

GEOGRAPHY 106H: HUMAN GEOGRAPHY HONORS

Section 1 T/TH 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CH 205
Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Paul Burger

Office: 203A Copeland

Office Hours: T / TH 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. and T / TH 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Or By Appointment.

I am often in my office outside of these hours so please feel free to set up a more convenient time that fits into your schedule.

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Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to one of the main subfields of Geography-Humans and their Culture. Geography 106, one of several courses designed to provide a topical introduction to the discipline, addresses the spatial implications of the human and cultural component while GEO 101 and 102, emphasize environmental and physical aspects. The course is designed around the *five themes* of cultural geography, which will form the basis for our exploration of human societies, their distribution, characteristics, and cultural impact on the landscape.

General Studies

The UNK General Studies program helps students acquire knowledge and abilities to: understand the world, make connections across disciplines, and contribute to the solution of contemporary problems.

General Studies Learning Outcomes

- Evaluate information appropriate to the task.
 - *Students will be required to evaluate information from lectures and assigned readings. Achievement is demonstrated through exams and class discussions.*
- Communicate effectively in written form.
 - *Accomplished through written assignments requiring students to a) acquire and synthesize literature in formulating and supporting a point of view b) critically review current journal articles.*
- Analyze cultural issues within a global context.
 - *Students are asked to apply the concept of cultural integration to individual components of a culture (language, religion, ethnicity, agricultural or economic system, etc) to better understand the 'lens' by which cultures view and interact with the rest of the world and how these aspects vary spatially.*

Textbook and Materials

Rubenstein, James M. 2011. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall (10th Edition).

Evaluation

Points will be awarded based upon the following components:

Exercises / Assignments (25 percent)

Assignments / Exercises will be given periodically related to our class discussions in Human Geography. While each may vary in terms of points, collectively, they will comprise 25 percent of your overall grade.

Exams (75 percent)

Three examinations will be given during the course of the semester (approximately every five weeks) covering lecture material, textbook assignments, and map and atlas exercises. Each exam is worth 25 percent of your grade. The final, although it builds upon material from the entire semester, is non-comprehensive and will cover only material since the second exam.

Make-up exams consisting of an essay format will be given only when a student contacts the instructor with a university approved excuse (see Student Handbook) prior to the scheduled exam. Within one week following the scheduled exam, the student must provide written documentation of their absence and arrange to make up the exam. Any student failing to provide documentation in the allotted time will not be allowed to take the make-up and will receive a zero (0) on that particular examination.

Although students are able to ask questions have access to all assignments / exams throughout the course of the semester, any student who wishes to challenge their score on any assignment / exam must do so in writing within one week following the return / due date of the scheduled assignment / exam. Failure to do so implies the student's acknowledgment that the grade was tabulated and recorded correctly.

Extra Credit

You will have opportunity for extra credit during the course of the semester. This will typically consist of reading an article(s) or related material and answering a few short-answer questions related to it. The extra credit assignments will be worth about 5% of an exam. These are intended to help in the case of 'border-line' grades and serve as a good review and study aid for the exams. Extra credit assignments are due at the start of class on the day of the next exam following its availability. No exceptions or credit will be give past these times.

Final Grade

Letter grades will be assigned based upon the following percentages and pluses / minuses will be used within these ranges as appropriate:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80 – 89.9	B
70 – 79.9	C
60 - 69.9	D
Below 60	F

Attendance

Since classroom attendance and participation is part of the learning process, students are expected to be present during each lecture. Because this is an introductory course, lectures cover a broad range of topics from multiple sources most of which go beyond that presented in the textbook. While the text serves as an aid to understanding many key terms and ideas, it has been my experience that students who rely on notes from others or the textbook for the course material do not perform well on examinations. *There is no substitute for a good set of class notes*. Students who miss class are responsible for getting any missed notes from other students. I do not share my lecture notes with students. Attendance will be taken to track student progress, but will not directly count toward the final grade. A borderline grade is the only case in which attendance/class participation may be taken into consideration.

Much of the value of this course stems from insights students bring from their various backgrounds to the class through participation in lecture discussions and interaction with the rest of the class. Although this is predominantly a lecture course, students are encouraged to participate in lecture discussions. To facilitate classroom interaction, a seating chart will be constructed on Thursday during the first week of class. Please sit in a location that you will feel comfortable with for the remainder of the semester.

Academic Dishonesty and Student Conduct

The expectation for all students in this course is that complete integrity will be demonstrated at all times. Cheating on exams / exercises will result in a zero (0) for that examination / assignment. A second offense will constitute failure of the entire course and may result in expulsion. Faculty regulations require notification of deans, advisors, etc. in the event of academic dishonesty. The student should be aware that both 'taking' and 'giving' improper assistance during exams / assignments constitutes academic dishonesty, even if the action is merely passive in nature (such as failing to cover your exam when you know that someone is looking at it). No electronic device (cell phones, translation devices) may be used or present during examinations unless prior approval is given by the instructor.

Students are also expected to behave in a courteous and professional manner while in Geography 106.

- Come prepared for class (read the textbook prior to class and turn assignments in on time.)
- Be punctual and remain for the entire period (class begins / ends on time - not when you show up or decide to leave).
- Talking to others or reading the paper is disruptive / rude to both your classmates and the instructor.
- Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices (recording of lectures is prohibited unless part of a signed accommodation plan).

Failure to follow normal standards of courtesy may result in dismissal from class. Remember, disturbance you create compromises the investment of others.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to

provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email brandtdl@unk.edu.

If you have an accommodation plan please see me as soon as possible, so we can make any arrangements necessary for your learning. No accommodations can be provided until a reasonable Accommodation Plan is in place. Please remember, plans are not retroactive and cannot be used for assignments prior to the date of my signature.

Final Note

The above rules are consistent among the sections of Geography 106 and are designed to ensure that all students are treated fairly. My first priority, however, is teaching. It is my job to help you gain as much from this course as possible. If you have any questions or problems with *any* portion of this course, or are not satisfied with your performance (whether you have a 'B' or 'D' average) please come see me. I cannot help you unless you talk to me.

Tentative Lecture Schedule: Spring 2012

<i>Week</i>	<i>Beginning</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings (pages)</i>
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1	Jan 10	Introduction to Concepts	Ch 1
2	Jan 17	Population	Ch 2
3	Jan 24	Migration	Ch 3
4	Jan 31	Agriculture	Ch 10
5	Feb 7	Agriculture (cont'd)	
6	Feb 14	Political Exam I: Chapters 1-3 {Tentatively Feb 16 th }	Ch 8: 238 - 256
7	Feb 21	Political (cont'd) Language	Ch 5: 134-156; 162-164
8	Feb 28	Language (cont'd) Religion	Ch 6: 168 –184; 197-199
9	Mar 6	Religion (cont'd)	
10	Mar 13	Religion (cont'd) Urban: Development and Diffusion Exam II: Chapters 4-8 {Tentatively Mar 15 th }	Ch 12
11	Mar 20	<i>Spring Break – No Classes</i>	
12	Mar 27	Urban: Development and Diffusion (cont'd)	
13	Apr 3	Urban: Zones, Models, Urbanization	Ch 13
14	Apr 10	Industrial	Ch 11: 342-361
15	Apr 17	Japan	TBA
16	Apr 24	Japan (cont'd) GIS Demonstration Conclusion/Review for Final	

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday May 1st, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.