

Chaminade University of Honolulu
GE 103: Human Geography
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Winter / 01

WE '01
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Course Description ~

The course is intended as an introductory survey of human geography, and its contributions to an understanding of the world in which we live.

Human geography is about Earth's diversity, its resources, and humankind's survival on the planet. The perspective of human ecology, that which focuses on the health and well-being of the earth using an eco-systems approach, will often be drawn on in this course to cultivate an "eco-systemic awareness" in class participants. This course will be concerned with a number of important questions.

* How do places on the surface of the earth differ and how do those differences impact on the lives of people?

* How can one explain those differences, both in terms of the uniqueness of particular places (locales, regions) and in terms of more general patterns and processes?

* What are the connections and relationships between people in different places? In what ways are these becoming more global? In what ways are they remaining regional or localized?

* How do humans alter their environments; meaning here, the built environment, the cultural environment, the political environment, the economic environment as well as the natural environment?

Course objectives:

1. To increase our sensitivity to the complex dialogue that underlies our ongoing interaction with the socio-physical environment around us
2. To appreciate the value of spatial and ecological concepts to both our understanding and dealing with the many complex issues facing us today.
3. To understand the basic restructuring of the economy, politics and culture that have affected the world over the past 30 years.
4. To become aware that human communities must and can adapt to environmental constraints to achieve sustainable societies locally, regionally, and globally.
5. To examine ways in which more ecologically sustainable human/nature relations might be effected.

Format

The course will closely follow the themes of each chapter. Class will include lectures on material related to the day's assignment, and student presentations on sections of the chapter(s) to be discussed that day to the class. We will also be viewing a number of films during the semester.

Each student will be responsible for:

1. A number - depending on class size - of presentations on sections of the readings.
2. A research report on any topic relevant to this course. It will be from 6-8 pages in length (text), and the subject must be approved. A short summary of your paper will be presented the last day of class.
3. Three (3) reaction papers based on situations or questions posed 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
4. The completion of a mid-term and final exam. These will be sequential rather than cumulative.

Grading

The following evaluation criteria is suggested: exams (50%), research report (25%), reaction papers (15%); class attend. and participation (10%)

90-100 @ A; 80-90 @ B; 70-79 @ C; 60-69 @ D; 59-0 @ F

The following requirements will be considered in the grading:

- mandatory attendance
- be courteous and professional in class discussions; i.e. take turns in speaking, allowing others to express their ideas without interruption, communicate with positive, constructive verbal and nonverbal language.
- show respect and an open mind to different ideas and opinions of class members.
- complete assignments on time.

Learning Outcome Assessment

All the student's work will be evaluated for:

- knowledge of the reading material, class lectures, discussion, videos, and resources from research.
- ability to provide relevant examples to support viewpoints.
- ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society.
- clarity and logical presentation.
- demonstration of having an understanding of the subject matter objectively and from opposing viewpoints.
- demonstration of achieving the objectives of this class.
- ability to analyze, critically review, and compare the issues cross-culturally.

Readings

Fellman, J., A. Getis, and J. Getis
1999 *Human Geography: landscapes of human activities*. 6th ed., San Francisco, CA: McGraw-Hill.

Schedule

January 11

Introduction ~ *summary of chapters 1-3*

January 18

Chapter 5 ~ *language and religion*

January 25

Chapter 6 ~ *ethnic geography*

February 1

Chapter 7 ~ *folk and popular culture*

February 8

Chapter 8 ~ *livelihood and economy: primary activity*

February 15

Chapter 9 ~ *livelihood and economy: from blue collar to gold collar*

Exam I

February 22

Chapter 10 ~ *patterns of development and change*

March 1

Chapter 11/12 ~ *urban systems/structures and political ordering of space*

March 8

Chapter 13 ~ *human impacts on natural systems*

March 15

Research papers due / class presentations

Exam II