



GEOG 100: Introduction to Geography

University of Maryland, College Park
Fall Semester, 2009 – Lectures MW 10:00-10:50am

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Course Description & Objectives

Geography is an academic discipline that connects the natural and social sciences. Traditionally, introductory college geography courses are taught from either a thematic (ex: physical, economic, cultural, political) or a regional (ex: Europe, Latin America, Asia) perspective. This course takes the thematic approach

You have chosen this course as part of your CORE Liberal Arts and Sciences Studies Program, the general education portion of your degree program. A faculty and student committee approved this CORE Distributive course because it promises to involve you actively in the learning process. This is primarily achieved by active participation in classroom discussion and group activities. The course includes time to engage in active learning with fellow students using data sources and major concepts associated with the field of geography.

The objective of this course is to make you aware of the importance of a geographic perspective in understanding the human condition. Major topics associated with the subfields in geography will be introduced while exploring the impacts of the environment, culture, and location on human affairs (and human impacts on the environment).

Required Course Materials

The course will employ reading materials from the assigned textbook. I also expect that you will be following world and national events. Though I prefer the *BBC News* website because it is mostly free from advertisements, the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times* are also good sources.

Introduction to Geography: People, Places and the Environment, 4th Edition. Bergman and Renwick. Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2008. ISBN: 0-13-223899-3

Goode's World Atlas, 21st Edition. ISBN: 0-13-612824-6

Course Requirements

There will be 3 graded components to the course, which will be outlined below. One component that is necessary, but not graded, is reading the textbook. My suggestion is to start a chapter by looking up the definitions of the key terms listed at the end of the chapter and writing them down in a notebook. Then skim the chapter, but reading in-depth the sections that contain these key terms, taking notes.

1. Tests (2 tests, mid-term 60 points/ final exam 70 points = 130 points)

There will be 2 tests during this course – a mid-term and a final. The tests will consist of objective questions and will test your understanding of **key terms** in each chapter and **key concepts** discussed in lecture. The final exam covers material from the second half of the course.

2. Discussion section activities (11 activities, 10 points each = 110 points)

There will be 10 in-class activities which will be completed in groups. These activities will involve the application of course concepts in solving problems. Some activities can be completed during the 50-minute discussion sections; some will require work to be done in preparation for discussion. Some activities will be posted in Blackboard/ELMS a few days before discussion sections. You must print out and bring the exercise with you to discussion. You will receive e-mail notification when this is the case. Go to www.elms.umd.edu and login with your UMD user ID and password to access the course space in Blackboard.

3. Map Quiz (10 points)

See page 5 of this syllabus for the list of countries and features which you will need to locate on a world map.

Attendance

This course is not just a series of PowerPoint presentations (though I'll be using PPT); it is a series of lectures. Lectures are not just presenting facts, but presenting context. They also involve student input and unplanned material that might make it into exams. TAs will take attendance during discussion sections to satisfy university record-keeping requirements, however, I will not penalize you for not attending. The negative consequences of not attending will be self-inflicted.

Late work/ Make-up exams

Work will be accepted up to one week late with a 10% reduction. After one week, late work will not be accepted. Mid-term make-up exams will only be given to students with documented medical issues. Such students must schedule their make up within the week following the mid-term date.

Academic integrity

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that can result in suspension or expulsion from the University of Maryland. Please refer to the following website to determine how the University of Maryland defines plagiarism and academic dishonesty --

<http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html>

Grade scale (non-negotiable)

A = 225 to 250 points

B = 200 to 224 points

C = 175 to 199 points

D = 150 to 174 points

F = 0 to 149 points

Tentative Course Schedule

Mon 31 Aug Introduction to Geography -- Course overview – Chap 1 pp. 21-30

Wed 2 Sept Earth structure and plate tectonics – Chap 3

Disc 2,3,4 Sept Introduction to discussion & Activity #1 – Map Skills

Mon 7 Sept Labor Day – No classes

Wed 9 Sept Tectonic landforms – Chap 3

Disc 9,10,11 Sept Activity #2 – Plate tectonics

Mon 14 Sept Agents of erosion and resultant landforms – Chap 3

Wed 16 Sept Sun-Earth relationships and energy balance – Chap 2

Disc 16,17,18 Sept Map Quiz

Mon 21 Sept Air pressure & atmospheric circulation – Chap 2

Wed 23 Sept Precipitation – Chap 2

Disc 23,24,25 Sept Activity #3: Atmospheric circulation

Mon 28 Sept Climate regions & distribution – Chap 2

Wed 30 Sept Climate change – Chap 2

Disc 30 Sept,1,2 Oct Activity #4: Understanding climate distribution patterns

Mon 5 Oct Sustainability – What is it? How might it be achieved?

Wed 7 Oct Water resources – Chap 9

Disc 7,8,9 Oct Activity #5: Human impacts on environmental systems

Mon 12 Oct Natural resources – Chap 9

Wed 14 Oct Natural resources – Chap 9

Disc 14,15,16 Oct Exam review

Mon 19 Oct Mid-term exam

Wed 21 Oct Disc 21,22,23 Oct	Population & migration geography – Chap 5 Activity #6: Demographic changes in India
Mon 26 Oct Wed 28 Oct Disc 28,29,30 Oct	Defining cultural regions & landscapes – Chap 6 Distribution of languages & religions – Chap 7 Activity #7: Language in the public realm discussion
Mon 2 Nov Wed 4 Nov Disc 4,5,6 Nov	More cultural geography – Chap 6 & 7 Urban functions & location – Chap 10 Activity #8 – Using Census data to understand metro areas
Mon 9 Nov Wed 11 Nov Disc 11,12,13 Nov	Urban form – Chap 10 More urban geography – Chap 10 Activity #9 – Sprawl discussion
Mon 16 Nov Wed 18 Nov Disc 18,19,20 Nov	Geography of economic activity – Chap 12 Globalization – Chap 12 Activity #10 – Global economy discussion
Mon 23 Nov Wed 25 Nov Disc 25,26,27 Nov	Economic Development & the Global Economy – Chap 12 Globalization continued – Chap 12 No discussions – Thanksgiving Break
Mon 30 Nov Wed 2 Dec Disc 2,3,4 Dec	Agricultural geography & Food systems – Chap 8 Agricultural geography & Food systems – Chap 8 Activity #11: Food systems discussion
Mon 7 Dec Wed 9 Dec Disc 9,10,11 Dec	Political geography & geopolitics – Chap 11 Course recap Exam Review
Sat 19 Dec	Final Exam from 8-10am (same room)

Geographic Literacy List

For the following countries, you will need to know the following information:

- a. location on a map (for the Map Quiz)
- b. the capital city
- c. the main/official language(s)
- d. the main religion(s)

You can find this information in your atlas or online at the CIA's *World Factbook*.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Mid-term

1. Canada
2. Brazil
3. Mexico
4. Colombia
5. Nigeria
6. Ethiopia
7. Sudan
8. Iraq
9. Iran
10. Germany

Final Exam

11. United Kingdom (of Great Britain & Northern Ireland)
12. Russia
13. Afghanistan
14. China
15. Japan
16. India
17. Pakistan
18. Indonesia
19. Vietnam
20. Australia

Other items for the Map Quiz

1. Amazon River
2. Congo Basin
3. Mediterranean Sea
4. Persian/ Arabian Gulf
5. Himalayan Mountains
6. Lake Victoria
7. Greenland
8. Lake Baikal
9. South China Sea
10. Caribbean Sea

Relevant University Policies

Student Conduct

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or to the instructor will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

Medical Excuses

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness or injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. You are required to contact their instructors by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, you will be referred to the University's Student Conduct Office.

Students with Learning, Emotional, Psychological and Physical Disabilities

Every effort will be made to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide their instructors with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2009 semester. This form must be presented no later than October 1, 2009. Instructors are not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not present documentation which has been reviewed by DSS by October 1, 2009.

Religious Observance

Students must notify a faculty member by the end of schedule adjustment that the student is unable to take a midterm, turn in a paper, take the final examination, etc. on the date specified on the syllabus due to religious observance. Students must only be accommodated for the day of the religious observance. Students do not have to be accommodated for travel to and from the religious observance. Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.