Spring 2020 Economic Geography Syllabus

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**Office hours: Use the Discussion board on blackboard, if you have personal questions use email**

Course Objectives

**Geography is the science of place, space, and environment.**

In this course we will analyze these issues in the urban environment with a special focus on sustainability. We live in an urbanizing world with over half of the world’s population living in cities and rapid urbanization is expected to continue in emerging economies and other parts of the global south. This course examines the theory, politics and practices shaping urban sustainability initiatives and tries to address the challenges of sustainability encountered in cities around the world. Alternative approaches to achieving sustainable development in urban areas including smart growth, circular economy and ecological restoration will be introduced and evaluated. Through case studies from different parts of the world students will become familiar with the dimensions of more ecologically sound decision-making. Topics to be covered will include urban sprawl, green building, environmental justice, sustainable energy and transportation, and climate change.

Required Text: ***Understanding Sustainable Cities: Concepts, Cases and Solutions***, By K. David Pijawka & Martin A. Gromulat. **Do not purchase the electronic version of the book.**

**Expectations:**

~Read the assigned readings from the required textbook

~Work on the Al Jazeera English & BBC World News Assignments and submit your work as instructed on time. The module test will include questions from this assignment.

~ Work on the Documentary Assignments and submit your work as instructed on time. The module test will include questions from this assignment.

~Take the 4 tests and the mock test on time {computers are available in public libraries and on campus just in case yours fails or you have an outage or any other technical emergency. Also, you can take the test later in case you have a technical difficulty, unless of course you take the last test offered on that day, so please plan ahead to take your tests early.}

~Work on the Community Engagement Project

~You are accountable for all emails I send out and all my posts on Blackboard (BB) {announcements, assignments, posts on the discussion board, etc}

**Please note there will be no make-ups for the tests and assignments**. In case your computer is not reliable, your local internet is down, or you are out of town, please go to campus or any library and take the test from there. **Also, ask for days off at work on test days.**

**Make sure you know the times when labs are closed in case you do not have enough time to complete the tests posted at 9 pm and 11 pm.** I will post the Al Jazeera and BBC World News items as indicated on the course schedule section of this syllabus. These readings will keep us informed on current global events related to this course. The tests will cover material from the textbook and the Al Jazeera and BBC World News items. Please read all sections of the text book including captions of all figures. Maps and other figures in the textbook provide a lot of information as well, please go through them as well.

**Academic code of student conduct**

***Academic cheating:*** this is any intentional act(s) of dishonesty in the fulfillment of academic course or program requirements. This offense shall include (but is not limited to) utilization of the assistance of any additional individual(s), organization, document, or other aid not specifically and expressly authorized by the instructor or department involved. (Note: This infraction assumes that with the exception of authorized group assignments or group take home assignments, all course or program assignments shall be completed by an individual student only without any consultation or collaboration with any other individual, organization, or aid). **In this course you are expected to work on your own on the tests and documentary assignments.**

***Plagiarism:*** this is taking and passing off intentionally as one’s own ideas, writings, etc. of another without attribution (without acknowledging the author).

**Grading - Updated**

**The first grade is the original grade, the second grade is for those who did not work on the community engagement project, the third grade is for those who completed the community engagement assignment. There was a second assignment to be completed after spring break, but that is cancelled and is worth 10% of the grade.**

4 Tests: **40% {48%}{44%}**

Mock Test: 2% {extra credit}

4 documentary assignments **20% {26}{23}**

**{instructions are posted in the documentary assignment folder}**

Community Engagement Project ~~20%~~ {**10** if this assignment was completed before break}

**{instructions are posted in the community engagement project folder}**

4 Al Jazeera English & BBC World News **20% {26} {23}**

**{instructions are posted in the AJE&BBC World News folder}**

Total: 102%

**Deductions from the final grade:**

Please note I deduct points from your final grades for:

~failing to take the test later on that day after a technical problem

**~If you take a test more than once when you have answered 25 questions on your first attempt. If you have a technical problem after the 25th question I will work with you, do not take the test over later.**

~If you keep having technical problems on all or most tests (once is enough, most students figure out how to work on the tests after taking the mock test, therefore, try and practice on it often).

It is easy to get A in the course -- read the text book; work on the BBC World News and the Al Jazeera English news items; work diligently on the documentary assignments and the community engagement project; and read all my posts on blackboard and emails thoroughly. To perform well on the tests and to avoid technical problems please read the **LONG ANNOUNCEMENT ON TESTS** posted the first week of school.

**Extra credit points earned can also be lost if students fail to follow the instructions above or due to other misconduct.**

**Calculating your Grades**

~Black board is excellent on grading. You will be able to view your grades after completing your tests, unless I have to grade them manually when you encounter technical difficulties.

**~Some of you will excel on the tests and earn more than 100 points which is great! As long as you earn over 90, regardless of the number of questions on the test or the total listed on black board, you have A on the test. If you earn over 100, only 100 points are used to calculate your final grade. If you score between 80-89 you have B on the test. If you score between 70-79 on the test you have C on the test. If you score between 60-69 you have D on the test. F is 59-0.**~Throughout the semester you should be able to tell your performance in the course. I never offer papers and rarely extra credit assignments, the tests have more than 50 questions which, if you are well prepared, will help you earn over 100%.

**Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of the Dean for Special Student Services. The Dean of Special Student Services can be reached at (202) 238-2420.

**Interpersonal Violence**

Howard University takes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual harassment seriously. If a student reveals that he or she needs assistance with any of these issues, all Responsible Employees, which includes faculty, are required to share this information with the University Title IX Office (202 ‎806-2550) or a student can be referred for confidential services to the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program (IVPP) (202 ‎238-2382) or University Counseling Services (202 ‎806-6870). For more information about these services, please go to ‎www.CampusSafetyFirst.Howard.Edu‎

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**The course schedule is split up into four modules. You will be tested at the end of each module. The assignments and tests will be posted as per the schedule below. The tests are available at 9:00 am; 9:00 pm; and 11:00 pm ONLY. Please note the tests will be up at those times and not earlier or later, therefore, do not open the test folder until AFTER THE HOUR. Just in case your clock/watch is ahead, and you open the folder minutes earlier, exit the test folder and try after a couple of minutes. Access the tests within the first 25 minutes not later otherwise you will not have access to the test.**

**Week 1 - January 13  
Module 1  
Chapter 1: An Introduction to Sustainability Concepts and Principles**

**Read all material posted on black board and update your email otherwise black board will send all my emails to your Howard email account**

**Week 2 - January 20**

**Chapter 2 – History of Sustainability**

**January 26: The mock test is posted. Take it before test #1 is posted. The mock test will be pulled down 24 hours before the first test is posted.**

**Week 3 - January 27**

**Chapter 3 – Earliest Urbanism**

**Week 4 - February 3**

**Chapter 3 – Earliest Urbanism**

**Week 5 - February 10**

**February 10: Test 1 the test covers: chapters 1, 2, 3; Documentary Assignment 1; AJE & BBC World News Assignment 1**

**MANDATORY: Read the long announcement "ON ALL TESTS" posted the first week of the semester before taking this test. If you have a problem while taking the test, the announcement lists instructions on what to do. If you do not take this test or have a technical problem and fail to take the test over later as instructed, you will earn F on the test.**

**Figuring out your test grade on black board: Some of you will excel on the tests and earn more than 100 points which is great! If you earn over 90, regardless of the number of questions on the test or the total listed on black board, you have A on the test. If you earn over 100, only 100 points are used to calculate your final grade. If you score between 80-89 you have B on the test. If you score between 70-79 on the test you have C on the test. If you score between 60-69 you have D on the test. 59-0 is F. Consider working on the extra credit assignment if you did not perform as well as you expected on this test.  
February 12: Documentary Assignment #1 AND AJE & BBC Assignment #1 are due today during office hours. Do not leave your assignments under the door, outside the door, etc.**

**February 12: Module 2**

**Chapter 4 – Environmental and Social Justice**

**Week 6 - February 17**

**Chapter 5 – Managing Water Resources**

**Week 7 - February 24**

**February 26: Chapter 6 – Making Desert Cities Sustainable**

**Week 8 - March 2**

**Chapter 6 – Making Desert Cities Sustainable**

**March 2: Test 2 the test covers: chapters 4, 5, 6; Documentary Assignment #2; AJE & BBC World News Assignment #2**

**MANDATORY: Read the long announcement "ON ALL TESTS" posted the first week of the semester before taking this test. If you have a problem while taking the test, the announcement lists instructions on what to do. If you do not take this test or have a technical problem and fail to take the test over later as instructed, you will earn F on the test.**

**Figuring out your test grade on black board: Some of you will excel on the tests and earn more than 100 points which is great! If you earn over 90, regardless of the number of questions on the test or the total listed on black board, you have A on the test. If you earn over 100, only 100 points are used to calculate your final grade. If you score between 80-89 you have B on the test. If you score between 70-79 on the test you have C on the test. If you score between 60-69 you have D on the test. 59-0 is F. Consider working on the extra credit assignment if you did not perform as well as you expected on this test.  
March 4: Documentary Assignment #2 AND AJE & BBC Assignment #2 are due today during office hours. Do not leave your assignments under the door, outside the door, etc.**

**March 4: Module 3**

**Chapter 7 – Sustainable Transportation**

**Week 9 - March 9**

**Chapter 8 – Coping with Global Climate Change**

**Week 10 – March 16 - SPRING BREAK! Have a safe and restful break**

**Week 11 - March 23**

**Chapter 9 – The Urban Heat Island Effect and Sustainability Science: Causes, Impacts, and Solutions**

**Week 12 – March 30**

**March 30: Test 3 the test covers: chapters 7, 8, 9; Documentary Assignment #3; AJE & BBC World News Assignment #3**

**MANDATORY: Read the long announcement "ON ALL TESTS" posted the first week of the semester before taking this test. If you have a problem while taking the test, the announcement lists instructions on what to do. If you do not take this test or have a technical problem and fail to take the test over later as instructed, you will earn F on the test.**

**Figuring out your test grade on black board: Some of you will excel on the tests and earn more than 100 points which is great! If you earn over 90, regardless of the number of questions on the test or the total listed on black board, you have A on the test. If you earn over 100, only 100 points are used to calculate your final grade. If you score between 80-89 you have B on the test. If you score between 70-79 on the test you have C on the test. If you score between 60-69 you have D on the test. 59-0 is F. Consider working on the extra credit assignment if you did not perform as well as you expected on this test.**  
**April 1:****Documentary Assignment #3 is due today by 11:59 pm submit the assignment separately in the form of pictures the subject of the email should be Document #3**

**AJE & BBC Assignment #3 submit the assignment separately in the form of pictures the subject of the email should be AJE&BBC: #3 is due today by 11:59 pm, if submitted late there will be penalties, or the assignment will not be graded if submitted several hours late.**

**April 1: Module 4**

**Chapter 10 – Sustainable Agricultural Systems for Cities**

**Week 13 - April 6**

**April 9: Chapter 11 – Urban Ecology and Green Networks**

**Week 14 - April 13**

**Chapter 14 – Examining Sustainability through Urban Models**

**Week 15 - April 20**

**Chapter 12 – Examining Sustainability through Urban Models**

**April 21: Test 4 the test covers: chapters 10, 11, 12; Documentary Assignment #4; AJE & BBC World News Assignment #4**

**MANDATORY: Read the long announcement "ON ALL TESTS" posted the first week of the semester before taking this test. If you have a problem while taking the test, the announcement lists instructions on what to do. If you do not take this test or have a technical problem and fail to take the test over later as instructed, you will earn F on the test.**

**Figuring out your test grade on black board: Some of you will excel on the tests and earn more than 100 points which is great! If you earn over 90, regardless of the number of questions on the test or the total listed on black board, you have A on the test. If you earn over 100, only 100 points are used to calculate your final grade. If you score between 80-89 you have B on the test. If you score between 70-79 on the test you have C on the test. If you score between 60-69 you have D on the test. 59-0 is F.**

**April 22: GRADUATING SENIORS submit your documentary #4 and AJE&BBC #4 today before 11:59 pm**

**April 24:** **Documentary Assignment #4 is due today by 11:59 pm submit the assignment separately in the form of pictures the subject of the email should be Document #4**

**AJE & BBC Assignment #4 submit the assignment separately in the form of pictures the subject of the email should be AJE&BBC: #4 is due today by 11:59 pm, if submitted late there will be penalties, or the assignment will not be graded** **if submitted several hours late.**

**N.B.: This schedule is tentative and subject to change**