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GEOG128 Midterm EXAM

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1. **Explain the epidemiological transition model.**

The epidemiological transition model is a series of four prepositions that focus on the transition in the dominant causes of death in a given population over a period of time. The first preposition engenders mortality as a fundamental metric for dynamics of a population. This is followed by a transition in the established patterns of mortality and diseases. This transition features the displacement of infectious diseases with degenerative and/or chronic diseases. The latter proposition states that the aforementioned transition is exemplary of significantly profound alterations to established disease patterns which are present in children and young women. The final proposition asserts that these alterations to disease patterns are intertwined, if not corelated to socioeconomic and demographic transitions embodied by the pursuit of progress or modernization.

1. **Explain why locations are places to some people and not to others.**

Locations are places to some people and not to others because of the personal relationship humans have with places and having a sense of place requires emotional attachment to a specific location. For instance, given the location Paris, France, many people will have varying relationships, experiences, and opinions of this location. If one, who is from Paris, born and raised, was asked about their sense of place within Paris, they would most likely have deep emotional attachments and feelings about the city that I, having only been when I was three, would not echo or feel. However, Paris is still a place to me because I have garnered an emotional attachment to that location by virtue of visiting that location when I was three. A location is a place for some people and not to others because of the emotional component behind a sense of place. Paris may be a place for myself and someone from that location, but for a New Guinean, who has never heard of Paris, it may not be a place at all because they have no means of acquiring emotions for a place they have never heard of or seen.

1. **Describe the differences among absolute, relative, and nominal locations.**

The differences between absolute, relative and nominal locations are highlighted by the qualities of each term. Absolute locations are, just as they sound, absolute; they are specific and precise. An example of absolute locations are latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates on a map or GPS. Contrastively, relative location can be described as a location relative to another location or reference point. An example of this would be describing Kelowna as a location two hours south of Revelstoke. Here, Kelowna is located by its relative proximity to Revelstoke. Nominal locations differ from absolute and relative locations for they describe a location based on its common name. For instance, instead of calling Kelowna “Kelowna” I could say that it is the Sylix Okanagan nation, or if I were to generalize a description of the Vancouver area, a nominal description would be the lower mainland or LML.

1. **Explain the term ‘perception’ and how it relates to relative space.**

Perception encompasses the concept of how people interpret the world around them through sensory organs. Thusly, perception is subject to the perceiver. It relates to relative space because the manner in which one determines a location as being relative to another is contrived purely by one’s perception. Naturally, because of this subjective nature, relative spaces are in a state of constant flux, changing as interpretations of given spaces change with those that perceive them.

1. **Explain how maps influence how people understand the world.**

Maps influence how people understand the world because they serve as a physical manifestation of how people imagine the world; they are physical products made by people, and the projection that maps present of the world is limited, based on their creator’s perception and often skewed. For example, the many different two-dimensional projections of the world skew the spherical dimensions of many land formations. The areas closer to the north and south poles are most skewed. Additionally, maps that depict any kind of data can be misleading if the acquisition of the data points that construct that map are not understood by the person interpreting the map, or have been created in a manner that generalizes too much or not enough. An example of this can be found in Covid-19 case number maps by country. Where, depending on the datapoints and representation of that data, the maps differ and can even make it seem like some countries are not even touched by the virus whereas others are completely engulfed. Because maps are a physical object being perceived whether its on a screen, paper, or globe, the nature of perception manifests a subjective quality to them. Thus, one person may be able to locate all of the countries in Africa on a Mercator projection, but they may fail the same task with a different projection. And where one person may see that Canada has little to no Covid cases, another person may think that the map is misrepresenting the data.