

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
Geography 103 Human Geography online 2011

Instructor: John Cusick, Ph.D. jcusick@hawaii.edu

Required text: Rubenstein, J. (2011). *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* 10th edition. Prentice Hall.

Course objective and description: This online course introduces concepts and ideas designed to study physical and cultural diversity toward increased understanding and appreciation of the world. Basic geographic concepts give the tools necessary for critical analysis and debate on issues of distributions, patterns, relationships, and locations of contemporary concern at local and global scales. An objective is to appreciate Geography as an interdisciplinary field of study with relevance to a wide range of subjects. Topics of study include population and migration, language and religion, politics and economic development, rural landscapes and urbanization, and resource issues.

Course Competencies

Describe the types of economic activities in the world and identify the relevant social, cultural, political and environmental issues associated with each.

Compare and contrast human activities that have evolved under differing historical, cultural and environmental forces.

Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to apply introductory geographic theory and scientific methodology to the study of human activities.

Explain the historical evolution of world systems and various impacts on local places.

Demonstrate knowledge of major world regions, political states, and environmental diversity.

Critically analyze human activities within the framework of the course using appropriate geographic methods and tools to communicate this knowledge.

Course evaluation: (A=90%, B=80%, C=70%, D=60%, F=below 59%)

(No extra credit assignments)

Quizzes and Final Exam

Three (3) quizzes (3 x 20% = 60%)

Students will complete three (3) online and closed book, timed quizzes on eCollege based on assigned chapter readings and terms identified in the syllabus. True/False, multiple choice questions selected from textbook publishers test bank pool of questions. These questions are available as study resources on the text's website. All questions relate directly to the identified course readings.

Final exam (30%)

The comprehensive final exam is based on those chapter readings and terms identified in the syllabus.

The textbook publisher provides online practice tests that will ensure student familiarity to questions format and content. All questions come from the same pool of questions used for the quizzes. True/False, multiple choice questions selected from textbook publishers test bank pool of questions. These questions are available as study resources on the text's website. All quiz and exam questions relate directly to the identified course readings.

Comprehensive exam, day/time and location to be determined by individual students and Chaminade representatives.

Online discussion participation (10%)

Posts to Threaded Discussions on eCollege must be consistent in terms of quality and quantity during the term for full credit. Inconsistent participation in online discussions (less than once a week) results in a

5% reduction. Inconsistent quality of posts (inaccurate, incomplete, uninformed) results in a 5% reduction.

In a classroom setting, contributions are generally based on attendance, participation, and preparation. The online resources and discussion provide the content and forum for lectures covered in a classroom environment. In the online format, the Discussion board creates a learning community and allows class members to build on the information classmates provide to the discussion. For example, if someone posts a definition of a term another student may post an example of the concept/issue/topic in a specific location or region of the world. If, on the other hand, someone posts incomplete or inaccurate information or perhaps an opinion, than others can post corrections and/or demonstrating their application of course themes and concepts. Keep in mind the difference from fact and opinion! And it goes without saying that all communication is to be respectful of others.

The Discussion board is a space for students to learn from one another based on responses to study questions identified in the syllabus. Posted comments such as “good job” or “interesting” are insufficient, neither is routinely posting redundant information that has already been posted by other students. Students are encouraged to post expanded commentaries, term definitions with examples, observations, and/or current events. For example, if a definition of monsoon Asia has been provided, additional posts could expand on the information to discuss the relationship to traditional agricultural land uses or flooding in urban areas in specific places and cultural settings. Textbook resources provide ideas for this expanded discussion and students are strongly encouraged to access this source of information (see textbook for access to textbook’s website). *The accumulation of these posts becomes a useful study guide for the quizzes and final exam.*

Section One: Basic Concepts, Population and Migration: CH 1-3

Readings

CH 1 Basic Concepts

Key Issue 1 How do Geographers describe where things are?

Key Issue 2 Why is each point on Earth unique?

Key Issue 3 Why are different places similar?

CH 2 Population

Key Issue 1 Where is the world’s population distributed?

Key Issue 4 Why might the world face an overpopulation problem?

Case study revisited: India versus China

CH 3 Migration

Key Issue 2 Where are migrants distributed?

Terms: cultural ecology, cultural landscape, culture, Geographic information system (GIS), globalization, latitude, longitude, map, place, region, resource, uneven development, brain drain, guest workers, migration, refugees

Quiz 1 (20%)

Section Two: Culture and Language, Religion and Ethnicity, Political and Economic Development:

Chapters 4-9

Readings

CH 4 Folk and Popular Culture

Key Issue 2 Why is folk culture clustered?

Key Issue 4 Why does globalization of popular culture cause problems?

CH 5 Language

Key Issue 4 Why do people preserve local languages?

CH 6 Religion

Key Issue 3 Why do religions organize space in distinctive patterns?

Case Study Revisited Future of Buddhism in Tibet
Contemporary Geographic Tools Building a Barrier in the Middle East
Global Forces, Local Impacts Jerusalem: Contested Geography
CH 7 Ethnicity
Key Issue 4 What is ethnic cleansing?
Global Forces, Local Matters Dividing the Kurds
CH 8 Political Geography
Key Issue 3 Why do states cooperate with each other?
Case Study Revisited Future of the Nation-State in Europe
CH 9 Development
Key Issue 3 Where does level of development vary by gender?
Case Study Revisited Future Prospects for Development
Terms: folk culture, popular culture, lingua franca, fundamentalism, Balkanization, ethnic cleansing, nationalism, colonialism, imperialism, sovereignty, development, fair trade, Human Development Index (HDI), Millennium Development Goals, primary sector, secondary sector, tertiary sector
Quiz 2 (20%)

Section Three: Agriculture, Industry, Services, Urban Patterns, Resource Issues CH 10-14

Readings

CH 10 Agriculture
Key Issue 4 Why do farmers face economic difficulties?
Contemporary Geographic Tools Protecting Farmland
Global Forces, Local Impacts Genetically Modified Foods and Sub-Saharan Africa
CH 11 Industry
Key Issue 3 Why are site factors important?
Global Forces, Local Impacts What is an American car?
CH 12 Services
Key Issue 1 Where did services originate?
Key Issue 2 Where are contemporary services located?
CH 13 Urban Patterns
Key Issue 3 Why do inner cities face distinctive challenges?
CH 14 Resource Issues
Key Issue 3 Why are resources being reused?
Key Issue 4 Why should resources be conserved?
Case Study Revisited Future Directions
Global Forces, Local Impacts Climate Change in the South Pacific
Terms: agribusiness, desertification, Green Revolution, sustainable agriculture, Fordist production, maquiladora, outsourcing, Post-Fordist production, primate city, urbanization, gentrification, greenbelt, smart growth, urban renewal, conservation, greenhouse effect, nonrenewable energy, recycling, renewable energy, resource, sustainable development
Quiz 3 (20%)

Section 4 Final Exam

Cumulative Final Exam (30%)

Students schedule day/time and location directly with Chaminade representatives.