

## **Geography104: Introduction to Human Geography**

**Instructor:** Dr. James C. Saku

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**Office Location:** GU 232

**Office Hours:** 8:00-8:50 am M, 11:00-11.50 a.m. MW, 9.30-10.30 am TR or by appointment.

**Lecture Hours:** 9:00-9.50 a.m. (MWF: Section 001)

10:00-10.50 a.m. (MWF: Section 002)

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### **Course Description**

The distribution of human beings in relation to population dynamics, economic development, and cultural diversity.

### **Course Objectives**

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

1. Familiarize themselves with basic theories and methods of human geography.
2. Develop an understanding of contemporary global human activities.
3. Explain the evolution of culture and its impact on political, economic and social systems.
4. Examine other factors that promote different economic, social and political systems.
5. Analyse the causes and problems of urbanization in developed and developing countries.
6. Discuss world population geography within the framework of growth and distribution.
7. Explore the role of natural resource in economic development.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in theories on human geography.
2. Students should be able to determine the location of important global human and physical features.
3. Students should be able to understand the basic differences in the economic, cultural and political systems between developed and developing countries.
4. Students need to demonstrate an understanding of population concepts including the Demographic Transition Theory, Malthusian Theory, and Population Pyramids.
5. Students need to demonstrate an understanding of the human impacts on the environment.

### **Required texts:**

1. Rubenstein James M. (2008) **An Introduction to Human Geography**. Ninth Edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice-Hall.

2. Veregin Howard (2005) **Goode's World Atlas**. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Rand McNally & Company.

### **Academic dishonesty:**

Note that academic dishonesty including plagiarism and cheating during examinations is a serious offence and carries severe penalty. Please refer to the **Pathfinder** and the ***Department of Geography Plagiarism Policy*** posted on Blackboard for details.

### **Disruptive student behaviour in the classroom:**

Please refer to the **Pathfinder** for details.

### **Policy**

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate actively during class discussions. All students are required to read their textbooks and familiarize themselves with chapter content before coming to class everyday.

Attendance will be recorded and failure to attend classes will result in loss of points. Your attendance grade will be based on the total number of days present over the expected number of days multiplied by 20. For example, if you were required to be in class for 34 days in the semester, and you were present for 24 days, your attendance grade will be  $(24/34) \times 20 = 14$  points. Students are responsible for informing the instructor about their presence when they arrive in class after attendance has been taken.

Assignments are to be handed in promptly on the due date. Late assignments carry a penalty of 20 points per day for a maximum of 5 days. No assignments will be accepted after the 5th day without a reasonable cause. A reasonable cause is defined as illness or tragedy within the family.

### **Cell phones and pagers**

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off when you come to class. Answering cell phones or checking text messages in class is disrespectful to me and your fellow students. Exception is given to a certified EMT or fire responder. Please inform me ahead of time if you need to have your beeper active all the time because of your profession or special circumstances.

### **Blackboard**

Course materials are posted on Blackboard. You are required to visit the site frequently to check on announcements and deadlines. You can also check your grades and average from the grade book.

**Class Discussion:**

To promote class participation, students will be assigned to groups for class discussion. The time and date of the discussions will be announced ahead of the date of the discussion.

**Class Assignments**

All students will be required to complete three class assignments. The time and dates are posted below.

**Grading:**

All in-class and final examinations will consist of multiple choice and short questions and answers. Prior approval is required for missing an examination. No make-up examinations will be granted if you fail to seek prior approval. Apart from the dates for the final examinations, all other dates are tentative and subject to change. Students will be notified ahead of changes in dates.

The final grade will consist of the following. **These dates are tentative and subject to change.**

|  | <b>Points</b> |
|--|---------------|
| Class attendance and participation   | = 20 points   |
| Two map quizzes (September 11 and October 21)  | = 80 points   |
| Assignment 1 (September 25)  | = 50 points   |
| Assignment 2 (October 30)  | = 50 points   |
| Assignment 3 (November 23)   | = 100 points  |
| In class examination 1 (To be announced)   | = 100 points  |
| In class examination 2 (To be announced)   | = 100 points  |
| Final examination<br>(Section 001, Tuesday, December 15, 8:00 am-10:30 am)<br>(Sections 002, Thursday, December 17, 2:30 pm–5:00 pm) | = 100 points  |

The final grade is based on the total points accumulated over a maximum of 600 points. The scale and grades are as follows:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F < 69, **NC grade is not awarded**

You are strongly encouraged to use office hours or set up an appointment to discuss your grades with me during the semester.

## **General Course Outline and Weekly Reading (Tentative and subject to change)**

### **1: Thinking geographically (reading assignment: chapter 1)**

How do geographers describe where things are? – maps, contemporary tools. Why is each point on earth unique? – place and location, regions – areas of unique characteristics. Why are different places similar? – scale: from local to global, globalization of the world economy, space: distribution of features and connection between places.

### **2: Population geography (reading assignment: chapter 2)**

World's population distribution: population concentrations, sparsely populated regions, population density. Global population growth: natural rate of increase, fertility and mortality. Difference in population growth: demographic transition, population pyramids, Malthus and over population.

### **3: Migration (reading assignment: chapter 3)**

Why do people migrate, distance of migration, characteristics of migrants, global migration patterns, US immigration patterns, impact of immigration on the United States, obstacles to migration.

### **4: Folk and popular culture (reading assignment: chapter 4)**

Differences between habit, custom and culture, origin of folk and popular cultures, diffusion of folk and popular cultures, distribution of folk and popular cultures, impact of globalization of popular cultures.

### **5: Language (reading assignment: chapter 5)**

Basic definitions of language, literary tradition, language family, language branch and language group, Language development and diffusion - English as a case example. Germanic languages - west, east and north, Romance languages, Asian languages - Sino-Tibetan, Japanese, Korean and Afro-Asiatic. African languages - Niger Congo and Nilo-Saharan families. Preserving language diversity and global dominance of English.

### **6: Religion (reading assignment: chapter 6)**

Types of religion - universalizing and ethnic religions. Origin and diffusion of Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. Types of ethnic religions - Hinduism, Animism, Confucianism, Daoism and Shintoism. Administration of religions, Religious holy places. Territorial conflicts and religious groups (religion vs. government, religion vs. religion).

## 7: Ethnicity (**reading assignment: chapter 7**)

Identification of ethnic groups and their functions. Processes by which ethnic groups change - acculturation and assimilation. Ethnic groups in the United States: African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and American Indians. Migration patterns of African Americans. The concept of nationality, nation states and ethnic cleansing.

## 8: Political geography (**reading assignment: chapter 8**)

Problems of defining a state, development of the state concept, shapes of states, types of boundaries, political and military cooperation, economic cooperation, why has terrorism increased?

## 9: The geography of development (**reading assignment: chapter 9**)

What is development? Why does development differ between countries? Economic, social and demographic indicators of development. Where are more developed and less developed countries distributed? Gender related development index. Gender empowerment. How to achieve economic development – development through international trade, development through self-help, financing development.

## 10: Agriculture (**reading assignment: chapter 10**)

Where did agriculture originate? Location of agricultural hearths, classifying agriculture, classification of agriculture, less developed countries – shifting cultivation, pastoral nomadism, intensive subsistence, more developed countries – mixed crop and livestock farming, dairy farming, grain farming, livestock ranching, Mediterranean agriculture, commercial gardening and fruit farming, plantation agriculture. Challenges for commercial farmers: access to markets, overproduction. Challenges for subsistence farmers. Strategies to increase food supply

## 11. Industry (**reading assignment: chapter 11**)

Where are industries distributed? Regional distribution of industries - North America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and East Asia. Factors that affect the location of industries – situation and site factors. Changing distribution of industries, new industrial regions.

## 12. Services (**reading assignment: chapter 12**)

Types of settlements – rural and urban. Types of rural settlements. Types of services – transportation, producer, retail, personal and social, public. Market area of a service - range and threshold. Central place theory, hierarchy of services and settlements, Economic base of a settlement – basic and non-basic. Types of services in the central business district, suburbanization of businesses.

### 13: Urban Patterns (**reading assignment: chapter 13**)

Definition of urbanization. defining urban centres, models of urban structure, Development of urban centres - the concentric model, sector model, multiple nuclei. Characteristics of contemporary cities, Inner city problems and urban renewal. Contribution of transportation to suburbanization.

### 14: Resource problems (**reading assignment: chapter 14**)

Depletion of resources - energy and mineral resources. Types of pollution – (water, land and air). Why are resources reusable? renewing and recycling resources. Conserving resources – sustainable development, biodiversity.

## Map Quiz

One of the requirements of this course is to test your knowledge of the location of countries, cities and physical sites. The following list will form the basis of the first map quiz. In preparing for the quiz, use maps from the package given to you in class.

- |                  |                         |                              |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Algeria       | 37. Lesotho             | 73. Syria                    |
| 2. Egypt         | 38. Mediterranean Sea   | 74. North Sea                |
| 3. Ghana         | 39. Bay of Bengal       | 75. Strait of Gibraltar      |
| 4. Uganda        | 40. Arabian Sea         | 76. Rio De Janeiro           |
| 5. Nigeria       | 41. Lake Michigan       | 77. Black Sea                |
| 6. Liberia       | 42. Lake Erie           | 78. Afghanistan              |
| 7. Ireland       | 43. Coral Sea           | 79. Davis Strait (Canada)    |
| 8. Tasman Sea    | 44. Red Sea             | 80. Beaufort Sea             |
| 9. Mongolia      | 45. Greenwich Meridian  | 81. Nelson River, Canada     |
| 10. Germany      | 46. Equator             | 82. Bangladesh               |
| 11. Norway       | 47. Tropic of Capricorn | 83. Arctic Circle            |
| 12. Sweden       | 48. Volta River         | 84. Yucatan channel          |
| 13. Poland       | 49. River Nile          | 85. Vatican City             |
| 14. Angola       | 50. River Niger         | 86. Guam                     |
| 15. Chile        | 51. River Congo         | 87. Victoria Islands, Canada |
| 16. Peru         | 52. Thailand            | 88. Straits of Florida       |
| 17. Colombia     | 53. Accra               | 89. Caribbean Sea            |
| 18. Saudi Arabia | 54. Addis Ababa         | 90. Adriatic Sea             |
| 19. Kuwait       | 55. Sumatra             | 91. Bay of Biscay            |
| 20. Japan        | 56. Moscow              | 92. Gulf of Bothnia          |
| 21. China        | 57. Monaco              | 93. Persian Gulf             |

22. Australia
23. Venezuela
24. Malaysia
25. Indonesia
26. Seychelles
27. Falkland islands
28. Sri Lanka
29. Amazon River
30. Argentina
31. River Zambezi
32. Tigris River
33. Sinai Peninsula
34. Andes Mountains
35. Takla Makan
58. Toronto
59. English Channel
60. Tokyo
61. Great Salt Lake
62. Arctic Ocean
63. Portugal
64. Pakistan
65. Iraq
66. Bhutan
67. Comoro Island
68. Euphrates River
69. Dead Sea
70. Cape Horn
71. Arabian Desert
94. Yangtze River
95. Rio de la Plata
96. Volga River
97. Bering Sea
98. Sea of Okhotsk
99. River Ganges
100. El Paso
101. Baffin Bay
102. Mozambique Channel
103. Cape of Good Hope
104. Jordan River
105. Cyprus
106. Jamaica
107. Gobi Desert