

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

**Cultural interaction:** the study of the relationship between various elements within a culture (including political systems, religions, economic/business systems and national identity) and the resulting interacting, mingling, assimilating, and clashing within and between culture groups.

Exercise 3: Complexity of Cultural Areas (**Cultural Interaction**). Throughout history and including the present, there have been contact between people of different cultures and clashes within cultural groups. Around the world, as noted in the textbook readings, there is an interdependence of cultural phenomena where the rise and fall of practice and change in one place or setting has had a catalytic affect bringing change to the groups coming in contact with each other. Remember that cultural interaction can be a two-way street with both parties being affected by the contact of cultures.

**(a) Select any two of the following time periods** and discuss geographically **ONE** “*cultural interaction*” that occurred in each period. **(b)** In your discussion include local evidence of original culture groups, presence and influence of the outside groups that occupied the area in the past, and any present-day characteristics that support the arrival of new cultural influences. **(c) Include appropriate maps and images** to show geographic areas, sequences and examples.

**Select any 2 of the following time periods:**

- A. Spread of the Roman Empire (500BC-400AD)
- B. Moorish invasion and occupation of Spain (8<sup>th</sup> century interaction of Africa and Europe)
- C. Marco Polo's travels and the Silk Road (13<sup>th</sup> century interaction of Asia and Europe)
- D. Portuguese voyages of exploration (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century spread of Portugal's colonial empire)
- E. British colonialization of Australia (late 1700s)
- F. Tribal activities in Oceania (break of isolationism in the late 1800s-early 1900s)
- G. Communism and the Soviet bloc (spread of Marxist ideology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- H. Ethnic rivalries in Africa (tribal clashes in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century)
- I. Present day immigration issues in the European Union (interacting with refugees and people of different cultures in the 2010s)

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

**DUE DATE: Thursday, October 26, 2017**

- 1) Start with an introductory paragraph in which you set the scene by defining *cultural interaction* and telling what you are going to do. Explain why you selected the two time periods and explain how the maps and other illustrations support your discussion.
- 2) Select ONE interaction EACH AREA experienced **and talk about it geographically**. **Do this as two separate sections.** No comparison is needed.  
**Set the scene.** Tell what was/is found in the area covered by your topic including physical and cultural influences such as diffusion.  
**Provide a time line** when talking about the creation and extent of the cultural interaction. **Include cultural parameters and perceptions** (background information) of the people involved. *What did a new group give to/impact on the native population? How did native group react to the new group? Was interaction a one-way or two-way path? What were if any the positive and negative effects of the interaction? What evidence is there of this interaction?*  
**O V E R > > >**

**Provide evidence of interaction.** What do we see today from the past? Or for the last two periods (**H** and **I**), what is happening and why? What does the future hold?

Remember that cultural interaction can be a two-way street with both parties being affected by the contact of cultures.

>> **Focus on the selected interaction only.** Do not give a full history. Yes, *background* information may be included. <<

- 3) Use maps and illustrations (as a photo of cultural remnants, transitions, landscape or events) to support your discussion.
- 4) STAY ON TOPIC. Focus on cultural interaction, the people involved, the influences, the results/consequences, and the spatial extent of the interaction, **NOT** on the history of the time period.
- 5) 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 interaction. Here is where you comment on the likelihood of continued spread or clashes. **NO NEW INFORMATION.**
- 6) Your bibliography must be at least 3 entries long plus entries for the maps and illustrations 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 obvious. Most times it is not.

REMINDER:

DO NOT CUT AND PASTE FROM SOURCE MATERIAL. Summarize and paraphrase in your own voice. The materials you consulted do not know the theme of 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?* If you are not sure let someone else read the paragraph.