

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

Cultural Diffusion: study of the spread of elements of culture from point of origin to other areas.

Exercise 2: Documenting the Spatial Spread of Cultural Phenomena (**Cultural Diffusion**).
(a) Select a topic of interest to you and through a **series of maps** show its linear (surface) and temporal (time) movement from point of origin to present day spread. **NOTE:** You may photocopy a map sequence from an atlas or book, download and print a map series from an internet source or compile a map sequence from several sources combining photocopies and downloads. **(b) Explain** what each map shows. **(c) Analyze** the path of movement and means of diffusion.
ADD A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCE MATERIAL at the end of your write-up.
DUE DATE: Thursday, October 5, 2017

Start with an **introductory paragraph** in which you set the scene by defining *cultural diffusion* and telling what you are going to do. Explain why you selected the topic you are presenting and explain how the maps you included illustrate this diffusion.

Then talk about the diffusion. Begin with its starting point (both time and place). Include cultural parameters and perceptions (background information). Discuss movement: Where was the point of origin? Why did movement occur? What were the routes of movement? Was it slow or quick (time line)? Has it stopped moving? How has it affected people? What does the future hold?

STAY ON TOPIC. Focus on the diffusion of the cultural phenomenon and the people it influenced.

Since this is a visual representation of spread and sequence, you need **more than one map to show this:** three minimum. **These maps will help you tell the story of your topic so you should refer to them within the body of the assignment.** Start with the hearth area (place and time), then show routes of movement or time lines (some diffusion takes centuries; others occur within months). End with the present day distribution or if the topic is historic the final distribution pattern. If the diffusion is on-going, include a map of future routes of dispersal or areal coverage. Additional maps, as appropriate, may be included.

End with a summary and conclusion. Here you highlight your findings as discussed in the body of the assignment. Here is where you summarize the cultural aspects of the diffusion. Here is where you comment on the likelihood of continued spread to other areas and the potential affect on people based on your findings.

Include appropriate maps. At least **3 topical readable maps** are needed plus a **world locator map** to show where these events have taken/are taking place. Be sure they are titled and have a key to indicate the portrayal of information. Yes, you may create your own maps but they must be neat, to scale and include appropriate information to make them meaningful. You may print a general base map or an outline map and add arrows and place names to help tell the story.

Your **bibliography** must be at least 3 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.

REMINDER: DO NOT CUT AND PASTE FROM SOURCE MATERIAL. Summarize and paraphrase in your own voice. Your source material does not know this assignment.

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?*).
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