



## **Introduction to Human Geography**

GEOG 201-501 / Fall 2017

TR 9.35am – 10.50am

Interdisciplinary Life Sc. Bldg. 1105

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Office Hours: M 1.30pm–3.30pm, R 11.00am–12.00pm, or by appointment

### **Course Invitation**

This course presents key concepts and sub-fields of human geography and introduces students to the ways that geographers are approaching important questions of the day, ranging from food security, to migration, to development, to geopolitical conflict, to urbanization. In this class, we will examine a variety of economic, social, political, and cultural processes shaping our world, with a recurring focus on changes brought by globalization. We will see how globalization has simultaneously connected and disconnected people and places across the globe and why some aspects of globalization have been contested. We will also look at human relationships with nature, landscapes, and natural resources to see how social interdependencies extend to natural environments. Finally, we will think about the spaces around us at Texas A&M and consider the ways our everyday lives are entangled with broader social, economic, and political processes.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Define key terms and foundational concepts in human geography and apply them to current events, issues, and challenges.
- Trace relationships between people, places, and natural environments over time and space, and identify the local, regional, and/or global processes shaping them.
- Identify and analyze problems linked to globalization and changing global environments.
- Read, interpret, and analyze maps and use them to organize and display information.
- Assess, engage, and appreciate multiple (and sometimes conflicting) arguments and perspectives.
- Develop critical thinking skills and research and writing skills.

### **Required Readings**

Required Textbook (available through the bookstore):

Knox, Paul L., and Sallie A. Marston. *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context*. 7th ed. Pearson, 2016.

The instructor may occasionally supplement assigned readings with brief articles, news stories, or other texts. Any required readings outside of the textbook will be available through eCampus.

## Assignments and Grading

Participation/Engagement:	10%
News Analysis Assignment	10%
Mid-Term Exams (2 x 20%)	40%
Group Mapping Project	15%
Final Exam:	25%

*Participation/Engagement:* Lecture attendance is *required*, and students should come to class having read the assigned readings for the day. As textbook chapters are split over two class periods, it is recommended that you read the entire chapter for the first day it is assigned. Your participation grade will be based on your engagement with in-class activities, some of which will be completed individually and some of which will be completed in small groups. For activities that earn points, I will ask you (or a member of your group) to submit your work on a piece of paper with your name(s) at the end of class. As such, *you should always have a full-sized sheet of blank notebook or copy paper with you in class*. So long as it is clear you were prepared for the activity and put forth a good faith effort in completing it, you will earn 1% of your grade for each in-class activity, up to a total of 10%. Please note: although I will collect twelve activities throughout the semester—meaning you will not be penalized for missing two class meetings and activities—it is not possible to receive “extra credit” for additional activities beyond ten. [10%]

*News Analysis Assignment:* For this assignment, you will read and analyze a recent news article provided by the instructor. The purpose of this assignment is to apply concepts of our course to a real-world situation, and you will be provided with a specific prompt to help you structure your analysis. The article will be posted to eCampus, along with further assignment instructions, at the beginning of Week 3. The assignment is due Thursday 21 September at the start of class. (Note: This is an individual assignment, not a group assignment, so cases of unauthorized collaboration and/or plagiarism will be sent to the Honor Council.) [10%]

*Mid-Term Exams (2):* Mid-term exams will consist of multiple-choice questions drawn from readings, lectures, in-class activities, and assignments. The first mid-term exam will cover material from Weeks 1 through 5, and the second mid-term exam will cover material from weeks 6 through 10. Students will need to bring scantrons and pencils to both mid-term exams, scheduled for Tuesday 3 October and Thursday 2 November. [2 x 20% = 40%]

*Group Mapping Project:* In small groups, students will collect data at local stores and produce a map exploring the commodity chains of products we regularly purchase here in College Station. The instructor will formally introduce the assignment in class during Week 8 and post detailed assignment instructions to eCampus. Along with the map, each group will submit a short paper (4 pages, double-spaced) responding to a set of questions provided by the instructor. This assignment will allow you to trace our everyday entanglements with global processes and think critically about the social, historical, political, and/or economic forces that have produced those entanglements. This project is due Tuesday 14 November at the start of class. [15%]

*Final Exam:* The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions drawn from readings, lectures, in-class activities, and assignments. The final exam will be cumulative, but emphasis

will be placed on material covered since the previous exam. You will need to bring a scantron and pencil to the final exam, scheduled for Friday 8 December from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. [25%]

*Please note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including assignment due dates and exam dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. Any major changes will be announced in a timely manner so that students can adjust their schedules.*

### **Assignment Guidelines**

*Format:* All assignments should be double-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman or an equivalent font, with one-inch margins on all sides. Names should be included on all pages, and all pages must be stapled. *If pages are not stapled, only the first page will be graded.*

*Citations:* All sources *must* be properly cited in work for this course. Students may follow any of the major citation systems (*e.g.*, APA, MLA, Chicago) but should be consistent throughout an assignment. For more information about when, why, and how to cite sources, please consult the library website at [http://library.tamu.edu/services/library\\_tutorials/citing\\_sources/index.html](http://library.tamu.edu/services/library_tutorials/citing_sources/index.html).

*Submission:* For all assignments, you are required to upload an electronic copy to eCampus (via the Assignments page) and bring a paper copy to class. Both are required to receive a grade.

### **Grading Scale**

A 90–100      B 80–89      C 65–79      D 55–64      F 0–54

*The distribution of grades may be adjusted according to class performance.*

### **Policies and Expectations**

*Honor Code:* Students are expected to treat one another with respect and to adhere to the Aggie Code of Honor in all work related to this course: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do.” Instances of academic misconduct will be handled according to Section 20 of the Student Rules. For more on the Aggie Honor System, see <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>, and to learn more about the Student Rules, please visit <http://student-rules.tamu.edu>. *If you cheat on an exam or plagiarize an assignment for this class, you will receive a grade of 0 and be reported to the Honor Council.*

*Absences:* This class follows the university’s policy on excused absences, outlined in Section 7 of the Student Rules (see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>). As such, if an absence is excused, the instructor must provide the opportunity to make up a quiz, exam, or other graded activity, or provide an alternative means to earn missed points, within 30 days from the last day of absence.

*Late Work:* Assignments are due at the start of class on their designated due dates. Any late submissions will be reduced by one letter grade for every day (24 hours) past the deadline, unless you have an excused absence on the due date, or other arrangements have been made in advance due to exceptional and unexpected circumstances.

*Grade Disclosure:* All personal information concerning your performance in this course is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). *Any questions related to grades or status should be directed to the instructor in-person during office hours and will not be addressed over email or telephone.*

*Communication:* You are encouraged to take advantage of the instructor's office hours, which is time set aside specifically to meet with you and address your questions, concerns, frustrations, or excitement over the course material. *If you email the instructor, please include the course number and section number in the subject of your message (e.g., GEOG 201-501).* Messages are answered as quickly as possible, but please do not wait to until the last minute to email the instructor.

*Technology:* The use of mobile phones is not permitted during class, and phones should be silenced or put away, unless you are asked to use them for an in-class activity. Laptops and tablets are permitted for note-taking purposes only. *Unauthorized or distracting uses of technology will negatively impact your participation/engagement grade.*

*Copyright Notice:* All materials for this course, including but not limited to the syllabus, exams, assignments, and in-class activities, are copyrighted. As such, they cannot be uploaded or otherwise distributed to online study sites or services.

### **Accessibility/ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services Building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus, or call 979.845.1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>. *If you have a disability and require accommodations in this course, you have the responsibility of presenting your instructor with a copy of your academic accommodations letter from Disability Services.*

### **Class Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	T 29 August	Welcome to the Course!		
	R 31 August	Approaching the World	Watch Interview with Edward Said (Link on eCampus)	
<b>2</b>	T 5 September	Introduction	K&M Ch. 1	
	R 7 September	Introduction	K&M Ch. 1 (cont.)	
<b>3</b>	T 12 September	Globalization	K&M Ch. 2	
	R 14 September	Globalization	K&M Ch. 2 (cont.)	
<b>4</b>	T 19 September	Population Geography	K&M Ch. 3	
	R 21 September	Population Geography	K&M Ch. 3 (cont.)	<b>News Analysis Due</b>

<b>5</b>	T 26 September	People and Nature	K&M Ch. 4	
	R 28 September	People and Nature	K&M Ch. 4 (cont.)	
<b>6</b>	T 3 October	<b>Mid-Term Exam 1</b>		
	R 5 October	Cultural Geographies	K&M Ch. 5	
<b>7</b>	T 10 October	Cultural Geographies	K&M Ch. 5 (cont.)	
	R 12 October	Places and Landscapes	K&M Ch. 7	
<b>8</b>	T 17 October	Places and Landscapes	K&M Ch. 7 (cont.)	
	R 19 October	Economic Geography	K&M Ch. 8	
<b>9</b>	T 24 October	Economic Geography	K&M Ch. 8 (cont.)	
	R 26 October	Food and Agriculture	K&M Ch. 9	
<b>10</b>	T 31 October	Food and Agriculture	K&M Ch. 9 (cont.)	
	R 2 November	<b>Mid-Term Exam 2</b>		
<b>11</b>	T 7 November	Political Geographies	K&M Ch. 10	
	R 9 November	Political Geographies	K&M Ch. 10 (cont.)	
<b>12</b>	T 14 November	Urban Geography	K&M Ch. 11	<b>Group Mapping Assignment Due</b>
	R 16 November	Urban Geography	K&M Ch. 11 (cont.)	
<b>13</b>	T 21 November	Urban Geography	K&M Ch. 12	
	R 23 November	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday</i>		
<b>14</b>	T 28 November	Urban Geography	K&M Ch. 12 (cont.)	
	R 30 November	Black Geographies	Reading TBA (Available on eCampus)	
<b>15</b>	T 5 December	Feminist Geography	Reading TBA (Available on eCampus)	
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>Friday 8 December, 12:30pm – 2:30pm</b>		