

GEOGRAPHY 210
PEOPLES, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

BULLETIN INFORMATION

GEOG 210 - Peoples, Places, and Environments (3 credit hours)

Course Description

Basic principles of human geography.

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

There are two goals of this class: To introduce students to geographic concepts and the major subfields of human geography; and to engage students in using geographic approaches to examine economic, cultural, environmental, political, urban, and demographic issues around the world. A core theme of the class is globalization; we will study the relationships between local places and global processes, with the goal of gaining a deeper understanding of the interrelated geographic nature of the world in which we live. In the process, we will also examine the development of geography as a part of the modern world system, so that we might later consider the ways in which parts of geography are still implicated in the things they aim to study and explain, such as neocolonialism and uneven development. This course, then, is not only about the geographic perspective on issues such as the world economy, global politics, local cultural transformations within a global context, and global environmental change, but also a critical examination of geography itself.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Geography 210 students will be able to:

1. Identify the areas of inquiry addressed by the different human geographic subfields.
2. Discuss the history of human geography, and the directions current research is taking.
3. Use geographic concepts to explain the economic, environmental, political and social ways in which local phenomena are linked to other places around the world, through global processes.
4. Explain the ways in which different groups of people around the world encounter globalization, and how distinct local cultural, social, and political processes create diverse responses to global issues.
5. Demonstrate how geographic approaches address some of the major challenges facing the world today, by using spatial concepts and methods to solve real-world problems.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. Required Textbook: *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context, 5th Ed.* Paul L. Knox and Sallie A. Marston. Pearson/Prentice Hall. 2010. *Make sure you have the 2010 5th edition

2. Required supplemental readings: A selection of interdisciplinary short readings will be posted on Blackboard. These will include essays or excerpts, newspaper articles on current events related to globalization, recent research articles in geography, short videos and websites that deal with current cultural or social real-world issues. Students will also be assigned to watch a documentary on reserve at Thomas Cooper Library.
3. Online Resources: Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard to supplement our textbook. Other course materials, such as study guides and this syllabus will also be on the Blackboard site.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS

1. **Assignments:** This course has three non-cumulative tests. The third test will occur during our final exam slot. These tests are multiple choice, and will require students to demonstrate understanding of the concepts, methods, examples, and information covered in the readings and lectures. Students will also be required to analyze new examples using concepts and methods they have learned in class. I will provide specific information about the material to be covered in each test (readings and lectures) in advance. Be advised: although the tests are multiple-choice in format, they are challenging, and much of the material on the tests is presented in lecture, and is not from the readings. There are no other assessments in the class apart from these three exams, and no extra credit is available.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

Week 1	Course Introduction
Week 2	Geography Matters: Ch. 1 Mumbai project article, Hindustan Times
Week 3	Changing Global Context: Ch. 2
Week 4	Geographies of Population Research article on medieval Muslim geographers: Ch. 3
Week 5	Short video link: girls' education in Nepal Exam #1
Week 6	Nature and Society: Ch. 4 Afghanistan's Locavores, NY Times
Week 7	Cultural Geographies: Ch. 5
Week 8	Pajamas in Shanghai, NYTimes

- Week 9** Places and Landscapes: Ch. 6
Exam #2
- Week 10** Economic Development: Ch. 7
Film: Life and Debt in Jamaica, on reserve
- Week 11** Politics of Territory and Space: Ch. 9
- Week 12** Research article on U'wa resistance in Colombia
Urbanization: Ch. 10
- Week 13** Website links on Middle East, gentrification
- Week 14** City Spaces: Urban Structure Ch. 11

Final exam according to university exam schedule