

GE 103: Human Geography

Inst.: Richard Bordner

Off. Hrs: M, W and F 9-1 or by app't. (Eiben 122)

Phone: 739-4644(wk), 942-3563(hm)

Text: Fellmann, J., Arthur and Judith Getis 1999 (1997). Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide a basic background in the study of human geography, or the relationship between people and the physical landscape. Geography is the study of space, while human geography is the study of people in physical space. This course examines traditional concerns of human geographers in changing patterns of land use, migration and interaction, from the context of cross-disciplinary research dealing with major issues of modern existence. These range from cultural impacts on decision-making to cultural logic in environmental degradation. This course is intended for any student interested in understanding the world that they and the rest of the human species inhabits, and how we interact with it and each other. It is especially suitable for behavioral science majors, for education majors (both elementary and secondary) and for students planning to get into careers dealing with policy, planning or advocacy issues such as political science, regional planning or environmental studies.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To increase your sensitivity to the complex dialog that underlies our interaction with the physical environment around us;
- 2) How pervasive spatial concepts are to our individual and collective existence;
- 3) The complex dialog between culture, world view and perceived reality on one hand, and various constraining forces of the physical environment on the other;
- 4) The value of geographical concepts to both understanding and dealing with many of the complex issues facing us today.

Specific Measured Course Outcomes: The following are explicit goals of this class and will be measured by various instruments during the semester:

- 1) An appreciation of the complexity and subtlety of the cultural landscape as a concept;
- 2) An understanding of the complex historical relationship between the colonial powers and the colonized and how it extends into the neo-colonial world today;
- 3) Ethnicity and how it develops;
- 4) The diversity of form and power of ritual places;
- 5) The peasant concept and the importance of land issues in many areas of the world;
- 6) The ethnocentric templates that underlie many development concepts;
- 7) The importance of spatial concepts in economics;
- 8) The importance of the concept of infrastructure.

- Modes of Instruction:**
- 1) Lectures and discussions: The lectures will supplement but NOT repeat the material covered in the texts. Both lectures and textual materials will be on the exams, and you are responsible for BOTH. Attendance is mandatory if you want to pass the class.
 - 2) Simulations: We will be doing several simulations this semester. You will be working in small groups and all members are expected to contribute their equal share to the group effort. These simulations have proved in the past to be very useful learning tools to get across sophisticated concepts, so your active participation is required. Attendance will be mandatory.
 - 3) Films: We will be viewing a number of films during the semester. You must be present as the material will part of the exams.

Grading: 1) Exams: There will be 3 exams in this class, each a combination of multiple choice and short essay. The exams will be sequential rather than cumulative, covering both lectures and readings, and will be worth 60% of the course grade.

2) Research Paper: You will have to complete a research paper on a topic of your choice based on the course material. It must be approved by me or you may suffer the consequences. It will be from 6-8 pages in length (text) and will count for 20% of the course grade.

3) Reaction Papers: You will have to complete 3 reaction papers based on situations or questions I pose during the semester. You must write a 2-4 page paper on your reactions/analysis to the questions. Remember a reaction paper is your opinion on a topic, not a research paper. The reaction papers are worth 10% of your course grade.

4) Class Attendance/Participation: Class attendance is mandatory (CUH policy, the Feds require it) and if you're not present I can guarantee you won't pass the class, as I will not be repeating book material in the lectures and you will be tested on both. You will find the class goes a lot faster and is more interesting if you ask questions and participate. Just consuming oxygen is boring. You have 2 unexcused absences to play with—after that you're in deep *kim chee* and must show a good excuse to not get docked points. Attendance/participation is worth 10% of your grade.

Exams (3).....	60%	A= 90-100	D= 60-69
Research Paper.....	20%	B= 80-89	F= -60
Group Sims.....	10%	C= 70-79	
Attend/Part.....	10%		

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4) Films: Films will be shown during the semester. You will be responsible for viewing them - attendance is mandatory and will be taken. For several films you will be writing your personal reaction to issues raised in the film.

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- Aug. 29: Intro. to course
Ass: Read FGG ch. 1-2
31: What is Geography? Human Geography?
- Sept. 5: **Walking tour on Waialae Ave.—meet at stream bridge—wear cool clothing**
Ass: Read FGG ch. 3
7: What is culture and how does it relate to space/place?
12: Culture & Icons—how symbols motivate and mark the group
Ass: Read FGG ch. 4
14: Population and demographics
19: Migration—who, where, why?
21: Video
Ass: Read FGG ch. 5
26: Language, religion & ethnic identity
28: Ritual places and religion / review for Exam I
- Oct. 3: **EXAM I** (ch. 1-5)
Ass: Read FGG ch. 6
5: Ethnic identity and place
10: Religion and ethnic identity
Ass: Read FGG ch. 7
12: Folk & popular culture
17: Advertising & place
Ass: Read FGG ch. 8
19: Feeding everyone?
Ass: Read FGG ch. 9
21: Food, production labor & K. Marx
26: Work & control of labor / Review for Exam II
31: **EXAM II** (ch. 6-9)
Ass: Read FGG ch. 10
- Nov. 2: Goods & places
7: Tourism and development
Ass: Read FGG ch. 11
9: Development options: Tourism in Hawai'i
14: Development, ethnic identity and political struggle in the Pacific—Fiji
Ass: Read FGG ch. 11
16: Traffic and suburbs
21: Urban growth and social impacts
23-24: Holiday
Ass: Read FGG ch. 12
28: Geopolitics / **Last Day Early Res. Paper Submittal**
Ass: Read FGG ch. 13
30: Environmental impacts and planning
- Dec. 5: Famines, concepts of aid and development programs
7: Summary / **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
12: **EXAM III 12:45** in regular room