

HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 247 CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY
Guidelines Fall 2017

Cultural Ecology: study of the relationship between the habitat (physical environment) and culture.

Exercise 1: Human Adaptation (*Cultural Ecology*). Select **two (2) areas** from the list below (but only one area from any one continent). For each area selected: **(a) incorporate the following points into your discussion including** - location on earth; traditional/historic ethnic geography of the area; cultural identification including language, religion, traditional housing, clothing style and food; aspects of acculturation and assimilation over time; accessibility to the outside world and movement within the area; and economic base; **(b) point out the similarities and/or differences** of the two culture groups selected; and **(c) include two maps for each area** - a continent locator map and an annotated regional map showing details the area being discussed.

Select 2 from the following unique physical areas:

- a. High elevation plateau or mountain basin (extreme conditions of altitudes >9,000 ft.)
- b. Hot summer desert area (extreme conditions of heat and dryness)
- c. Middle latitude plains or steppes (marked seasonality on a flat surface)
- d. River delta or area of coastal barrier islands (relationship with the world of water)
- e. Steep-sloped landform area (rugged expanse with limited flat land)
- f. Sub-polar tundra region (extreme cold in areas of variable periods of light and darkness)
- g. Tropical rainforest region (extreme conditions of heat and humidity)

ADD A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCE MATERIAL at the end of your write-up.

DUE DATE: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Start with an **introductory paragraph** in which you set the scene by defining cultural ecology and telling what you are going to do. Explain why you selected the two areas from the list of seven.

Then **talk about each area separately** unless you are good about doing a running comparison.

STAY ON TOPIC. Focus on the cultural response (adaptation) within a set of physical parameters. This is not a travelogue, a country national history or a present-day commentary. Remove excess material before submitting this for grading. **Use your own words:** articles you consult do not know this assignment's theme!

The word traditional is included and underlined for a purpose. An ethnic geography is a discussion of the spatial aspects of ethnicity of a group of people within a region: What are their traits? What distinguishes them within their physical setting? Why do they paint their skin blue? Why are they nomadic? Why do they speak a unique language? What are the components of a traditional diet? How have they managed to remain unique – or not?

End with a summary and conclusion. Here you highlight the characteristics discussed in the body of the assignment. Here is where you “compare and contrast” the two areas and the people who inhabit them.

Include appropriate maps. At least 4 maps are needed unless you use a world map to locate both areas. In addition to the continent locator map, you need a detailed map of each area discussed.

Your **bibliography** must be at least 4 entries long plus entries for the maps used. **NEVER** use just one source of information. **NEVER use just Wikipedia.** All web addresses must be annotated to tell me what the link contains. Sometimes it is oblivious. Most times it is not.

PROOF READ, SPELL CHECK and PROOF READ AGAIN. Check sentence structure, capitalization and the sense of the sentence/paragraph (*What are you saying? Does it make sense?*). ©AFG 0817