

FALL 2009 SYLLABUS

GEOGRAPHY 1101 – INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Course Description in SPSU Catalog: 3 Credit Hours

A survey of global patterns of resources, population, culture and economic systems. Emphasis is placed upon the factors contributing to these patterns and distinctions between the technologically advanced less advanced regions of the world.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS 4:00 – 5:45 P. M. - ROOM J 101

INSTUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Rajgopal Sashti

Office: J-354/356

Drop in Box: In SIS Department Office J-305

Phone/Voice Mail: 678-915-3266

E-mai: rsashti@spsu.edu

Office Hours: 3:00 – 4:00 p. m. Tuesday and Thursdays

Note: This is a hybrid course. 75% of the materials will be covered during the regular class meetings. For remaining 25%, there will be NO regular class meetings and students will work on specific assignments. Detailed advance information regarding these assignments will be provided during the regular class meetings.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Paul Knox and Sallie Marston, Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context- 4th Edition (ISBN 13-9780131497054).

Access to a web browser or time on campus to use the computers here-- participation in the class is required. You are responsible for all course material and information in the syllabus.

Campus regulations also require you to check your SPSU email regularly (ideally, every business day). I will presume you are doing this and may email critical information for which you are responsible.

Access to a typewriter or a computer and word-processing software. Be sure that you proofread all of your work (don't rely on software) and check to see that your printer or typewriter is not in need of a new ribbon. All written work in this course must be typed.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the counselor working with disabilities at 678-915-7244 as soon as possible to better assure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Be sure you read the relevant section and know and understand the potential penalties in the University Academic Regulations in the current undergraduate catalog or [on the campus web site](#). You would do well to read the [document](#) prepared by SPSU faculty members Bob Brown and Bob Harbort and supported by the School of Arts and Sciences.

ATTENDANCE/ON-TIME ASSIGNMENTS

Participation in the give-and-take of class is an important part of this course. I expect you to be in class--on time--and stay until the end of the period.

You will be responsible for all material covered in class (lecture, film, and activities) and all material covered in the assigned reading whether or not you are in class. Feel free to come to me with questions or for additional information. There will be no make-ups for in-class quizzes.

Late assignments (essays, film responses, extra credit) will **NOT** be accepted for credit. Work turned in late may be evaluated to provide you with feedback, but will not be graded / given credit except in cases of documented emergency.

Assignments may be submitted electronically if you must be absent OR if you have a printer emergency, but they must still be submitted on time. If you must submit written materials electronically, please submit them as Microsoft Word (.doc) files and send them as email attachments. (You can send attachments by regular email but be sure the attachment IS attached.) And you may not submit assignments electronically on a regular basis.

Given the amount of advance notice you have for every assignment in this course, technology failure will almost never qualify as an “emergency.” This applies to quizzes as well as written work.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

Your assignments are due on the notified due dates even if bad weather closes the university! Be sure you have read and understand the course policy on hazardous weather.

PLANS FOR CONTINUING TO CONDUCT THE COURSE IN THE EVENT OF CAMPUS CLOSURE LASTING MORE THAN A FEW DAYS.

In the event of an emergency, students will continue to be involved in course work. They will receive specific assignments dealing with maps and will also be assigned geographic sites which they will have to visit, research about and submit reports.

GRADES

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|---|------------------------------|
| a. Mid-Semester Exam | 30% - October 6, 2009 |
| b. Class Presentations | 30% - TBA |
| c. Quizzes (2) | 20% - TBA |
| d. Assignment/Class Presentation | 20% - TBA |

Note: There will be no final exam in this course.

Final grades will be influenced by the degree to which a student actively participates in class. This means careful attention to the topics presented in the lecture, a thoughtful reading of the text, and the effort to articulate ideas in a focused discussion. Students who distinguish themselves in class (asking thoughtful questions and contributing to discussion and debate) will receive grades that reflect these important contributions. Final grades are ultimately determined by the instructor.

Course Schedule

The following is a general blueprint of the way the class will progress. Exact dates will vary depending on the pace/size of the class. It is the responsibility of each student to stay informed as to upcoming lectures and class assignments.

Introduction

This course will look at historical and contemporary events over space and address such issues as environment, energy, population, culture, development, globalization etc. The approach will be to expose students to various geographic and cultural regions at a local, regional, national and international scale.

Geography is the study of the inter-relationships between humans and their environments (material and metaphorical). People have a tremendous impact on the earth; in turn our physical environments shape our societies and cultures. Geography is much more than the study of where things are; it is a way of understanding the world and our place in it. Regular student teacher interaction in class will provide the opportunity to analyse and discuss course materials in depth.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

Use maps to enhance geographical understanding.

Describe the interaction between the physical environment and human

Cultures.

Describe the distribution of man and his institutions (economic, political, cultural) over the earth.

Understand the concept of human interaction in geographic models.

Why Study Geography? Review of syllabus and class requirements. Overview of course themes/inter-relationships: the local and global, wealth and poverty, peoples and environments.

Week One: August 24, 2009

Geography matters, places and regions, global and local, human geography – definition, Spatial Relationships and Spatial Interaction, and, connectivity and Communication

Reading: Chapter One: “Geography Matters.”

Week Two: September 1

The Making of the “First,” “Second,” and Third Worlds: Diversity and Development.

Reading: Chapter Two: “The Changing Global Context.”

Week Three – September 8

Population Crisis

Geography of population, factors explaining growth and change, birth and death rates, age and race cohorts, types of migration and consequences, challenges.

Reading: Chapter Three: “Geographies of Population.”

Quiz 1- September 10

Week Four – September 15

Complexity of the relationship between nature and society, views of nature, use and abuse of nature: past, present and future, impact of urbanization and industrialization, global scope of environmental problems and the new awareness, and sustainable development.

Reading: Chapter 4: “Nature and Society.”

Week Five – September 22

Definitions of culture and its dynamic nature, interrelationship between culture and space, globalization and culture, cultural landscapes and the role of politics and economics, differences within and between cultures, and, a homogenous world?

Reading: Chapter 5: “Cultural Geographies.”

Week Six – September 29

How environment is perceived and understood, observing and interpreting landscapes, semiotics, cultural identity and understanding environment, landscape and culture, and, transition from modernity to post-modernity.

Reading: Chapter 6; “Interpreting Places and Landscapes.”

October 6 – Midsemester Exam

Week Seven - October 8

Uneven nature of economic development, division of labor and trade and politics, regional cores and principles of spatial organization, economic development and technology and geopolitics.

Reading: Chapter: 7 “The Geography of Economic Development.”

Week Eight – October 15

Transformation of agriculture and its revolutionary phases, forces shaping agriculture, impact of industrialized agriculture, agribusiness and the globalization process, agricultural transformation and its consequences, and access to food and its uneven distribution.

Reading: Chapter; 8 “Agriculture and Food Production.”

Week Nine – October 22

Complex relationships between politics and geography (human and physical), theories and practices of the world states, and how geography and politics have influenced each other.

Reading: Chapter 9; “The Politics of Territory and Space.”

Quiz No. 2 – October 27

Week Ten – October 29

Urban areas as linchpins, development of cities and town, trade and gateway cities, industrial revolution and the nature of cities, differences in trends between core and peripheral regions, world cities and global economics and culture, megacities and centrality, globalization and urbanization and the role of transportation, information and communication technologies.

Internal structure of cities and competition for convenience and access, social patterns and territoriality, the North American city model, variations in urban structure in different world regions, central city and restructuring from an industrial to a post-industrial economy, and transformation of traditional patterns of landuse.

Reading: Chapters 10 and 11, “Urbanization,” and “City Space and Urban Structures.”

Week Eleven – November 5

Institutional structures and dynamics of population, new and emerging technologies and their impact on human geography, and critical issues, conflicts and threats.

Reading: Chapter 12, “Future Geographies.”

Week Twelve – November 10, 12, - Student Presentations in Class

Week Thirteen – November 17 and 19 – Student Presentations in Class

Week Fourteen – November 24 – Student Presentations in Class

November 26 – Thanksgiving

Week Fifteen – December 1

Week Sixteen – December 8

December 10 – Last Day of Classes

Week Seventeen - December 12 – 16 – Final Exam Week

IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR USE IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND REPORTS

The University of Texas Library

Map Collection <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>

The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The International Herald Tribune <http://global.nytimes.com/?iht>

The Wall Street Journal <http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

The World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>

The BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

The Economist <http://www.economist.com/countries/>

The United Nations – Resources & <http://www.un.org/en/index.shtml>

Services Section

Emerging Markets http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerging_markets

National Resource Centers for Foreign Language, Area and International Studies -- <http://www.nrcweb.org/nrcList.aspx>

Google Maps <http://maps.google.com/>

Outline Maps <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>