

**University of Wisconsin at Madison**  
**Introduction to Human Geography (Geography 101)**  
**Spring Semester 2012**

**Instructor:** Bill Gartner  
**Office:** 115D Science Hall  
**Phone:** 890-3816  
**Email:** [wgartner@wisc.edu](mailto:wgartner@wisc.edu)  
**Office Hours:** F 11:30-1:30

**Time:** Tu & Th, 09:30-10:45  
**Place:** 180 Science Hall  
**Final:** 17 May, 5:05 -7:05 PM  
**Credits:** 4, Comm-B course  
**Lecture Enrollment Section:** 17331

### Course Synopsis

This course provides a general introduction to the field of human geography. Human geographers have many topical interests and employ varied approaches to investigate geographic phenomena. For example, economic geographers often investigate the spatial flow of capital and the location of particular industries and firms. Most political geographers seek to understand the creation of boundaries, territorial conflicts, and the intersection of power, place, and identity. Urban geographers are often interested in the growth and “personality” of cities, planning and design, urban livelihoods, and the flow of people, goods, and ideas between urban centers. Many cultural geographers are interested in the pathways of everyday life, social formations, and the history and meaning of landscape. Cultural, political, and historical ecologists are interested in nature-society relationships. Cartographers are interested in making graphic arguments concerning real and imagined worlds, as well as understanding how maps both shape and reflect the societies that use them.

Human geographers use a vast array of quantitative and qualitative methods when they investigate local and global phenomena. They also embrace a wide range of theoretical perspectives, ranging from spatial science to humanism, Marxism, feminism, and various forms of post-structuralism.

So what do human geographers have in common?

Most human geographers explore the unfolding of social and spatial interactions that create our ever changing surroundings, as well as what our surroundings mean to us. Most also seek to understand the creation and interdependence of places around the globe. We will emphasize these two themes throughout the course as we introduce you to the exciting world of human geography. By the end of the semester we hope that you will understand that many ways that human geography is, quite simply, the study of “earth as home”.

### Text and Class Materials

There is one *required* textbook for this class:

Knox, Paul and Sallie Marston. 2010. *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context*. Prentice Hall. Either the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> edition is acceptable.

New and used copies of this book are available at Rainbow Bookstore, located at 426 W. Gilman St., which is just off State Street (Tel: 257-6050, website: <http://www.rainbowbookstore.coop/>)

A small number of supplemental articles will be assigned throughout the semester, and will be posted on the course website through the Learn@UW portal.

## Grading

Your final grade is calculated from the total number of points earned throughout the semester as well as your relative rank with respect to your classmates. I will periodically provide you with a grading guide so that you may gauge your progress throughout the semester. Please keep in mind that your final grade is based solely on a curve calculated from the total number of points earned in lecture plus discussion section over the entire semester.

### Discussion Section

Discussion section attendance is mandatory. *Since 60% of the total number of points earned throughout this class comes from discussion section activities, you will not pass this class unless you are fully engaged with your discussion section.*

Geography 101 is a Communication B course. Hence, you will have two primary writing assignments that require research and revision. There will be additional discussion section activities; including exercises, debates, and presentations. Your TA will provide you with details.

### Exams

There will be two exams that cover lecture and reading materials. The second exam will stress materials covered since the previous exam. Typically, each exam consists of 40 multiple choice, T/F, and matching questions, some of which will include the interpretation of maps, pictures, graphs, or diagrams.

### Grading Summary

Your final grade will be calculated on a curve that is based on the total number of points earned throughout the semester as follows:

#### Discussion Section Writing Assignments (80 points or 40% of the final grade)

- Essay 1 Final Paper (6-8 pages) 15%
- Essay 2 Proposal (1-2 pages) 5%
- Essay 2 Final Paper (9-12 pages) 20%

#### Discussion Section Activities (40 points or 20% of the final grade)

- Debates/Presentations/Attendance and Participation - 20 points (10%)
- Section Activities - 20 points (10%)

#### Exams (80 points or 40% of the final grade)

- Midterm Exam - 40 points (20%)
- Final Exam - 40 points (20%)

#### Total

- 200 points (100%)

Your total number of points, and your rank relative to the performance of your classmates, determines your final letter grade.

Although past performance does not guarantee future results, the letter grade breaks for previous Geography 101 classes have approximated the following percentage breaks:

94-100 % of the total number of points = A  
89-93 % = AB  
84-88 % = B  
79-83 % = BC  
70-78 % = C  
60-69 % = D  
Below 60% = F

### **Class Policies**

- \* Readings, discussion section activities, the class schedule, and any other component of the course may be amended by the instructor at any time.
- \* Chronic absenteeism may result in a lower or failing grade for the course at the discretion of the instructor.
- \* I will not accept late assignments, or administer make-up exams, unless you have an excused absence or made prior arrangements with me. I well understand the difficulties of balancing school, work, and family concerns. Please communicate with me ahead of time if you have work or family obligations that necessitate flexibility.
- \* There is no extra-credit.
- \* Academic misconduct, such as cheating or plagiarism, may result in a lower or failing grade for the course. A failing grade will be given to any plagiarized assignment. It is your responsibility to become familiar with the rules of academic misconduct, and your rights to due process, according to UW Administrative Code 14. Both an overview of academic misconduct and detailed information concerning UW Administrative Code, Chapter 14 are available at <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>
- \* I want to help you meet your educational goals. If you need special accommodations or have a developmental disability, please contact me by phone, email, or come to my office. The McBurney Disability Resource Center provides resources for students with disabilities. Please see <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/> for details or call them at 263-2741. Geography tutors are often available through the Greater University Tutoring Service (GUTS). For details, see <http://guts.studentorg.wisc.edu/>
- \* The University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Department of Geography are dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies concerning special accommodations, misconduct, discrimination, sexual harassment, and disruptive behavior. For details, please see Chapter 14 of the UW Administrative Code cited above and the resources posted at the Office for Equity and Diversity website at <http://www.oed.wisc.edu/>.

## Class Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
1 (1/23 - 1/27)	What is Geography? An Introduction to Space, Place, and Landscape	Knox and Marston, Chap 1
2 (1/30 - 2/3)	Geography and Globalization: An Introduction to Interdependence	Knox and Marston, Chap 2
3 (2/6 - 2/10)	Economic Geography	Knox and Marston, Chap 7
4 (2/13 - 2/17)	Food and Agriculture I	Knox and Marston, "Hearth Areas" in Chapter Two (36-37 in 6 <sup>th</sup> ed) and Chapter 8
5 (2/20 - 2/24)	Food and Agriculture II	
6 (2/27 - 3/2)	Population Geography	Knox and Marston, Chap 3
7 (3/5 - 3/9)	Nature & Society	Knox and Marston, Chap 4 Discussion Section Readings
8 (3/12 - 3/16)	Cultural Geographies	Knox and Marston, Chap 5
9 (3/19 - 3/23)	<b>** Review and Midterm Exam **</b>	
10 (2/26 - 3/30)	Interpreting Places and Landscapes I	Knox and Marston, Chap 6
11 (4/2 - 4/6)	<b>** Spring Break **</b>	
12 (4/9 - 4/13)	Interpreting Places and Landscapes II	Discussion Section Readings
13 (4/16 - 4/20)	Political Geographies	Knox and Marston, Chap 9
14 (4/23- 4/27)	Urban Geography I	Knox and Marston, Chap 10 Discussion Section Readings
15 (4/30 - 5/4)	Urban Geography II	Knox and Marston, Chap 11
16 (5/7 - 5/11)	Summary and Review	

**\*\* Additional Readings may be assigned during the semester \*\***