

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
SPACE, PLACE, AND GLOBAL CHANGE

GEOGRAPHY 101

FALL 2014

TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM, SCIENCE HALL 180

CREDITS: 4

COMM-B COURSE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KEITH WOODWARD

SCIENCE HALL 343

OFFICE HOURS: THURS 12:00 - 2:00

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DESCRIPTION

Human geography studies the production, representation, and interpretation of the human world in ways that emphasize relations and processes between society and space, and between human and non-human worlds. You will discover that while economic geographers might ask questions about the location of particular industries, or the effects on trade of new regional institutions such as the European Union or the Central American Free Trade Association, political geographers might focus on territorial conflicts, or the inter-connections between power, place and identity. With respect to globalization, we will investigate spatial patterns related to flows of goods, people, and services, and the ways that local places are changing in relation to global patterns (and vice versa). In addition, we will explore emergent institutions, technologies, and networks that fundamentally change relationships between people and places. Our approach will be particularly attentive to geographic differences, for instance, analyzing the diverse and uneven effects of global economic investment patterns and labor practices. Broadly, we are interested in understanding the geographically specific forces and actors that contribute to globalization trends (e.g., US-based transnational corporations), just as we are interested in the geographically uneven outcomes of globalization (e.g., socio-spatial inequalities such as uneven access to food, education, jobs, health care, etc.)

This course introduces students to the field of human geography by exploring the spaces, patterns, and processes that contribute to local and global changes. Our goal this semester is to get our feet wet in the discipline's different research traditions, including: economic geography, social and cultural geography, environmental geography, urban geography and political geography/geopolitics. We will also explore the relationships between space and social life through several of human geography's thematic 'lenses', such as social and environmental justice, gentrification, personal sense of place, the 'production' of space, and so on. Along the way, you will gain an appreciation for what it means to recognize and interpret geographic data and trends with a focus on space and scale; the importance of place, environment, boundaries, territory, socio-spatial difference and other elements of geography to human relationships and experiences; as well as attention to mapping and other approaches common to the geographic toolkit. By the end of the semester, you can expect to be conversant in a variety of new ways of seeing the world, informed by several key geographic subfields, and be capable of recognizing what unites these diverse interests as 'human geography.'

COURSE READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Paul Knox and Sallie Marston, *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography, 6th edition* (Prentice Hall, 2013).

Used copies of this book are available at Rainbow Bookstore at:
426 W. Gilman St., just off State Street (Tel: 257-6050).

Also note the website for this text: <http://www.prenhall.com/knox/>

REQUIRED ARTICLES: A small number of supplemental articles will be assigned throughout the semester, and will be made available to you on electronic reserve via Learn@W <<https://learnuw.wisc.edu>>. Readings will be listed under the course title.

RECOMMENDED READING: *Dictionary of Human Geography* (Available on MADCAT)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Human Geography is deeply concerned with the ways that our world is continuously changing. In order to keep up to date with what is happening (as well as finding countless timely examples for papers, exams, presentations, and discussions), I strongly recommended that you:

- 1) Visit the BBC News web site **daily** - preferable for its international focus and its analytical quality (compared to CNN). The BBC site is available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>. I also suggest you watch the BBC News, PBS Newshour, or Worldfocus on PBS TV.
- 2) Read a newspaper with a strong international (versus US) focus on a **daily** basis. My first recommendation is the *International Herald Tribune* if you can only consider a free web site. It is available at: <http://www.ihf.com>. If you can afford a newspaper subscription, consider reading the *New York Times* (which is available at a reduced rate in the Memorial Union. You can also access the newspaper free of charge at: <http://www.nytimes.com>), and it is in various UW libraries as well.

These current affairs resources will be used for exercises in the course, to complement lecture material, and in the exams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Geography 101 is a Communications B course, with an emphasis on learning through written and oral communications. As part of the Communications B format, you will be required to complete **two primary writing assignments**. You will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit both. Each of the writing assignments requires that you make effective use of the library resources on campus, and is structured to encourage you to develop your writing skills with an aim toward crafting clear and convincing arguments (rather than summarizing or reporting information). We will focus on citing and bibliographic conventions early in the semester, so please be very attentive to this throughout the research and writing process for each of your assignments. While web research may provide a good place to start to get ideas, all writing assignments should engage scholarly articles and/or books. Any bibliography that is web-focused will be downgraded. Your TA

will discuss appropriate sources with you in section. To work towards the goal of improving your writing, your TAs will also work with you to give you feedback on your work, and you will have the opportunity to revise the writing assignments with the benefit of input from your TA.

In addition to the major writing assignments, there will be a midterm and a final examination, as well as a series of smaller assignments given in lecture and section.

Exams will consist of essay-style questions, short-answer questions regarding key concepts, and multiple choice questions (midterm). Review sessions will be offered prior to each exam.

The shorter assignments will include a presentation, research exercises, write-ups related to section activities, and peer reviews of your classmates papers.

To develop oral presentation skills and to fulfill part of the Comm-B requirements, students will give an 8 to 10 minute **presentation** (5% of final grade) once during the semester in their discussion section. These presentations will focus on issues raised during lectures and in readings, and will require research and preparation outside of class.

Short **research exercises** (5% of final grade) will expose students to resources for academic research and proper documentation of sources.

More details on shorter assignments will be provided by your TA.

Throughout the semester, you are required to read the course materials *prior* to the class for which they are assigned, to attend lectures, and to attend and participate in discussion sections. Unlike some other lecture courses, I also expect students to be active during lectures, asking questions, and responding to the questions I ask of you. We realize that students may occasionally miss a lecture or section; however, regular attendance and active participation are critical for success in this course and will be considered in evaluating students.

During class time you may also hear the occasional guest lecture. Videos related to the topics under discussion will also be shown periodically. The guest lectures will focus on substantive issues (e.g., labor markets; migration) as well as the practice of geographically informed research. The exact timing of these guest lectures and videos will be announced as the term proceeds.

As one way to communicate about evolving scheduling issues, readings, and other assignments, I will email you periodically with updates and reminders. You are responsible for checking your email regularly and reading these updates as they may contain information important for completion of course assignments. If you are not a regular email devotee, at a minimum please check your email account at the beginning and end of each week. I will send a test email message to all students before the end of the first week of class. If you do not receive it, please verify that you are officially enrolled in the course and notify your TA.

Because my lectures will add substantially to the weekly readings, I will post copies of my Powerpoint course slides via Learn@UW. While the slides generally provide key structural points and quotations, the Devil, as they say, is in the details. My lectures tend to be devoted to working carefully through concepts and exploring examples with some depth. The rationale for this is to give you rich engagement with geography that you can take and explore in your everyday lives. However,

with kind of course structure, your note-writing abilities are crucial, so I do encourage you to come to class. If you missed content on a particular slide, or didn't understand something from lecture, please ask for clarification during the lecture, via email, or during my office hours. I will distribute study guides just prior to the two exams, as well as relevant handouts throughout the term.

I am always open to feedback, or calls for assistance or advice. Please come to my office hours or make arrangements to meet in my office if there is anything about the course you would like to discuss.

GRADING

94-100 = A
89-93 = AB
84-88 = B
79-83 = BC
70-78 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F

Your final grade will consist of the following components:

<u>WRITING ASSIGNMENTS</u> (40%)	
Essay 1 Final Paper (5-6 pages)	15%
Essay 2 Proposal (1-2 pages)	5%
Essay 2 Final Paper (7-8 pages)	20%
 <u>ESSAY EXAMS</u> (40%)	
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
 <u>DISCUSSION ACTIVITIES</u> (20%)	
Debates/Presentations	10%
Attendance, Participation and Section Activities	10%
 <u>TOTAL</u> 100%	

Note:

Because this is a writing focused, COMM-B course, Essays will require a first draft (a "first edition") that will be turned in to your TA for comments several weeks before the final edition is due (see Schedule below). The first edition should be *full draft* of the essay. Although it will not be graded separately, failure to submit a *full draft* of the first edition of an essay will result in a 25% reduction of that essay's final grade.

Late papers will suffer a 10% reduction per day unless unavoidable circumstances arise. In the case of illness, family emergency or other similar circumstance, please contact the Instructor and your TA as soon as possible, preferably before an assignment is due.

Please be aware that if you miss section or lecture for any reason, *you* are responsible for the material covered.

Please also note that the UW policy on academic honesty states that students can be expelled for one case of cheating or plagiarism. Your TA will go over appropriate citing practice in section before the first assignment is due. If you have any lingering questions about what is covered, please do not hesitate to ask your TA.

DUE DATES FOR EXAMS AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

MIDTERM EXAM: October 23rd 9:30am, 180 Science Hall

ESSAY 1 FULL DRAFT: October 7th 9:30am, 180 Science Hall

ESSAY 1 FINAL REVISION: October 28th 9:30am, 180 Science Hall

ESSAY 2 PROPOSAL: November 4th 9:30am, 180 Science Hall

ESSAY 2 FULL DRAFT: November 25th 9:30am, 180 Science Hall and to peer reviewer

FINAL EXAM: December 11th 9:30am, 180 Science Hall

ESSAY 2 FINAL REVISION: December 16th 5:00pm, TA Mailbox 388 Science Hall

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

	SECTION	EMAIL ADDRESS
Rachel Boothby (Head TA)	301 (Tue 11:00am)	boothby@wisc.edu
	302 (Tue 12:05am)	
Rebecca Summer	303 (Tue 1:20pm)	rsummer@wisc.edu
	304 (Tue 2:25pm)	
Neslihan Atatimur	305 (Tue 3:30pm)	atatimur@wisc.edu
	306 (Tue 4:35pm)	
Wanqing Chen	307 (Wed 9:55am)	chenwanqing0726@gmail.com
	308 (Wed 11:00am)	
Nathan Green	309 (Wed 12:05pm)	nathangreen1@gmail.com
	310 (Wed 1:20pm)	
David Chambers	311 (Wed 2:25-3:15)	dchambers2@wisc.edu
	312 (Wed 3:30-4:20)	

SCHEDULE

September	2 nd - 4 th	Wk 1	Introduction to Human Geography READ: Knox and Marston, Ch1
	9 th - 11 th	Wk 2	The Globalization Question READ: Knox and Marston, Ch2 <i>Assign essay 1</i>
	16 th - 18 th	Wk 3	The Colonial Present READ: Knox and Marston, Ch2
	23 rd - 25 th	Wk 4	Making Space an Object of Value: Economic Geography I READ: Knox and Marston, Ch7
October	30 th - 2 nd	Wk 5	Making Space an Object of Value: Economic Geography II READ: Knox and Marston, Ch7
	7 th - 9 th	Wk 6	A World in Your Stomach: The Global Production of Food READ: Knox and Marston, Ch8 <i>ESSAY 1 FULL DRAFT DUE Tues, Oct. 7th</i>
	14 th - 16 th	Wk 7	A World to Lose: The Thin Line Between Nature & Society READ: Knox and Marston, Ch4
	21 st - 23 rd	Wk 8	MIDTERM REVIEW <i>Oct. 21st</i> ; MIDTERM EXAM <i>Oct. 23rd</i> <i>Assign Essay 2</i>
	27 th - 30 th	Wk 9	Spaces of Difference: Social Geography READ: Knox and Marston, Ch5 <i>ESSAY 1 FINAL REVISION DUE Tues, Oct. 28th</i>
	4 th - 6 th	Wk 10	Places of Identity: Cultural Geography READ: Knox and Marston, Ch6 <i>ESSAY 2 PROPOSAL DUE Tues, Nov. 4th</i>
November	11 th - 13 th	Wk 11	Urbanization: Urban Geography I READ: Knox and Marston, Ch10
	18 th - 20 th	Wk 12	Social Justice and the City: Urban Geography II READ: Knox and Marston, Ch11
	25 th - 27 th	Wk 13	Catch Up, 25 th Thanksgiving Recess – No Lecture Nov. 27th <i>ESSAY 2 FULL DRAFT DUE Tues, Nov. 25th</i>
	2 nd - 4 th	Wk 14	Crossing Boundaries: Political Geography READ: Knox and Marston, Ch9
December	9 th - 11 th	Wk 15	FINAL REVIEW <i>Dec. 9th</i> ; FINAL EXAM <i>Dec. 11th</i>
	Finals Week		<i>ESSAY 2 FINAL REVISION DUE Dec. 16th</i>