

GEOG 102: Principles of Human Geography

Fall 2007 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Shannon O'Lear

Class meeting times and location:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m., Room 412 Lindley Hall

Office hours and contact information:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 pm and by appointment
219 B Lindley Hall

E-mail: olear@ku.edu (Please note: E-mail hours will coincide with regular office hours)

Telephone: 864.2041

Required textbook:

(Available at University Bookstore and Jayhawk Bookstore. Used copies may also be available at www.amazon.com or at www.half.com)

Places and Regions in a Global Context: Human Geography, Fourth edition

Authors: Paul L. Knox and Sallie A. Marston

Publisher: Pearson/Prentice Hall

Course description

If you have not taken a human geography course, you might think that Geography is all about learning state capitals. Fortunately, Geography is much more interesting than that! The discipline of Geography focuses on spatial interactions ranging from people's interactions with their living environments to spatial aspects of environmental processes. In this course, we will explore basic themes and tools that human geographers use to study social activities and connections among people and processes in different places. We will consider different scales of activity (e.g., urban, region, state, international) since patterns and processes at different scales shape how people in different places relate to each other and to their environments. We will follow the structure of the textbook and look at a particular area of human geography inquiry each week of the course: population patterns, nature and society interactions, cultural geography, landscape interpretation, economic development, agriculture and food production, politics of territory and space, etc. The learning objective of this course is for students to demonstrate an understanding of key theoretical tools and concepts of human geography.

Course website

This course will have an accompanying website that you can find by going to <http://courseware.ku.edu/>. You will find the course syllabus and other basic information about using the course website under "Course Information", and "Announcements" will alert you to assignments and their deadlines. You will also be able to check your grades through the Gradebook feature on the website.

Please note that it is YOUR responsibility to follow the syllabus, to arrange access to a computer, and to ensure that your Blackboard account is working properly. It is also your responsibility to track your grade and communicate any concerns to the course instructor promptly. If you are having problems with Blackboard, go to <http://ids.ku.edu/>, and select “Blackboard” from the left-hand column, and then select “Student Guide to Blackboard” from the menu.

Our textbook has a companion website at: http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_knox_humangeo_4

There, you will find chapter summaries, practice quizzes (under “Concept Review” and “Thinking Spatially”), related links (under “Destinations”), and suggestions for taking notes, preparing for tests, etc. (under “Study Guides and Strategies”). Take advantage of these resources as you might need to throughout the class.

Course grade

Your grade for this course will be based on exam scores and on written assignments that you will complete online through the course website. Four exams, including three throughout the semester and a cumulative final exam, will be given, but only the best three scores will count toward your grade. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to turn in six online assignments. **No make-up assignments will be available**, but the lowest assignment score will be dropped. Your grade for this course will be based on the following maximum points:

3 Exams (100 points each)	=	300 points
5 Online assignments (10 points each)	=	50 points

Grading scale

In this course, a grade of “C” indicates average performance. This grade means that the work has accomplished the minimum expected outcome. A grade of “B” indicates above average performance, and a grade of “A” recognizes work that goes beyond the call of duty. A grade of “D” indicates below average performance, and an “F” grade indicates that the work does not merit full credit.

Academic integrity

The University has the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity so as to protect the quality of education and research on our campus and to protect those who depend upon our integrity. It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. In this course, you are expected to do your own, original work and to turn in work that has not been previously submitted for credit. If you have questions or concerns about academic integrity, please bring these to my attention.

Individual meeting with your professor

At a university of this size, it is easy to get lost in the crowd! I strongly encourage you to stop by during my office hours or to make an appointment to meet with me outside of class to take a few minutes to introduce yourself. An individual meeting can be your opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the course, the Geography Department, or the field of Geography in general.

Schedule of readings and topics (subject to adjustment)

Week	Date	General topic and reading
Week 1	Th 16 Aug	Welcome and introduction to the course
Week 2	Tu 21 Aug	Chapter 1: Geography Matters
	Th 23 Aug	Chapter 1: Geography Matters
Week 3	Tu 28 Aug	Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context
	Th 30 Aug	Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context
Week 4	Tu 4 Sep	Chapter 3: Geographies of Population
	Th 6 Sep	Chapter 3: Geographies of Population
Week 5	Tu 11 Sep	Review for Exam 1
	Th 13 Sep	Exam 1
Week 6	Tu 18 Sep	Chapter 4: Nature and Society
	Th 20 Sep	Chapter 4: Nature and Society
Week 7	Tu 25 Sep	Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies
	Th 27 Sep	Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies
Week 8	Tu 2 Oct	Chapter 6: Interpreting Places and Landscapes
	Th 4 Oct	Chapter 6: Interpreting Places and Landscapes
Week 9	Tu 9 Oct	To Be Arranged
	Th 11 Oct	Fall Break -- No class meeting
Week 10	Tu 16 Oct	Review for Exam 2
	Th 18 Oct	No class meeting (Central Eurasian Studies Society Meeting)
Week 11	Tu 23 Oct	Exam 2
	Th 25 Oct	Chapter 7: The Geography of Economic Development
Week 12	Tu 30 Oct	Chapter 7: The Geography of Economic Development
	Th 1 Nov	Chapter 8: Agriculture and Food Production
Week 13	Tu 6 Nov	Chapter 8: Agriculture and Food Production
	Th 8 Nov	Chapter 9: The Politics of Territory and Space
Week 14	Tu 13 Nov	Chapter 9: The Politics of Territory and Space

	Th 15 Nov	To Be Arranged
Week 15	Tu 20 Nov	Review for Exam 3
	Th 22 Nov	Thanksgiving Break – No class meeting
Week 16	Tu 27 Nov	Exam 3
	Th 29 Nov	To Be Arranged
Week 2	Tu 4 Dec	Review for Exam 4

Final exam: Tuesday, December 11, 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM in the regular classroom unless notified otherwise. Double check the finals schedule at <http://www.registrar.ku.edu/pdf/079final.pdf> (Note that our class meets at an unusual time but overlaps with classes meeting at 12:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays).