

GEOG 102: Principles of Human Geography

Spring 2008 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Professor Shannon O'Lear

Class meeting times and location:

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50 a.m., Room 412 Lindley Hall

Office hours and contact information:

Mondays 1:30-3:00 pm, Wednesdays 12:30-2:00 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

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Jessey Gilley

Email: humgeog@hotmail.com

Office hours:

Mondays 1:00-3:00 pm, Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 pm, and by appointment; 402 Lindley Hall

Katie Haselwood

E-mail: katlh@ku.edu

Office hours:

Mondays and Thursdays 9:00 - 11:00a.m.; Room 402 Lindley Hall

Required textbook:

The course textbook is 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”). Using these resources is optional. Take advantage of them if they are helpful to you 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, lowest of 4 scores is dropped)	=	300 points
5 Online assignments (10 points each)	=	50 points

Grading scale

The grades in this course will be assigned on a regular scale where 90-100% is an A, 80-89% is a B, 70-79% is a C, etc. 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 that has not been previously or concurrently submitted for credit. If you have additional questions or concerns about academic integrity, please bring these to my attention.

Special Needs

The staff of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), located at 135 Strong Hall (864.2620), coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted them, please do so as soon as possible. Please also see me privately in regard to this course.

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	Wed. 23 Jan.	Welcome and introduction to the course
Week 2	Mon. 28 Jan.	Chapter 1: Geography Matters
	Wed. 30 Jan.	Chapter 1: Geography Matters
Week 3	Mon. 4 Feb.	Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context
	Wed. 6 Feb.	Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context
Week 4	Mon. 11 Feb.	Chapter 3: Geographies of Population
	Wed. 13 Feb.	Chapter 3: Geographies of Population
Week 5	Mon. 18 Feb.	Review for Exam I
	Wed. 20 Feb.	Exam I
Week 6	Mon. 25 Feb.	Chapter 4: Nature and Society
	Wed. 27 Feb.	Chapter 4: Nature and Society
Week 7	Mon. 3 Mar.	Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies
	Wed. 5 Mar.	Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies
Week 8	Mon. 10 Mar.	Video: Himalaya

	Wed. 12 Mar.	Chapter 7: The Geography of Economic Development
Week 9	Mon. 17 Mar.	Spring Break -- No class meeting
	Wed. 19 Mar.	Spring Break -- No class meeting
Week 10	Mon. 24 Mar.	Chapter 7: The Geography of Economic Development
	Wed. 26 Mar.	Review for Exam 2
Week 11	Mon. 31 Mar.	Exam 2
	Wed. 2 Apr.	Chapter 8: Agriculture and Food Production Video: Deconstructing Supper
Week 12	Mon. 7 Apr.	Guest lecturer: Megan Holyrod
	Wed. 9 Apr.	Guest lecturer: Megan Holyrod
Week 13	Mon. 14 Apr.	Chapter 8: Agriculture and Food Production
	Wed. 16 Apr.	Chapter 9: The Politics of Territory and Space
Week 14	Mon. 21 Apr.	Chapter 9: The Politics of Territory and Space Video: The Golf War
	Wed. 23 Apr.	Ch. 11: City Spaces & Urban Structure
Week 15	Mon. 28 Apr.	Ch. 11: City Spaces & Urban Structure
	Mon. 30 Apr.	Review for Exam 3
Week 16	Mon. 5 May	Exam 3
	Wed. 7 May	Geography of Genocide

Final exam: Monday, 12 May, 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/082final_rev10042007.pdf