch. 9 summary by July 5, 11:59pm**

July 8 – Chapter 10: Cities and Urbanization; **post Ch. 10 summary by July 5, 11:59pm**

July 10 – Group presentations