

GEOG 101-001

Introduction to Human Geography



Clockwise from upper left:
Belize
Timbuktu
Sao Paulo
Hong Kong

Course Syllabus

Geography Program
Winthrop University
Spring 2016

Instructor Information

Instructor: Bryan McFadden
Office Hours: MW 2:00 – 4:00
TH 1:00 – 4:00
F 8:30 – 11:30 or by appointment

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Geography Program Homepage:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/geography/>

Course Information

Course: GEOG 101 – Introduction to Human Geography
Lectures: Section 001 (22445) – MW 12:30 - 1:45 PM

Location: OWEN 102
Credit Hours: 3 – This course fulfills the General Education Global Perspectives and Social Science Requirement

Course Description and Philosophy

Human geographers are concerned with the “who”, “what”, “where”, “why”, “when”, and “how” of humans their interrelationships and their relationship to the environment:

The course focuses on the spatial aspects of population growth and distribution, cultural differentiation, urban growth and decline, the spread of ideas and innovations, regional development, and the location of economic activity, as well as problems associated with these processes. This introductory course will introduce students to several subfields of study, including population, urban, economic, cultural, and political geography, as well as fundamental geographic concepts.

Human Geography is a broad dynamic domain that reflects the developments and conditions in the contemporary world. It is a field of inquiry and an academic discipline with its own traditions, objectives and approaches to the changing world. It involves an examination of the setting in which people live their lives as part of a continual process of struggle and transformation.

The central concern of the course is the analysis of the relationship between society, place and space. It focuses on social, economic, political, cultural and human-environment processes and patterns and how they change over space and time. The course aims to engender a critical geographical perspective on the past, present and future development of the social world. This critical viewpoint is of crucial importance in the generation of a broad and informed understanding of the world.

Course Goals and Objectives

This course fulfills a Global Perspectives requirement in the Touchstone General Education Program. Specifically the course addresses the following General Education Goals:

- 1.1 Read, write, and speak Standard English.
- 4.1 Analyze diverse world cultures, societies, languages, historical periods and artistic expressions.

4.2 Understand cultures in their own terms and in terms the diversity of ideas, institutions, philosophies, moral codes, and ethical principles

This course also addresses the following Winthrop University Level Competencies:

Competency 1: Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems

Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.

These requirements are met by providing a geographic perspective to the various global issues discussed in class. The nature of geography as an interdisciplinary science allows for observation of issues from economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental viewpoints. This spatial view of the various aspects of the issues allows for a better understanding of the problem and thus hopefully better solutions.

Specifically this course will:

1. Provide a systematic study of human geography and its sub-topics
 - a. The nature and perspective of geography
 - b. Population and cultural patterns and processes
 - c. Contemporary globalization
 - d. The interaction between people and their environment
 - e. The political organization of space
 - f. Economic development and uneven development
 - g. Urbanization and Urban Life
2. Teach the use of spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine the human organization of space.
3. Teach the use and interpretation of maps, spatial data sets and geographic models when analyzing human diversity.
4. Teach spatial relationships across different scales ranging from the global to the local.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course participates in the Global Learning Initiative (GLI). Geography by its nature is holistic in its approach to real-world problems. Consequently by the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Discuss and describe the major concepts in human geography including place, space, scale, landscape, etc.
- Distinguish the characteristics and key principles of human geography
- Assess how all inhabitants of earth are interrelated with the lives of people in other places, thereby creating a greater appreciation for the places and landscapes encountered in everyday life.
- Understand that the modern world is an entity that is ecologically, economically, and politically interconnected and interdependent and what the implications are of this for environmental problem solving.
- Appreciate that the diversity of cultural backgrounds and personal experiences influence the way people perceive places.
- Approach problem-solving from a geography perspective by understanding the role location plays.

Finally it is hoped that with the conclusion of the course that each student is instilled with an appreciation for the great variety of cultural forms and ways of thinking throughout the world, and to help students formulate a world view that uses this appreciation to become responsible citizens in America during the 21st century.

Course Materials

Textbook

There is one central textbook to this course. Additional resources may be posted on the course site throughout the term. All materials posted will be in Adobe Acrobat format.

Recommended Textbook

Title: Human Geography: Places and Regions in a Global Context, 7th Edition
Authors: Paul L. Knox and Sallie A. Marston
Publisher: Pearson
ISBN: 978-0-321-98424-1

[GEOG 101 Blackboard](#)

Course Website

Blackboard will be utilized for posting major assignment information and all lectures. Information will be posted in PDF format. If you need assistance with Blackboard, below is a link that has various instructions and troubleshooting guides: http://www2.winthrop.edu/webct/Blackboard_Training_Tutorials.html. In addition to Blackboard this course will utilize Mastering Geography, which is a companion site to the text. Options for web access / text will be reviewed the first day in class.

Course Requirements

Assignments

There will be two written assignments.

Instructions for the written assignments will be provided when officially assigned. See *Course Rules and Guidelines* for further information regarding grading and submission guidelines. Each

major assignment is worth **20%** of your final grade. The combined value of the assignments is **40%** of your final grade. Both assignments will be due by midnight via Turnitin. Turnitin information will be provided when the assignments are officially provided to the class.

Assignment Due Dates (All due by midnight via Turnitin)

- #1 - Global Demographic Patterns (M4-Population): 2/21/16
- #2 - Geography of My Stuff (M7-Economic): 4/03/16

Tests

There will be 3 content tests based on all material (videos, lectures, website materials, etc.) presented in the course. Each test is worth **15%** of your overall grade.

- #1 – Wednesday February 10th, 2016
- #2 – Wednesday March 9th, 2016
- #3 – Wednesday April 20th, 2016

Final Exam

There will be a cumulative exam based on all material (videos, lectures, etc.) presented in the course. The final exam is worth **15%** of your final grade.

Section 001 – Wednesday April 27th 11:30 am

Course Rules and Guidelines

Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access: Winthrop University is committed to providing access to education. If you have a condition which may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 803-323-3290, or, accessibility@winthrop.edu. Please inform me as early as possible, once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be checked randomly throughout the term. Those students missing more than 5 classes will receive an F. Any extenuating circumstance that may prevent a student from attending class needs to be discussed with the professor the moment they arise. Please see the undergraduate catalog for the University Attendance Policies (<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/studentconduct/StudentHandbook.pdf>)

Student Code of Conduct: As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" in the Student Handbook: <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/studentconduct/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Safe Zones Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thoughts is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Classroom Etiquette: All cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned **OFF** (not on silent mode or vibrate). The use of computers without prior approval is forbidden. Students texting in class will be asked to leave and will be considered absent. A second offense will result in a 10% reduction in your **FINAL** grade. A third offense will result in an **F** in the course. If you are expecting an important phone call you are to notify me during the beginning of the class. If you wish to record the lecture you must consult with the professor prior to recording any lectures. For the full policy please see the College of Arts and Sciences policy at the following link. <https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/PolicyForHandHeldTech-April2014.pdf>

If a test or exam is scheduled for a particular class, students will not be permitted to take the test/exam when 15 minutes has expired since the start of the test/exam session. A grade of zero will be entered and the lateness will be treated as an absence.

Assignment Submission: All assignments will be submitted electronically. Instructions for submission will be included with assignment description documents.

Late Penalties: **No late assignments will be accepted.** The only exceptions that will be made will be for those excuses that meet the university guidelines (see Missed Test/Exam policy below).

"24" Hour Rule: The instructor will not discuss the grade on an assignment, project, exam, test, etc. during the first 24 hours after it is handed back. Contact the instructor via e-mail the following day to make an appointment to discuss the grade.

Exception: If the problem is a mathematical error follow the instructor to his office after class and the appropriate adjustments will be made.

Exam Deferrals: Legitimate student conflicts are defined as follows: more than one scheduled exam per period; more than two scheduled exams per day; and more than three scheduled exams in any four consecutive periods. A student with a legitimate conflict will receive written notification from the Office of Records and Registration. The instructor involved will also be sent notification of the conflict. Conflicts should be resolved by the student and instructor. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the resolution of any conflicts. **Personal conflicts such as travel plans and work schedules do not warrant a change in examination times.** For further details refer to <http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/recandreg/Catalogs/15-16/2015-16Catalog.pdf>

Missed Test/Exam Policy: There are only four acceptable excuses for an individual missing an exam or test. They are:

1. **Illness:** I will need an official certificate from your doctor verifying that you have a medical condition that precluded you from writing the scheduled exam/test. The note must indicate the day(s) you were unable to attend class and not simply the day you were seen by the medical practitioner. You will also be required, within reason, to notify the instructor as early as possible prior to, or immediately after the scheduled date. An email will suffice.
2. **Funeral Attendance:** I will need proof of funeral attendance with the date of the ceremony clearly listed.
3. **Mandatory Courtroom Appearance:** I will need a copy of your official court summons with the date of attendance clearly listed.
4. **Winthrop Athletic Participation and other Approved University Activities:** I will need a signed letter from a member of the senior coaching staff, program director, instructor or other supervisory individuals indicating the day(s) you will be absent.

In all situations, the makeup test/exam will occur within **5** class days of the missed date. In the event of illness will this deadline be **5** days from the **“return to work”** date noted on the medical certificate.

Make-Up or Bonus Work: There will be **NO** make-up work or bonus material of any kind.

Grading Policy

- All grades are based on the sum total of all assignments, tests, exams, etc. as specified in the course syllabus.
- Grades will NOT be based on how hard you worked, classroom attendance, classroom participation, the need to graduate by a certain date or the need to maintain a specific GPA for academic scholarships, financial aid, athletic scholarships or athletic eligibility considerations.
- You are responsible for knowing the “drop dates” as indicated in the academic calendar
- I will not drop anyone from the course in order to prevent them receiving a poor grade nor will I provide an incomplete unless extenuating circumstances exist. Students who wish to receive an incomplete as a result of illness will be instructed to seek a medical withdrawal from the class.
- I will not discuss standing in the course via phone, email or in person with anyone but the student themselves. It is illegal for me to do so unless a release form has been signed with the student and properly registered with Records and Registration. Upon confirmation from Records and Registration, only then will I discuss grades with approved individuals.
- In the interest of fairness, there are no exceptions to these rules.

Grading Breakdown The following letter breakdown will be used for the assignment of final grades:
(Letter Grade/Percentage Value Range)

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Syllabus Change Policy: The delivery of a course is dynamic in nature and cannot always follow the course calendar and schedule. Wherever possible the instructor will attempt to ensure that the schedule is followed. The following changes can be done without consultation with the class, though any changes will be announced:

1. Changing the sequence/order in which material is delivered
2. Adding or removing content
3. Changing the date of a schedule test or assignment (Exams cannot be changed). At least 1 weeks’ notice will be given when changing a test or assignment deadline.

Any changes with regards to the distribution of grades, the application of letter grades, or any changes that effect the assessment and evaluation of student performance will be discussed with the class. If two-thirds of the class is in agreement with a proposed change then the change is accepted. A revised syllabus reflecting that change will be provided electronically to the class.

Course Calendar and Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 11	Maintenance: Course Introduction, Overview and Expectations
	Jan 13	Lecture: Introduction to Human Geography (Module 01)
2	Jan 18	MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
	Jan 20	Lecture: Introduction to Human Geography (Module 01)
3	Jan 25	Lecture: Maps and Geospatial Technologies (Module 02)
	Jan 27	Lecture: Maps and Geospatial Technologies (Module 02) Video: The Geospatial Revolution
4	Feb 01	Lecture: The Changing Global Context (Module 03)
	Feb 03	Lecture: The Changing Global Context (Module 03)
5	Feb 08	Lecture: Population Geography (Module 04)
	Feb 10	Test #1 (Modules 1-3)
6	Feb 15	Lecture: Population Geography (Module 04)
	Feb 17	Lecture: Population Geography (Module 04)
7	Feb 22	Lecture: People and Nature (Module 05)
	Feb 24	Lecture: People and Nature (Module 05) Video: Africa and Asia on the Edge
8	Feb 29	Lecture: Cultural Geography (Module 06)
	Mar 02	Lecture: Cultural Geography (Module 06)
9	Mar 07	Video: On Our Watch
	Mar 09	Test #2 (Modules 4-6) Withdrawal Deadline: Mar 09
10	Mar 14	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
	Mar 16	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
11	Mar 21	Lecture: Geography of Economic Development (Module07)
	Mar 23	Lecture: Geography of Economic Development (Module07)
12	Mar 28	Lecture: Geography of Economic Development (Module07)
	Mar 30	Lecture: Political Geography (Module 08)
13	Apr 04	Lecture: Political Geography (Module 08)
	Apr 06	Video: Ukraine, North Korea, Syria, Egypt, or ISIS
14	Apr 11	Lecture: Urbanization / Urban Structure (Module 09)
	Apr 13	Lecture: Urbanization / Urban Structure (Module 09)
15	Apr 18	Catch-up Day
	Apr 20	Test #3 (Modules 7-9)
16	Apr 25	Class wrap-up and final exam review

