

Hunter College - CUNY
Dept. of Geography & Environmental Science
GEOG 101 Lecture Presentation Summary
Spring 2021

NOTE: *In the absence of face-to-face lecturing and explanation of the material presented in the lecture slides, I will summarize the content of each lecture presentation stressing the concepts and interrelationships that are essential to an introductory geography course.*

If, after viewing the lecture presentation, the imbedded short videos and hot links to articles, and after reading this summary, you have any questions, would like to contribute a comment or two, need clarification by other examples or would like additional information on the topic, please do not hesitate to email me at agrande@hunter.cuny.edu.

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LECTURE 19: Part III: Introduction to Human Geography

- **Part III of this course focuses on the “people” aspects of “People and their Environment.”** Here we look at the earth from the people point of view.
- **Slide 3: Part III Topics.** This slide shows the five major topics to be covered within the pages of seven chapters. However, we will not go into detail and textbook readings will be selective pages. Chapter 11 will be covered through the last extra credit exercise. As with Parts I and II of this course, I suggest that you look through all the remaining chapters at one time, look over the photographs, maps and charts, and then go back to them when we cover those sections in lecture.
- **Slide 4: Part III Focus Areas.** Here are the subunits with which we will concern ourselves in Part III.
 - For this lecture, we start off looking at people interacting with nature: how perception leads to land use decisions and the development of the cultural landscape. We can group characteristics to create cultural regions. Within these regions we identify and name places. As perceptions evolve and attitudes change, location, resources and human’s needs take on new meanings, thus the relevant role of geography in world, regional, and local affairs over the years and also as background for current events.
 - The remaining lectures of this semester will focus on:
 - the spatial aspects of population
 - the spatial aspects of economic activities
 - the spatial aspects of people living in non-rural settings – the cities
 - the spatial aspects of politics and the creation of political areas
- **Slide 5: Human Geography within the Five Fundamental Themes of Geography.** Here is a color-coded *Five Fundamental Themes of Geography* chart showing the relationship of people to the elements of the physical environment. “Human-Environment Interaction” leads to habitat evaluation. A “Location” is chosen by people specifically by the characteristics of “Place” which leads to the creation of patterns and also to ownership (boundaries are demarcated). All things spread from points of origin (“Movement”) and eventually unifying characteristics are grouped (“Regions”). These relationships, of course, will change over time.

- **Slide 6: Human Geography and the Social Sciences.** Here we see the relationship of human geography within the social sciences and its connection to regional and behavioral studies.
- **Slide 7: Culture.** Human culture is the essence of human geography because it defines human interaction with the physical environment. Remember **culture is learned**, not natural; it was created by people; it is altered by people; and it makes human identity. Because of this we can look at a picture, a postcard or an object or even sniff an aroma and identify it as belonging to a certain part of the world.
- **Slides 8-9: Cultural Landscape.** The **cultural landscape is the human imprint** that is etched on nature. It makes places around the world unique (until globalization takes hold and the world becomes increasingly similar without uniqueness – vanilla!) The cultural landscape is constantly evolving.
 - The **inset photo on Slide 8** shows man-made islands off the coast of Dubai. With money and needing a place to dump formation excavation material from urban construction sites and the desire of people to live by the water, Dubai created these two artificial island groups, one in the shape of a palm tree the other as a world map. This allows the rich of this desert emirate to live on the water and have safe harbor for their yachts. *(The time lapse link from Google Earth shows changes to earth environment over time, both natural and cultural. Pay attention to the man-made changes.)*
 - **Slide 9** shows the changes made by people to the Honolulu shoreline and Waikiki Beach in a 100-year period. By matching such physical features as Diamond Head and the shoreline, we can see change over time. By using natural features, we can identify places and see changes over time because we have a point of reference.
- **Slide 10: Field of Cultural Geography.** Cultural Geography and its subfield, Behavioral Geography, which is closely aligned with environmental psychology, are defined. We look at social and political systems and ways people have adapted to their surroundings: naming things, developing ways of doing things, communication and belief systems, types (styles) of clothing, food stuffs, and buildings, inventions, living quarters and trade.
- ❖ **NOTE: For chapters 7 and 8, just read the chapter review and summary section at the end of them, focusing on the pictures, photos and diagrams included in the chapters to get the essence of this area of study. No detail is needed in our introduction to the geography of languages and religion.**
- **Slide 11: Toponymy.** This is the study of the origin and meaning of place names. All names have meaning just as our first and last names carry significance and can be traced back in time and location. Toponymy is an important tool in historical geography, especially when studying an area that was settled by outsiders, since they tend to name things after places of importance/significance to them. Find all the English, French, and Spanish names in America from colonial settlers and later in

the 1800s with immigrants from Europe moving into parts of the new USA; note the German names in Pennsylvania and the Scandinavian names in Minnesota.

- **Slide 12: Cultural Ecology.** This area studies the close relationship of people living with nature -- existing in harmony with nature. The slash-and-burn diagram is a method of forest clearing for agriculture that does not harm nature when done on a small scale.
- **Slide 13: Folk Culture.** Within cultural ecology there is a study of how people without a scientific background explain natural phenomena. "Folk explanation" addressed a phenomenon that was deemed mystical. *Watch the 2 min video on the story of the Oracle of Delphi.* Similar folk explanations exist in all cultures as people tried to explain an occurrence without knowing the science behind it; e.g., as getting sick from going into a swamp or rationalizing an eclipse of the sun or likening a thunder-clap to an angry god.
- **Slide 14: Cultural Diversity.** Human differentiation or **cultural diversity** can be studied geographically by addressing the four questions shown on the slide. We already recognize the differences in areas of the world. Now we attempt to trace it back to point of origin. *Spaghetti and meatballs did not originate in Italy, but was created by Italian immigrants in New York City in the late 1890s because of the abundance of meat available so it is an American dish, like McDonald's hamburger! BTW, the traditional meatball in Italy is small whereas the Americanized meatball is much larger.*
- **Slide 15: World Cultural Realms.** A cultural realm is an area that has a unique **blend of traits** that differentiate it from other areas. The map shows the 11 general world culture realms. Within each cultural realm there are several cultural regions. Culture realms can also be found at the regional and local levels.
- **Slides 16-18: Local Cultural Realms.** When visiting any of these areas and driving/walking around, you tend to know who is living there by the printed toponymy, the languages we hear spoken, the cooking aromas, and the display of national (homeland) colors! Move a few blocks and you may be in a different world.
 - **Slide 16** shows cultural districts of Los Angeles metro area.
 - **Slide 17** shows NYC neighborhoods.
 - **Slide 18** shows concentrations of foreign-born residents of Nassau County compiled from the 2010 census.
- **Slides 19-20: Aspects of Cultural Geography.** The four attributes that are part of any study involving culture are:
 - **1. trait** (learned behavior developed by people);
 - **2. hearth** (the source or point of origin of the trait);
 - **3. diffusion** (the spread of the trait from point of origin to new areas); and
 - **4. acculturation** (when people start to mix traits and/or adopt traits from other areas and in a sense, create a new trait with its own characteristics).
 - These attributes are illustrated in **Slide 20**.

- **Slides 21-26: Some Visible Aspects of Culture.** When people interact with nature they try not to be inconvenienced and get the most from nature that is possible. These examples illustrate some additional attributes dealing with weather and climate. The word **traditional** is used on purpose because it indicates that something comes from a point or origin. What you see has the “characteristics of need” from the place it was developed or invented and then was transferred (spread) to other areas whether they needed it or not because of human convenience: ***I only know how to do it this way. My people always did it this way. Check out colonial areas around the world that mimic the Mother Country. Can you see the human imprint from a far-way land?***
- **Slides 21-23: Traditional Building Design.** Traditional architectural design has the closest relationship to nature, being created before interior heating and cooling systems and the need to deal with rain or snow and to reduce heat by shade and breezeways.
- **Slides 24-26: Field Patterns.** Here we are looking at field patterns which were created by people. In some areas they have been codified into law as a means to claim ownership. In the United States, English *metes-and-bounds* system can be seen in the 13 original colonies, the *long lot system* in areas once controlled by France and the *township-and-range system* (American squares) created by the new United States to sell land after the revolution. The circles within squares came about with the American invention of pivot irrigation technology (remember the satellite images from Part I) that sprays water in a circular motion. Terracing was developed in Asia where the lack of level land and ample labor allowed the carving of steps (and their high maintenance) into mountain sides for planting. Notice the circular pattern of traditional desert agriculture (here in Mali) with shallow canals radiating from the oasis (water source).
- **Slide 27: Diffusion.** Defined as the spread from a point of origin, these maps use the spread of religion to illustrate diffusion.
- **Slide 28: Spread of Culture.** View the *three short videos* to see the spread (diffusion) of civilization, people/agriculture, and religion over time.
- **Slides 29-32: Spread of Information.** More examples of diffusion as shown. Here we are looking at how information and the transfer of technology, ideology and products has been facilitated over the centuries.
 - Slide 29: It starts off with trade routes which moved products, technology, ideology and religion from continent to continent. Ports of call because culturally diverse areas.
 - Slide 30: With the invention of the telegraph and telephone, information was transferred by wire but only to the areas linked by telegraph/telephone wires.
 - Slide 31: Transfer of information by radio waves (radio and television broadcasts) covered a much larger area, moved instantaneously but needed a transmitter and receiver. However, great distances and landform barriers could block signals.

- Slide 32: Since the 1980s the internet system has covered the entire world (just about) at real-time speeds.
- ***View the information behind the hot links on these slides.***
- **Slides 33-34: Cybergeography.** The newest subfield of cultural geography is *Cybergeography*. The internet is a virtual place and it can be studied spatially (why else do all the web sites ask for your location!). GPS plays an important play in this field of study and it gathers information about real places on earth via a virtual system. Cybergeography also uses electronic communication to study cultural diffusion and is instrumental in tracking the development of a new globalized language based on text-speak. It is also used by law enforcement (Slide 34) to investigate a crime by tracking cell phones communicating with cell towers in the area and then linking them to people associated with the phone numbers and their GPS record of movement. Very geographical!
- **Slides 35-36: Geography in World Affairs.** The last two slides focus on geography in international relations, pointing out the geographical components that are the background story of many historical and current events.
- **Slide 37: Next – Life on Earth** (population Geography, chapter 6)

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