

**GEOG 101.00 People and the Environment**  
**Spring 2021**  
**Sec CN-1, Code 05164: Sat 9.10 am - Noon**  
**Synchronous Online**

**Instructor:** Prof. Henry Sirotin

**Office Hours:** Online, by email, 24/7.

**Email:** [hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu); please make sure that all email messages include GEOG 101 in the subject line, and also sign your text with your full name. I do not respond to unsigned emails from addresses like kissmesweetie2960. I generally respond to emails within 24 hours, frequently sooner. If you haven't heard from me in over that time, please repeat the message. I have 160 students in five different courses, and sometimes things get lost in the traffic.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The course will cover an introduction to the nature of contemporary geography, geographic methods, and elements of the two major subdivisions of the field, physical (the natural world) and human (the cultural world), as seen from the spatial perspective. You will learn how geographers view and assess the world, how elements of the natural world (climate and landforms) that significantly affect human activity are themselves created, and two how they are synoptically synergized with key elements of human geography- population dynamics and economic systems.

The course is recommended for any student interested in being an informed citizen in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. You will learn global spatial relationships, the fundamentals of weather, current thinking on global population issues, and the basics of spatial economic analysis.

Learning outcomes include being able to

1. Define and explain the disciplinary content of geography, based on the five themes used by NYSED in curriculum development..
2. Recognize and critique the role of scale in geography and the use of geographic tools, including maps, remote sensing and aerial photography, and geographic information systems.
3. Analyze and discuss the basic processes of climatology and geomorphology- weather and the development of the land surface.
4. Explain and discuss key factors in population studies, such as the Demographic Transition, and spatial factors in agriculture and industry.

**Course Materials::**

Dahlman and Renwick, *Introduction to Geography*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Prentice-Hall, 2013, ISBN 9780321843333  
Erlyn and I are now working to provide online copies, or other suitable coverage.

I will be communicating with you by email and by Blackboard, so make sure your Blackboard account is active, ***and has a correct email address for you.*** I will not be responsible for bounce backs from your accounts.

**Course Presentation:**

We will be using Zoom, with lectures presented using Blackboard. Zoom codes will be emailed to you Friday evening for the following morning. All assignments, notifications, and exams will be via Blackboard. .

Each weeks' Powerpoints will be posted. In addition, the Zoom recording of the class will be posted.

As for questions in class, **there is no such thing as a dumb question** (Can't always vouch for the answers on my part, but that's another story.) If you are not sure of something, chances are someone else is as well. Ask! It will often lead to useful repetition or discussion.

Exams will not be given during class time. Further details on the exams will be announced.

If a personal problem develops during the semester relating to this course **DO NOT LET THE PROBLEM BECOME SERIOUS BEFORE DISCUSSING IT WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR.** It is better to talk early-on so we can attempt to find a solution. All conversations are in strict confidence.

### **Grading:**

- There will be two class exams and a final exam, all in short answer format.
- The exams will not be cumulative.
- The final grade will be determined on an average of the three exams, with allowance for class participation, and will be assigned as a letter grade based on the numerical standards that can be found in the Hunter College Undergraduate Catalogue.
- Exam dates are tentative, but I will provide at least one week's notice on the specific date.
- All exams, or approved make-ups, must be taken. Missing an exam will require explanation and any makes-ups will be scheduled at my convenience

*Please be aware that the number of students I have each term makes it impossible for me to offer extra credit assignments.*

An incomplete (IN) will be granted only under exceptional circumstances. A student must request the grade BEFORE the final exam and present evidence of a satisfactory reason, as well as having done "C" work or better PRIOR to the filing of the incomplete; otherwise, the student will receive a grade of WU. Students who desire an IN will have to sign a Departmental completion contract with the instructor.

Credit/No credit (C/NC) will only be given if requested BEFORE the final exam, and to receive it all prior work must have been completed.

### **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 CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations

*Except for changes that substantially affect grading, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be given in class and through Blackboard notification. I will take time off from the syllabus to discuss any major breaking issue with strong geographic content that is relevant to your role as a citizen in a democratic state.*

### **ADA Policy**

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 E1214B, 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 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. 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, on 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 or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry (colleen.barr7@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>

### **Calendar:**

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>            First day of class  
March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>        No classes; Spring Break  
May 15<sup>th</sup>            Last day of class

### **Course Outline:**

1. Geographical Concepts [chap. 1]
  - a. Introduction to Human geography: the cultural landscape
  - b. The Five Themes of Geography I: location, connection, and region
  - c. The Five Themes of Geography II: spatial interaction and the human-environmental interface
2. The Geographer's Tools [chap. 1 cont.]
  - a. Scale and Maps
  - b. Remote Sensing, Geographic Information, and Global Positioning Systems

### ***First Exam***

3. The Physical World
  - a. Weather and Climate [chap. 2]
    - (1) Insolation and Temperature
    - (2) Pressure and Wind
    - (3) Precipitation and Climate Regions
  - b. Landforms [chap. 3]
    - (1) Plate Tectonics and Building Forces
    - (2) Wearing Forces

### ***Second Exam***

#### 4. The Human World

- a. Population [chap. 5]
  - (1) Spatial Demography
  - (2) Demographic and Epidemiological Transitions
  
- b. Economic Structure [chaps. 8, 12]
  - (1) Agriculture
  - (2) Industry

#### *Final Exam*