

Introduction to Geography

GEH 101 / GEH 501

Department of Environmental, Geographic, and Geological Science

Lehman College, CUNY

Fall 2010

Gillet Hall Room 311

Section 2: Mon. 2:00-4:40

Section 3: Mon. 6:00-8:40

<http://geh101.wordpress.com>

Instructor

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Office Hours: Mon 5-6, or by appointment (room TBD)

Overview

Geography is...

“a synoptic discipline synthesizing findings of other sciences through the concept of Raum (area or space).”

-Immanuel Kant, c. 1780

“the study of Earth as the home of people.”

-Yi-Fu Tuan, 1991

As an introduction to geography, this course is designed to provide a survey of the different branches of geographic inquiry and thought to help you develop an awareness of and to think critically about the dynamic world in which we live, and to begin asking questions that seek to understand the spatial relationships between people, places, and the environment. It is aimed at students who are new to geography and will attempt to demonstrate the applicability of geographical analysis to an extremely broad range of topics and disciplines. It will hopefully engage students as active learners responsible for the content and success of the course, and depends on individuals' contributing their own backgrounds, knowledge, and interests to the course.

Objectives

By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify broad themes within geography, the types of questions addressed by geographers, and the tools used to conduct geographic research
2. Read and evaluate maps
3. Apply the major theories of physical geography to understanding the natural landscape, including plate tectonics, erosional landforms, basic weather processes, the distribution of climates, and the distribution of biota and resources
4. Explain the distribution of people across the Earth on the basis of population, migration, and resources
5. Understand the role of culture in shaping human diversity and human impacts on their environments with respect to gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, language, and religion
6. Analyze the factors that shape human interactions across spatial distances
7. Understand the role of political systems in shaping local, regional, and global processes and interactions
8. Identify different forms of economic activity and explain the ways they are shaped by political systems
9. Describe the process of urbanization and how it varies across the globe
10. Explain the processes by which humans modify the natural environment (particularly climate change and agriculture), and the ramifications of those changes for human societies
11. Apply concepts of space and place to understand and identify how regions are defined and the ramifications for local and global processes.

Website

Course Website: <http://geh101.wordpress.com>

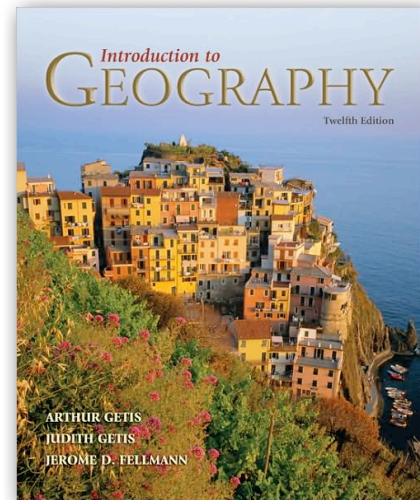
In addition to updated information contained within this syllabus, the course website will be updated on a (hopefully) regular basis with lecture notes and materials, assignment information, links to useful resources, and other geography related postings.

Textbook

Getis, Arthur, Judith Getis, and Jerome D. Fellmann.
Introduction to Geography. 12 ed. New York:
McGraw-Hill, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-07352282-1.

Available at the Lehman College bookstore or...

- ★Buy new (<http://www.amazon.com>): \$106.65 (sign up for Amazon Student for free 2-day shipping)
- ★Buy used (check <http://www.bigwords.com> for prices)
- ★Book rental (<http://www.chegg.com>): \$51.49 (hardcopy, semester rental)
- ★eBook purchase from the publisher (via <http://ebooks.primisonline.com>): \$72.70
- ★eBook rental (<http://www.coursesmart.com>): \$52.88 for 360 days



Assessment

1. Attendance and Class Participation

Students are allowed a maximum of one excused absence (meaning you cleared it with me prior to class, e.g. for a family emergency). Additional or unexcused absences will be counted as a 3% deduction to your final grade. This means that 2 absences will drop an A- to a B. Five or more absences will result in a student being dropped from the course.

Class participation means that students are involved in discussions, complete in-class assignments, and demonstrate that they have completed the assigned readings.

2. Quizzes and Discussion Topics

Each week, students should be prepared for either a short quiz or writing assignment to assess comprehension and synthesis of the course content and to stimulate critical thinking about topics covered in the readings. These will generally be completed in class and make-ups/lates will not be accepted.

3. Mid-term Paper

Students will complete a mid-semester paper or project that comprises a major portion of the final grade. Details and due-dates will be announced in class and posted to the course website.

4. Final Exam

There will be an in-class final exam administered during finals week. It will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. There will also be a take-home portion of the exam requiring longer (1-3 paragraph) written responses. Further information on the final exam, study guides, and review sessions will be announced in class and posted to the course website.

Final Grade Breakdown

Attendance & Class Participation	15%
Quizzes & Discussion Topics	25%
Mid-term Paper	30%
Final Examination	30%

Policies

- ★If you have special needs that require additional accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible and I will do everything in my power to ensure your needs are being attended to.
- ★Intolerance and inappropriate comments will not be allowed. Students are encouraged to speak openly and without fear of instructor retribution, so long as it is respectful of others and appropriate to the context of the class.
- ★Attendance is mandatory for the entire scheduled class period. Students should arrive on time and prepared to discuss the assigned readings and remain until the class is dismissed. Because it is a long class, there will generally be a short break in the middle of class, but students are expected to return after the break. Excessive tardiness and leaving early will result in an absence.
- ★Assignments not turned in by the beginning of class on the specified due-date will be considered late and will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor.
- ★Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of ideas, facts, opinions, graphics, data, or other materials produced by another student or professional, without giving proper credit. Plagiarism, including copying from the Internet, published works, purchased essays, etc. without proper attribution, is a serious breach of academic integrity and will result in disciplinary actions.

- ★Students are to complete individual assignments independently of one another. Copying, in whole or part, is considered plagiarism and will result in disciplinary actions for both the student who copied and for the student whose work was copied.
- ★It is preferred that written assignments be submitted electronically via email as Rich text (.rtf), Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), Open Office (.odt), Apple Pages (.pages), or Adobe PDF (.pdf) files. Please do not submit documents in the body of the email since this may strip document formatting.
- ★All writing assignments must be typed on 8.5"x11" white paper in Times or Times New Roman, 12 point font, double line spacings, with 1" margins (0.5" header spacing is acceptable).
- ★It is preferred that written assignments be formatted using the Annals of the American Association of Geographers style guidelines, which are a variant on the Chicago Manual of Style. The style sheet is available at <http://www.aag.org/galleries/default-file/ANNALSSTYLE SHEET.pdf>.
- ★You are strongly encouraged to exchange contact information with at least one other student in the class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get any notes, new assignments, etc. I cannot promise that all of the information will be updated on the course website.
- ★Electronic devices that make noise or cause distractions (phones, DSi's, PSPs, etc.) are not permitted in class. Use of these devices, including texting or talking on your phone, will result in the student being asked to leave class and the student will be marked as absent.
- ★If you are using a computing device to take notes, please mute the audio and try your best to refrain from browsing the internet and IMing. Audio recording is generally OK, but please be courteous and ask first.
- ★Failure to take the final exam on the scheduled date without prior approval will result in an automatic "F" grade for the course. If you need to make special arrangements, please let me know ahead of time.
- ★If you are in doubt about something or have a problem with the course, please contact me as soon as possible, either by phone, email, or at my office hours, and I will do my best to accommodate you within reason.

Course Schedule

Week 1	8/30	Chapter 1 - Intro to Geography
--	9/6	<i>Labor Day - No class</i>
Week 2	9/13	Chapter 2 - Maps
Week 3	9/20	Chapter 3 - Physical Geography: Landforms
Week 4	9/27	Chapter 4 - Physical Geography: Weather and Climate
Week 5	10/4	Chapter 5 - The Geography of Natural Resources
--	10/11	<i>Columbus Day - No Class</i>
Week 6	10/18	Chapter 6 - Population Geography
Week 7	10/25	Chapter 7 - Cultural Geography
Week 8	11/1	Chapter 8 - Spatial Interaction
Week 9	11/8	Chapter 9 - Political Geography
Week 10	11/15	Chapter 10 - Economic Geography
Week 11	11/22	Chapter 11 - An Urban World
Week 12	11/29	Chapter 12 - Human Impact on the Environment
Week 13	12/6	Chapter 13 - The Regional Concept
Week 14	12/13	T.B.D.
Final Exam	12/20	