

W& '02

Chaminade University of Honolulu Winter / 03
GE 103: Human Geography
Instr.: Dr. Morgan T. Brent
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Course Description ~

The course is intended as an introductory survey of human geography. 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 structuring of the economy, politics and culture that have created the modern world.
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 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.
2. 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
3. The completion of a mid-term and final exam. These will be sequential rather than cumulative.

Grading

The following evaluation criteria is suggested: exams (45%), research report (25%), reaction papers (20%); class attendance 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.

Reading

Norton, William

1999 *Human Geography*. 4th ed., Oxford Univer. Press.

Schedule

January 16

Introduction – *our evolutionary heritage*

January 23

Chapter 3 ~ *The Earth: A Human Environment*

January 30

Chapter 4 ~ *The Earth: A Fragile Home*

February 6

Chapter 6 ~ *The Human Population: An Unequal World*

February 13

Chapter 7 ~ *Cultures: The Evolution & Regionalization of Landscape*

February 20

Exam I

Chapter 9 ~ *The Political World*

February 27

Chapter 10 ~ *Agriculture*

March 6

Chapter 11 ~ *Settlement*

March 13

Chapter 12 ~ *Industry and Regional Development*

March 20

Research papers due / class presentations

Exam II