
Human Geography
GEO 1400-01 Fall 2013
MWF 9:05 – 9:55 AM
Bellamy 0114

Contact Information

Instructor: Ting Liu
Office: Bellamy, Room 315
Email: tl08c@my.fsu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00-11:30am, or by appointment

Description

Introductory survey of global cultures, selected aspects of urban and economic geography, the world system, international development, and population growth. Meets Liberal Studies cross-cultural multiculturalism (X) requirement. The course focuses on the spatial aspects of population growth and distribution, cultural differentiation, urban growth and decline, the spread of ideas and innovations, regional development, and the location of economic activity, as well as problems associated with these processes. This introductory course will introduce students to several subfields of study, including population, urban, economic, cultural, and political geography, as well as fundamental geographic concepts.

The Liberal Studies Program at Florida State University has been designed to provide a perspective on the qualities, accomplishments, and aspirations of human beings, the past and present civilizations we have created, and the natural and technological world we inhabit. This course has been approved as meeting the requirements for **Liberal Studies Area III, History and Social Science**, and in combination with your other Liberal Studies courses, provides an important foundation for your lifelong quest for knowledge.

Objectives

The course provides a basic understanding of *people* and *places*. The course is also structured to provide an introduction to basic concepts of human geography within the discussion of people, places and physical landscapes. The purpose of the course is to improve students' understanding of the world, and to develop skills of critical thinking and *cross-cultural* understanding. Human Geography is designed to introduce students to the processes that link places together, and how these linkages affect places and people. Understanding such processes is crucial if we are to understand how events in one part of the world have effects in other parts of the world, and how these effects play out on the *landscape*.

Specifically, the objectives include:

1. To provide students with the fundamental skills to critically examine and evaluate their place in society and, more generally, develop an understanding of the network of relationships of people at group, community, national, and world levels.
2. To develop an understanding of the ethical foundations, as well as behavioral components of social change.
3. To systematically describe and analyze social, political, and economic reality and attempt to explain and predict outcomes of alternative social actions.

Recommended Materials

Rubenstein, James M. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 10th or 11th Edition*. Prentice Hall. ISBN: 9780321677358/9780321831583

You will also be responsible for material from films and other assigned readings.

Lectures, reading, and study guides

You are responsible for material in lecture, text, films, and any other supplementary materials. Please do not ask me to make copies of the notes for you. You are responsible for retrieving any notes from classes that you have missed. In general, I will post the PowerPoint presentations from the lectures, but not lecture notes.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance will be checked occasionally which contributes to your participation grade. There will be no make-up opportunities for in-class assignments or other projects that contribute to your participation grade.

Classroom Etiquette

In order to create an environment where students are able to interact and learn it is imperative the all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices be turned **OFF** (not on silent mode or vibrate). Text messaging is not allowed during class. Laptops should only be used for note-taking purposes. Students not obeying this policy will be asked to leave class. If you are expecting an important phone call you are to notify me during the beginning of the class.

Blackboard website and email

Please be sure that you have access to the Blackboard course website. You will need your FSU email account name and password to access this site. In Blackboard, I can only send email to your FSU account. If you use a different account, it is your responsibility to set up your FSU account to forward to your preferred email.

Religious Days

If you wish to participate in religious day activities that interfere with scheduled class days or assignments, please inform me during the first week of class.

Assignments and Responsibilities

Evaluation for this course will be through:

- Three in-class exams
- Two Written Assignments
- Participation (including in-class activities and online discussion assignments)

Grading and Evaluation

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Exam 1	16.7%
Exam 2	16.7%
Exam 3	16.7%
Written Assignment 1 (Including an in-class presentation)	20%
Written Assignment 2	15%
Participation	15%

Grading Scale

A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (72-76), C- (70-71)
D+ (66-69), D (62-65), D- (60-61), F (0-59)

Final Grades will follow the breakdown listed above and grades **will not be rounded**. That means that 89.9% earns a B+ even though it is just one point from an A. There has to be a cutoff at some point, and that means that some students barely make a grade, but others barely miss it. Do your best in ALL of your work so that you don't fall just short of your goal.

Exams

Exams are graded out of 100 points each and consist of only multiple choices. After the first person finishes an exam, all late arrivals will be required to take a make-up exam. All absences for exams must have an FSU approved excuse that is given in advance of the exam. In the case of unexpected illness, you must provide me with a doctor's excuse within 3 days of the missed exam in order to take a make-up exam. Failing to do so will result in a zero. All make-up exams include an extended essay component.

50% of grade

Written Assignments

The written assignments are each worth 15% of your grade. The assignments require you to examine the world through a geographic lens and while they are meant to be fun, you will also need to take them seriously to earn a good grade. (Don't wait until the night before an assignment is due to begin working on it!) Instructions will be provided in detail later this semester. Late written assignments will be penalized 10 points per day. (Saturday – Sunday counts as one day.)

35% of grade

Class Participation

Attendance will be checked occasionally which will contribute to your participation grade. Throughout the semester, we'll have several in-class activities which will count toward your participation grade in the course. Being in class, on-time, prepared and in an appropriate head space to actively engage in learning is an important element of your evaluation.

15% of grade

Honor Code Statement

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "... be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

Free Tutoring from FSU

For tutoring and writing help in any course at Florida State University, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of tutoring options – see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu for more information. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center

874 Traditions Way

108 Student Services Building

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

(850) 644-9566 (voice)

(850) 644-8504 (TDD)

sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Schedule (tentative)

Week	Date	Course Schedule
1	Aug 26	Syllabus and Introduction: What is Human Geography?
	Aug 28	Chapter 1: Thinking Geographically
	Aug 30	
2	Sept 2	Labor Day. No Classes.
	Sept 4	Chapter 2: Population
	Sept 6	
3	Sept 9	Chapter 2: Population
	Sept 11	Chapter 3: Migration
	Sept 13	
4	Sept 16	Chapter 4: Folk and Popular Culture
	Sept 18	
	Sept 20	
5	Sept 23	Review for Exam 1. NO Classroom meeting.
	Sept 25	Exam 1: Chapters 1-4
	Sept 27	Movie 1
6	Sept 30	Discuss Assignment 1: Culture Observation Chapter 5: Language
	Oct 2	
	Oct 4	
7	Oct 7	Chapter 6: Religion
	Oct 9	
	Oct 11	Online Discussion Assignment. NO Classroom meeting.
8	Oct 14	Chapter 7: Ethnicity
	Oct 16	
	Oct 18	Prepare for presentation (Written Assignment 1). NO Classroom meeting.
9	Oct 21	Written Assignment 1 DUE. Presentation Week.
	Oct 23	
	Oct 25	
10	Oct 28	Chapter 8: Political Geography
	Oct 30	
	Nov 1	Review for Exam 2. NO Classroom meeting.
11	Nov 4	Exam 2: Chapters 5-8.
	Nov 6	Chapter 9: Development
	Nov 8	Discuss Assignment 2: World Development
12	Nov 11	Veterans' Day Holiday. No Classes.
	Nov 13	Chapter 10: Agriculture
	Nov 15	
13	Nov 18	Chapter 11&12: Industry and Services Movie 2
	Nov 20	
	Nov 22	
14	Nov 25	Online Discussion Assignment. NO Classroom meeting.
	Nov 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday. No classes.
	Nov 29	
15	Dec 2	Chapter 13: Urban Patterns
	Dec 4	Written Assignment 2 DUE.
	Dec 6	Review for Exam 3. NO Classroom meeting.
16	Exam 3: Chapter 9-13. Thursday, December 12. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	