

Geography 10100: People and their Environments

Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:10 AM -12:25 PM

West Building – W415

Course/Section Number: 4320 for sec. 03 and 6244 for sec. EC11

Instructor: Ms. Ekaterina Bezbodko

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor's Email: eb926@hunter.cuny.edu

Course Overview

Geography is one of the most diverse university disciplines. Its mission is to explain the interaction between the human and non-human worlds to produce our life around the world, in all its complexity. This course is an introduction to both physical and human geography. Topics range from climate change and plate tectonics to globalization and political boundaries. It is an introduction to the major subfields of the discipline, major patterns of human and non-human activity at the global level, and major theories and techniques for thinking spatially. Topics build upon each other throughout the course, demonstrating that understanding the world geographically means thinking interrelatedly.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to

- Identify major atmospheric, biological, and geochemical processes and the resulting distribution of biomes, weather patterns, and landscapes.
- Identify major trends in human activities such as population dynamics, migration, cultural practices, economic activities, and impacts on the environment.
- Describe how these interact and impact each other to produce complex phenomena such as globalization and climate change.
- Read maps and related spatial graphics for basic information and to make inferences and connections.
- Consider and compare a variety of theoretical outlooks on major world problems such as environmental degradation, inequality, and political conflict.
- Understand the breadth of geography as an academic discipline with a variety of professional applications.

Materials

Required texts:

The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change. 2019 Robert Hanson. American Meteorological Society and The University of Chicago Press. This is the **second edition**. You can buy this book directly from AMS for \$25, or go to other booksellers' websites for cheaper used versions. Don't worry – we won't talk only about climate change in this class!

Goode's World Atlas, 23rd Edition. It is on sale for \$19.99 on the Rand McNally website (<https://store.randmcnally.com/goodes-world-atlas-23rd-edition-paperback.html>). Please note, Google Maps are not an appropriate substitute for an actual atlas.

Other required readings will be posted on Blackboard. Expect to read 2-3 articles/book excerpts or 4-5 shorter news media articles each week. Readings need to be done by the time you come to class.

Optional text: Dahlman, Carl and William Renwick. *Introduction to Geography: People, Places & Environment*, 6/E. ISBN-13: 978-0321843333 ,ISBN-10: 0321843339 2014 Prentice Hall. The course will broadly follow the outline of this textbook, but all crucial information will be available in the required readings/materials. You are welcome to buy an inexpensive used copy or consult the book on reserves at the library as a study guide.

Requirements

Attendance, Reading, Self-guided Study

- You are expected to read all materials and study all maps presented to you.
- Attendance is very highly recommended but not mandatory.
- Attendance will be tracked with a sign-in sheet. Borderline final grades can be adjusted up for good attendance.
- I will not use office hours to re-explain lecture content to students who regularly miss lectures without documented reasons.
- Not every single concept from the readings will be covered in the lecture. College students need to learn some content through self-directed study. You are *always* welcome to email the instructor if you don't understand something.

Map Exercises and Map Quizzes

- Map Exercises:
 - Three online (Blackboard) assignments to practice map-reading skills..
 - Maps are related to our topics and are provided online.
 - You'll need a good screen to see them – use Hunter computers if needed.
 - Expect to spend at least 2 hours on each of the three exercises. You can do a little bit at a time; you will *not* be timed when you log in.
- Map Quizzes:
 - A list of countries, cities, and physical features plus a set of blank maps are provided at the start of the course.
 - You will take 4 quizzes, one during each regular exam and two during the final exam. Each quiz covers a continent or group of continents.
 - You will be given a small portion of each list to label on the blank maps.
 - Expect to spend about 5 minutes on each quiz.

Exams

- Three exams: two in-term regular exams, one final
- Cannot be rescheduled except for documented emergencies
- 50% of each exam is short-essay/short-answer questions – you will know what the questions are a week or more ahead of time, but no notes are allowed in the exam room

Anonymous Surveys

- Two online (Blackboard) surveys
- Start of the course: let the instructor know your interests and background knowledge and any concerns you have.

- End of the course: let the instructor know what your favorite and least favorite readings and topics were.
- I will see if you completed it or not, but I will *not* see your individual answer.
- This is *separate* and *different* from the Hunter course evaluation. Official college course evaluations *do not* take place on Blackboard and *cannot* be tracked individually in any way by the instructor.

Blackboard

- All major course announcements – readings, schedule changes, exciting events – are communicated through Blackboard.
- Please make sure you check the e-mail account that is linked to your Blackboard (usually your official college e-mail).

Classroom Etiquette

- Please arrive to class on time.
- Turn off all cell phones and similar devices. There should be no texting or browsing the internet during class.
- Please raise your hand to talk.
- If your phone use or side-conversation is audible, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Emails and meeting requests

Come meet me with any questions about the course, the field of geography, and any topics we study! When you arrive, you can even get a mini-tour of the department, if you'd like.

- Please email ahead of time. If you show up without emailing, I might not be there!
- Please include "GEOG 101" in the subject line.
- Please sign with your full name.
- Emails without signatures or subject lines will not be answered.
- I will make all efforts to answer e-mails within two working days.

Grading

- Map quizzes 12% (4 x 3% each)
- Map exercises 21 % (3 x 7% each)
- Exam 1 20%
- Exam 2 20 %
- Final Exam 25% (1/4 cumulative, 3/4 based on last third of course materials)
- Anonymous Survey 2% (2 x 1%)

Grading Policies

- Exams and late map exercises can only be rescheduled based on documented or exceptional circumstances, such as illness, bereavement, or documented family emergency. Please contact me as soon as possible.
- It is your responsibility to let me know about a religious observance or other pre-schedule event *before* the exam or due date.
- **An Incomplete (IN) grade** will not be given unless you have an exceptional and documented emergency. You must contact me about making up any missed assignments

and fill out the *Contract to Resolve an Incomplete Grade* form **within 72 hours** of the day/time of the final exam. The IN will become an FIN (like an F) at the end of the following semester if you do not complete the work.

- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)** forms will be accepted only before the final exam - submit them *no later than 15 minutes before the final exam begins*.
- **CR/NC is not a way to make up for missing work!** To qualify for the CR/NC option students must have completed all of the course work (exams, quizzes, exercises etc.).
- CR-NC grades will be assigned based on the rules outlined on the CR/NC form. If you think you'll need this option, *please* speak to your department advisors and also to me to make sure it is in your best interest.
- Please note, course withdrawals affect your financial aid! If you receive a W, WN, or WU, you may need to return part of your financial aid.
- A **WU (Unofficial Withdrawal)** grade will be assigned if you enroll in the class and stop participating in class without formally withdrawing. This happens if:
 - 1) A student's enrollment has been verified by the course instructor, and
 - 2) The student has severed all ties with the course at any time before the final exam week and, consequently, has failed to complete enough course work -- as specified in the course syllabus -- to earn a letter grade (in our course, this means that you must complete a minimum of all three exams OR a minimum of the first two exams and all three map exercises), and
 - 3) The student has not officially withdrawn from the course by completing the process for a W grade, or made arrangements to receive an INC.
- **An F grade is assigned if you did your work poorly – it is not a substitute for a WU. If you simply abandon the course, you will get a WU. A WU is like an F on an academic transcript, but a simple F does *not* require you to return your financial aid because a letter grade means you completed the course. So, it is in your interest to avoid WUs!**

See the Hunter Academic Calendar for guidance on deadlines to drop courses with refunds or to avoid withdrawal on your transcript:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/onestop/repository/files/registrar/2019-calendars/Fall%202019%20calendar.pdf>

Hunter College Statement on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College.

ADA Policy (from Office of AccessABILITY)

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E 1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123. CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

Schedule

Mini-Schedule

Tuesday	Subject	Friday	Subject
Aug 27	Introduction	Aug 30	Introduction (Mapping)
Sept 3	Weather and Climate	Sept 6	Weather and Climate
Sept 10	Weather and Climate	Sept 13	Landforms/geology/hazards
Sept 17	Landforms/geology/hazards	Sept 20	Biogeography
Sept 24	Biogeography	Sept 27	Energy Resources (<i>Exercise 1 Due</i>)
Oct 1	NO CLASS	Oct 4	<u>Exam 1 and Map Quiz 1</u>
Oct 8	NO CLASS	Oct 11	Population Dynamics
Oct 15	Population Dynamics	Oct 18	Introducing the Economy
Oct 22	Food and Agriculture	Oct 25	Food and Agriculture
Oct 29	Urbanization	Nov 1	Urbanization
Nov 5	Political Geography	Nov 8	<u>Exam 2 and Map Quiz 2</u>
Nov 12	Political Geography	Nov 15	Politics of the Global Economy
Nov 19	Introducing Cultural Geography	Nov 22	Culture: Religions
Nov 26	Culture: Religions	Nov 29	NO CLASS
Dec 3	Culture: Languages	Dec 6	Culture: Languages
Dec 10	Geography of the Future		
Dec 17, 9:00 – 11:00 Final Exam and Map Quizzes 3 & 4 (same room, different time!) Date is subject to change as per the registrar; pay attention to Blackboard announcements.			

Detailed Schedule (Please look for the reading list in a separate document)

Introduction to Geography (Tues, August 27 and Fri, August 30)

What is geography? Are we really going to cover everything about the entire world in 14 weeks?! What is so complicated about “place” and “space?” How can we map the world?
PLEASE TAKE FIRST SURVEY BY AUGUST 30

Weather, Climate, and Climate Change (Tues, Sept 3, Fri, Sept 6, Tues, Sept 10)

What causes (sort-of) predictable global weather patterns such as monsoon cycles? What causes modern climate change, and will it really make hurricanes and droughts stronger?

Landforms, geological processes, and geological hazards. (Fri, Sept 13 and Tues, Sept 17)

How are landscapes formed through movement of tectonic plates, water, and wind? How do we map and predict geological hazards like volcanoes, earthquakes, and landslides?

Biological processes, ecology, and biomes. (Fri, Sept 20 and Tues, Sept 24)

How do ecosystems move the sun’s energy around? Is it possible to scramble an ecosystem’s biological clock? What are geographers and cartographers doing to protect endangered species and fight invasive species?

Energy Resources (Fri, Sept 27)

What do these energy buzzwords (alternative! renewable! low-carbon!) actually mean? How do energy distribution and use patterns influence local health and global politics? How do energy choices impact climate change?

Map Exercise 1 Due (by start of class)

NO CLASS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Friday, October 4: Exam 1 and Map Quiz 1: The Americas

Exam will cover everything up to, but not including, energy resources.

NO CLASS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Population Geography (Fri, Oct 11 and Tues, Oct 15)

Why do some countries have more elderly people and others have more children? How have population trends changed globally? Are there too many of us? Is that even possible?

Introduction to Economic Geography (Fri, Oct 18)

What *is* “the economy” anyway? How do we measure it? What is capitalism? Did it always exist? How do we measure poverty around the world?

Agriculture (Tues, Oct 22 and Fri, Oct 25)

What kinds of farming systems exist? Do peasants or agribusinesses produce more food? Is there enough food for all today? Will climate change wreck agriculture?

Cities and Urbanization (Tues, Oct 29 and Fri, Nov 1)

What do cities look like around the world? Is the right word “slum” or “informal settlement?” Are cities going to bake as global temperatures rise? Is gentrification something that happens only in NYC?

Map Exercise 2 Due (by start of class, Nov 1)

Introduction to Political Geography (Tues, Nov 5)

States, nations, nation-states – how did the world get divided into 190+ countries? Was the world always divided up into countries? Is *every* part of the world part of a country?

Fri, Nov 8: Exam 2 and Map Quiz 2: Europe and Central Asia

Exam will cover everything from Energy Resources to Urban Geography, and will *not* cover Introduction to Political Geography

Political Geography (continued) (Tues, Nov 12)

Do borders produce refugees? Can someone be a refugee in their own country? What’s happening at the U.S./Mexico border? Will there ever be official “climate refugees?”

Governing the Global Economy (Fri, Nov 15)

Can anyone actually win a trade war? How far would you move for a job? What is the relationship between trade, labor migration, and politics around the world?

Introduction to Cultural Geography (Tues, Nov 19)

What is culture? What is *geographical* about it?

Cultural Geography - Religions (Fri, Nov 22 and Tues, Nov 26)

Where do major world religions come from, and how did they spread? Is fundamentalism a global phenomenon? How many religions are there, anyway, and can they be mapped?

NO CLASS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Cultural Geography – Languages (Tues, Dec. 3 and Fri, Dec 6)

If languages are grouped into “families,” what makes them related? Why do some languages spread while others go extinct? Why is NYC slang not its own language?

Cultural Geography of the Future: Movement of Ideas (Fri, Dec 10)

(Tentative topic – student suggestions will be considered)

How do social movements and ideas regarding culture, politics, justice, and environment become globalized? How will they shape the geography of the future?

Map Exercise 3 Due (by start of class)

DECEMBER 17: FINAL EXAM AND MAP QUIZES 3 (ASIA) AND 4 (AFRICA)

SAME ROOM, DIFFERENT TIME! 9:00 am-11:00 am

Exit Survey Due (by start of final exam)

75% of the exam will cover Political Geography - Cultural Geography

25% of the exam will cover topics from prior two exams - make sure to review past exam questions!