

Central Connecticut State University

Department of Geography

Human Geography

Course Overview and Requirements

Adjunct Lecturer:
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Human Geography

Course Details and Contact Information

- Lecturer: Donald J. Poland, MS, AICP
- Classroom: Diloreto Room 309
- Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:25 - 10:40AM
- E-mail: Polandd@ccsu.edu
- E-mail: don@donaldpoland.com
- Phone: 860-655-6897
- Office Hours: (Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 – 4:00)

Human Geography

Course Intent and Content

- Human Geography is a survey of the world's people and their culture. Topics studied include population, religion, language, settlement, architecture, land tenure, ideologies, social problems, behavior, resource utilization, and environmental change.
- This course is intended to be an introduction to the study of Human Geography.
 - The course will provide students with a general understanding of Human geography.
 - Will help students understand the complexity of human interaction with the world as both space and time.
 - Will foster an appreciation for the world's people and their culture.
 - Will enhance an understanding of geography as a social science and the study of humans in a spatial context.

Human Geography

General Class Format

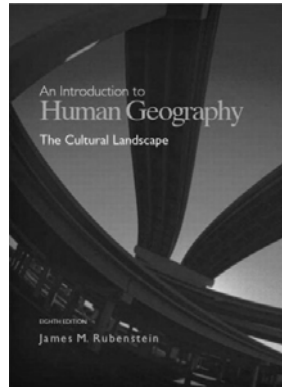
- The class will be presented in a lecture and discussion format.
- I'm more than capable—and have no problem with lecturing—talking at you for the lecture period. However, I'm much more interesting when you participate and engage me in a general discussion on the topics. More important, the class and material will be more interesting if you engage in discussion.
- Your participation is encouraged and expected. This means asking questions and engaging in discussions related to the topics and issues in the class lectures.



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Required Textbook

- The required textbook for the course is An Introduction to Human Geography: The Cultural Landscape by James M. Rubenstein (8th edition).
 - This text will be the basis for most of the course readings. Other readings may be required.



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Course Requirements

- The items below are what your course grade will be based on.
 - **Mid-Exam:** The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exam will cover Chapters 1-6.
 - **Concept Review (online):** You need to complete the Concept Review (and e-mail the results to me) that is part of the online Study Guide at www.prenhall.com/rubenstein. The Concept Reviews for Chapters 1-6 are due by March 11, 2011. The Concept Reviews for Chapters 7-14 are due by May 6, 2011. If you have trouble accessing the Study Guide, try this link: http://wps.prenhall.com/esm_rubenstein_humangeo_8/20/5323/1362726.cw/index.html
 - **Term Paper:** Discussed below.
 - **Final Exam:** The exam will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exam will cover Chapters 7-14.
 - **Class Participation:** Your presence and participation in class are important and are key elements of the learning process. They show that: a) you are involved in the class, b) whether or not you understand the material, and c) that you know enough to ask good questions or to contribute to the discussion. Remember, if you do not attend class, you cannot participate.

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Evaluation - Grading

GRADING SCALE & DISTRIBUTION

All graded assignments, tests, as well as the course grade will be based on the following scale.

- A = 93-100% B = 83-86.9% C = 73-76.9% D = 63-66.9%
- A- = 90-92.9% B- = 80-82.9% C- = 70-72.9% D- = 60-62.9%
- B+ = 87-89.9% C+ = 77-79.9% D+ = 67-69.9% F = Less than 60%

The graded materials will be weighted according to the following system.

- Mid-Term Exam: 20% = _____ Term Paper: 20% = _____
- Online Concept Review: 25% = _____ Participation: 15% = _____
- Final Exam: 20% = _____

- TOTAL: 100%= _____

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Course Schedule – Subject to change

- Week 1 (1/25 – 1/27): Introduction, Overview, and Regions
 - Required Reading – Start Chapter 1 for next week
- Week 2 (2/1 – 2/3): Thinking Geographically
 - Required Reading – Chapter 1
- Week 3 (2/8 – 2/10): Population
 - Required Reading – Chapter 2
- Week 4 (2/15 – 2/17): Migration
 - Required Reading – Chapter 3
- Week 5 (2/22 – 2/24): Folk and Popular Culture
 - Required Reading – Chapter 4
- Week 6 (3/1 – 3/3): Language
 - Required Reading – Chapter 5
- Week 7 (3/8 – 3/10): Religion
 - Required Reading – Chapter 6
- Week 8 (3/15): Ethnicity (3/17) MIDTERM EXAM
 - Required Reading – Chapter 7

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Course Schedule – Subject to change

- **Week 9 (3/22 – 3/24): Spring Break**
- **Week 10 (3/29 – 3/31): Political Geography**
 - Required Reading – Chapter 8
- **Week 11 (4/5 – 4/7): Development**
 - Required Reading – Chapter 9 (**Book Report Due**)
- **Week 12 (4/12 – 4/14): Agriculture**
 - Required Reading – Chapter 10
- **Week 13 (4/19 – 4/21): Economic Geography**
 - Required Reading – Chapter 11 & 12
- **Week 14 (4/26 – 4/28): Urban Patterns**
 - Required Reading – Chapter 13 (**Term Paper Due 4/26**)
- **Week 15 (5/3 - 5/5): Resource Issues**
 - Required Reading – Chapter 14
- **Week 16 (5/10): Resource Issues**
 - Required Reading – Chapter 14
- **Week 17 (TBA): Final Exam**

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Term Paper – Due April 26, 2010

- Pick a topic related to human geography and write a term paper about it (you may want to browse through the textbook and read some of the topics covered in later chapters to get some ideas.) This is a geography class, so remember when you are writing about the topic that you want to focus on the geographic aspects of the topic. Draw on the geographic concepts you have learned in this class to analyze and discuss the topic.
- Your paper should be long enough to adequately discuss the topic (6 to 10 pages). All papers should be typed, double-spaced, 12 point text size, and use Times New Roman font or similar. Cite and reference all materials used and quoted or thoughts and ideas that are not yours (A minimum of five references are required. Do not use the class text as a reference. In addition, three references should be books, not websites).
- You must have your topic approved by me before week five of the class. You can do this by e-mailing me your topic, a brief narrative of your thoughts on your approach to this topic, and why you want to write about it. I will provide you some additional thoughts and ideas to consider when approaching your topic and an approval for the topic. I may ask that you find another topic if I do not feel it is appropriate for this class. Please feel free to ask me for assistance in selecting your topic and for advice on where to look for information on your topic.