



## INTRODUCTION

GEG 1302 Places and spaces of human activity



## Professor & TAs

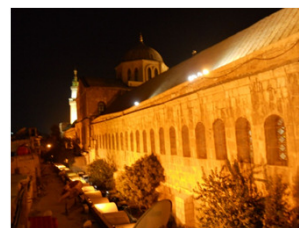
- *Professor:*
  - Dr. Brian Ray
    - Simard Hall 012
    - bray@uottawa.ca
- *Teaching Assistants:*
  - Abigail Dalton,  
adalt043@uottawa.ca  
SMD 043
  - Annika Ogilvie,  
aogil101@uottawa.ca  
SMD0021

## Office hours

- Brian Ray:
  - Tuesdays 13h00 – 15h00 or by appointment
- Teaching assistants will have office hours periodically throughout the term before & after assignments and exams

## Course content and outline

- Course examines the complex intersections between people, society, places and landscapes (social and physical) at a variety of spatial scales
- Covers basic concepts that are fundamental for more advanced classes at the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> year levels
- Topics include:
  - geopolitics
  - globalization
  - population change
  - cities and urbanization
  - uneven development
  - agriculture and rural development
  - inequality
  - diversity and identity
  - economic activities
  - migration and mobility

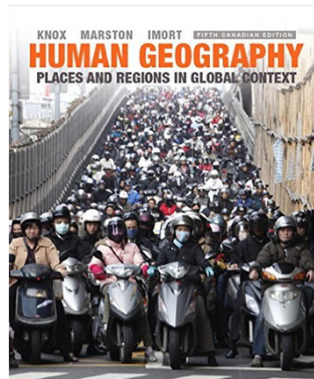


## Learning Outcomes

- Understand and appreciate how to apply foundational concepts in human geography.
- Appreciate the breadth and complexity of human geography and its sub-disciplines.
- Develop an appreciation of how and why society's relationships with place and space are complex and dynamic, and vary across spatial scales.
- To develop analytical and critical reasoning skills that are integral to the study of human geography.

## Textbook

- Knox, Paul L., Sally Marston, and Michael Imort (2016) *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context*. (Fifth Canadian Edition). Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.
- Available at the Agora bookstore ([www.agorabookstore.ca](http://www.agorabookstore.ca))
- Companion website
  - MyGeosciencePlace



## Teaching and learning strategies

- Lecture format
- In-class activities
- Documentaries
- Guest speakers

## Course Assessment

- |                          |     |             |
|--------------------------|-----|-------------|
| • Assignment 1           | 15% | February 1  |
| • In class mid-term exam | 15% | February 24 |
| • Assignment 2 /         | 30% | March 23    |
| • Final exam             | 40% | TBA         |
- Note: the final exam will cover material from the entire term.



## Assignments

- *Assignment 1: Placemaking – the shopping mall (15%)*
  - Objective: Want you to “read” the Rideau Centre for its elaborate *system* of signs and, more importantly, how such a sign-rich landscape communicates ideas about belonging and naturalizes consumption.
  - How is place made but more importantly, for whom is place made? What are the implications for the ways in which our cities function?
  - An “autoethnography”
  - 1000 words maximum (in addition to references, illustrations)
- *Assignment 2: Interpreting geographies of language (30%)*
  - Examine the qualities and characteristics of language use in Ottawa and how language geographies have changes between 1991 & 2011
    - Learn about differences in how a concept is measured
    - Learn about map interpretation
    - Investigate how to use secondary data to interpret change
    - 6 – 8 pages of text (approximately 1700 – 2300 words), exclusive of maps, diagrams, photos, etc.

## Writing up an assignment

- Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>: Research and writing essays
  - Special presentation about writing assignments
  - Discussion of the qualities that make for a well-written essay and traps to avoid
  - Services available on-campus for writing assistance

## Academic integrity

- The University defines plagiarism as:  
“... taking another person’s words (written or spoken), ideas, theories, facts (that are not considered general knowledge), statistics, art work, etc. and passing them off as your own. Simply changing the language of the information you are using also constitutes plagiarism if you do not acknowledge your source.”
  - Plagiarism is taken very seriously



## How to avoid plagiarism

- Present work original to this course only
- Always present ideas written in your own words
- Always provide references using a standard citation style
- “Beware of plagiarism”:  
<http://www.uottawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf>
- uOttawa Academic Integrity Website:  
<http://web5.uottawa.ca/mcs-smc/academicintegrity/home.php>

## Exam Format

- In-class midterm exam (Wednesday 25 February; 15%)
- Final exam (exam period; 40%)
- Multiple types of questions
  - Multiple choice
  - Definitions, identify and discuss, short answers, etc.
    - Pay attention to diagrams
  - Some choice



## E-mail, office hours

- Generic questions: Blackboard class site
- Specific questions (marks, extensions):
  - a) office hours
  - b) e-mail *but* we will not have a discussion about marking over e-mail



➤ *Take advantage of office hours*



## Lectures

- *Should you be at lectures?*
  - Yes, it's a very good idea
  - I do not simply repeat the readings, but you are responsible for all of the content in the readings
- *Lecture Slides – are they available on Blackboard?*
  - Very limited – diagrams or pictures will not be made available
    - Slides have a very limited amount of text
  - Students are expected to take good notes from discussion in lectures, not copy content from slides
- *Ask questions – lectures are a discussion not a sermon*
- *Courtesy:*
  - No cell phone use, text messaging or paging
  - Respect for the questions raised by others in class

## Course website

- Consult the course website on the University's Virtual Campus on a weekly basis to access PowerPoint presentations, additional material and information as the course proceeds, including copies of the assignment guidelines and grades
- Use the Discussion Board





## Student resources

- **Student Academic Success Service**  
<http://web.sass.uottawa.ca>
- **Academic Writing Help Center (AWHC)**  
<http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing>
- **Access Service**  
<http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/access>
- **Faculty of Arts Mentoring Centre**  
Simard Hall Room 125B



Questions???

