

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Space, Place and Global Change

Fall 2018

Geography 101
180 Science Hall
TR 9:30-10:45
4 Credits, Comm-B Course

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Office hours: T 12:00-2:00;
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Recent world news headlines have featured the following:

- Rising tariff barriers - especially between the US and China, but also across North America and between the US and EU threaten to trigger a series of trade wars and to undermine international economic relations and institutions, including NAFTA.
- Refugee numbers are the highest since WWII, while receiving countries in the Global North are increasingly unwilling to accept asylum seekers. The arrival of asylum seekers has contributed to a rise in nativism, xenophobia, and far right political parties in the US and EU.
- State sovereignty and the trustworthiness of electoral systems in democratic states, as well as the security of critical infrastructure, are increasingly threatened by international cyberattacks, the most recent of which feature Russia's efforts to interfere with elections in the US and EU.

What all these have in common is the human geographic factors at work in our increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with the field of human geography by exploring the spatial patterns and processes that contribute to local and global change. This semester, we will systematically explore the relation between space and social life associated with *globalization* through the use of three human geographic modules: economic geography, social and cultural geography, and political geography/geopolitics. In each unit, you will get a sense of what different research traditions within human geography emphasize, what types of questions researchers from each of these subfields might ask about the world, and what

unites these diverse interests as 'human geography.' For example, 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 place and identity-politics.

In short, human geography refers to understanding, interpreting, and representing the human world in ways that emphasize spatial relations, spatial processes, and relationships to the non-human world. In this course, you will learn what it means to interpret events and trends with a focus on space and scale. You will gain an appreciation for how elements of human geography, such as place, environment, boundaries, and territory, are critical to understanding human relationships and experiences. 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 processes (and vice versa). In addition, we will explore emergent institutions, technologies, and networks that fundamentally change relationships between people and places. In studying these aspects of globalization, we will be particularly attentive to *geographic differences*, for instance, analyzing the diverse and uneven effects of global economic investment patterns and labor practices. As such, 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.).

COURSE READINGS

Required Articles and Book Chapters:

There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings (including chapters from Knox and Marston, *Human Geography*) will be made available to you on electronic reserve via canvas.

Recommended Text: Paul Knox and Sallie Marston, *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*, 5th, 6th or 7th edition. Copies of this text will be available in College Library reserves, and can be purchased online.

Current Affairs: Current events are an integral part of this class. You are required to do one of the following:

- (a) Visit the BBC News web site **daily** given its international focus, and its analytical quality. The BBC site is available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>. I also suggest you watch the BBC World News, the PBS Newshour or Worldfocus on PBS TV. BBC World News airs M-F at 5:30 and 11:00 pm, PBS Newshour at 6:00 and 12:00 am, and Worldfocus at 11:30.
- (b) Read a newspaper with a strong international (versus US) focus on a **daily** basis. My first recommendation is the *International Herald Tribune* (<http://www.iht.com>) or the *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com>). It is available in various UW libraries as well.
- (c) Listen to NPR's broadcast of All Things Considered, which airs at 5:00 am, 7:00 am, 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

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** (37.5% of final grade). You will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit both writing assignments. Each of these 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 writing 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 give you substantial feedback on your work, and you will have the opportunity to revise the major writing assignments with the benefit of input from your TA.

2 Exams (40% of final grade) will consist of essay-style questions, as well as some short-answer questions regarding key terms and concepts. Study guides will be provided before the exams, and review sessions will be offered prior to each exam.

In addition to the major writing assignments, there will be a series of smaller assignments given in lecture and section, as well as 3 essay exams. The shorter assignments may include participation in debates, short 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 a 10-minute **presentation** (7.5% of final grade) once during the semester in their discussion section (details will be provided by your TA). 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. **Attendance, participation and section activities** will account for the remaining 10%.

More details on shorter assignments and oral presentations 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 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 will also hear several guest lectures. 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.

Please Take Note: You Will Be Tested On the Content Provided by Guest Lectures, Current Events and Videos!

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.

Laptops and smartphones are not permitted in this class. If you have a special need that requires the use of a laptop for note taking, please let me or your TA know.

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

Your final grade will consist of the following components:

Writing Assignments (37.5%)

Essay 1 Final Paper (5-6 pages)	15%
Essay 2 Proposal (1-2 pages)	5%
Peer Reviews	2.5%
Essay 2 Final Paper (7-8 pages)	15%

Essay Exams (2 @ 20%)

40%

Discussion activities (27.5%)

Oral Presentations	7.5%
Short Research Exercises	5%
Attendance, Participation and Section Activities	10%

TOTAL

100%

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 a *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.

This syllabus is subject to change, as events and circumstances warrant.

SCHEDULE OF EXAMS AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Exam 1	October 25, 180 Science Hall
Exam 2	December 11, 180 Science Hall

Essay 1 first edition	Week 5 in Discussion Section
Essay 1 final edition	Week 8 in Discussion Section
Essay 2 proposal	Week 9 in Discussion Section
Essay 2 first edition	Week of 12 in Discussion Section
Essay 2 final edition	Friday, <i>December 14</i> in TA mailbox by <i>4 pm</i>

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Name	Sections	email
Luke Leavitt	301 310	ldleavitt@wisc.edu
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SUMMARY SCHEDULE

Week 1	Geography and Globalization
Week 2	Emergence of the World System
Week 3-4	Economic Geographies of Globalization
Week 5	Cultural, Place, Power
Week 6	Ethnicity, Gender, Race as Spatial Processes
Week 7	Exam 1
Week 8	Contestations of Place: Homeland-Making and Territoriality
Week 9	Voluntary and Forced Migration; Refugees
Week 10-11	Political Geography and Geopolitics
Week 12-13	Critical Geopolitics – Popular Geopolitics
Week 13-14	Exam 2

Detailed Schedule

September 6	Introduction to Geography 101
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Week 1 (9/11, 9/13)	Geography and Globalization
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Readings: Alan Cochrane and Kathy Pain, "A globalizing society?" In D. Held (ed.), *A Globalizing World? Culture, Economics, Politics* (2nd ed.), London: Routledge, 2004, pp. 25-46.
Doreen Massey, "A global sense of place," in *Space, Place and Gender* (University of Minnesota Press, 2004), chapter 6.

Note: **Essay 1 handed out and discussed in Discussion Section.**
Library Activity assigned in Discussion Section.

Week 2 (9/18, 9/20)	Emergence of the World System
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Readings: Knox and Marston, *Human Geography*, Chapter 2.

Note: Sections meet in the library this week.
 ****BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP****

Week 3 (9/25, 9/27)	Economic Geographies of Globalization I
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Reading: Knox and Marston, *Human Geography*, Chapter 7.

Note: Library assignment due in discussion section.

Week 4 (10/2, 10/4)	Global Assembly Line and the New International Division of Labor; Alternative Economic Geographies
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Reading: Ian Cook et al. "Made in...? Appreciating the everyday geographies of connected lives," *Teaching Geography* (Summer 2007): 80-83.
 M. Donaghu and R. Barff. 1990. "Nike just did it: international subcontracting and flexibility in athletic footwear production." *Regional Studies* 24 (6): 537-52.
 J Ferguson, "The social life of 'cash payment': Money, markets, and the mutualities of poverty," in *Cash on the Table*, pp. 113-132.

Readings for Discussion Section Debate: Universal Basic Income

J. Surowiecki 2016. "The case for free money," *The New Yorker* (June 20 issue), financial page.
 A. Flower 2016. "A new way of living: What would happen if we just gave people money?" 538 (April 25 issue), 1-19.
 "Revival of Universal Basic Income Proposal Ignores the Needs of Labor Force," *Wall Street Journal*.

Films: *Global Assembly Line*
Planet money makes a t-shirt (<http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/title>).

Recommended Films: *The True Cost*
 Life and Debt

Week 5 (10/9, 10/11)	Culture, Place, Power
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Readings: Doreen Massey, "A place called home?" in *Space, Place and Gender* (University of Minnesota Press, 1994), chapter 7.
 Rich Schein, "The place of landscape," *Annals of the AAG* 87 (4), 1997: 660-680.

Recommended: Gillian Rose, "Place and identity: a sense of place," in *A Place in the World? Places, Cultures and Globalization*, pp. 88-132.
 Doreen Massey and Pat Jess, "Places and cultures in an uneven world," in *A Place in the World? Places, Cultures and Globalization*, pp. 216-239.

Note: **Essay 1 draft due in discussion section**
 Oral Presentations begin in week 5 discussion sections
 Sign up for writing conferences

Week 6 (10/23, 10/25)	Ethnicity, Gender and Race as Spatial Processes
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Readings: K. Anderson. 1987. "The idea of Chinatown." *Annals of the AAG* 77 (4): 580-598.
 R. Brahinsky. 2011. "Race and the city: the (re)development of urban identity." *Geography Compass* 5 (3): 144-153.
 S Young and M Bruzzone, "Feeling the pulse of the city: Race liberalism and the politics of tension in postwar Detroit."

Recommended: S. Young, A. Pinkerton & K. Dodds 2014. "The word on the street: Rumor, race and the anticipation of urban unrest" *Political Geography* 38 (1): 57-67.

Recommended Film: *I Am Not Your Negro*

Note: **Writing Conferences, No Discussion Sections.**

Week 7	(10/23)	Wrap Up and Review
	(10/25)	EXAM 1

Note: **Essay 2 handed out and discussed in Section**

Week 8 (10/30, 11/1)	Contestations of Place: Homeland-Making and Territoriality
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Readings: David Sibley, "Creating geographies of difference," in *Human Geography Today*, pp. 115-128.
 Walker Connor, "The impact of homelands upon diasporas," in *Modern Diasporas in International Politics*, pp. 16-45.
 R Kaiser, "Homeland making and the territorialization of national identity, in *Ethnonationalism in the Contemporary World*, pp. 229-247.

Recommended: O Yiftachel, "The homeland and nationalism," in *The Encyclopedia of Nationalism*, volume 1 (San Diego: Academic Press, 2001), pp. 359-83.

Note: **Essay 1 FINAL DRAFT due at the beginning of section**

Week 9 (11/6, 11/8)	Voluntary and Forced Migration, Refugees
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Readings: Elizabeth Dunn. 2016. "Refugee protection and resettlement problems." *Science* 352 (13 May): 772-3.
 Jennifer Hyndman. 2005. "Migration wars: refuge or refusal?" *Geoforum* 36: 3-6.
 Alison Mountz. 2011. "The enforcement archipelago: detention, haunting and asylum on islands." *Political Geography* 30: 118-128.

Recommended: Alison Mountz. 2013. "Constructing the Mediterranean region: obscuring violence in the bordering of Europe's migration 'crises'." *ACME* 13(2): 173-195.

Recommended Film: *Journey of Hope*

Note: **ESSAY 2 PROPOSAL DUE in Discussion Section**

Week 10-11 (11/13, 15, 20) Political Geography and Geopolitics

Readings: Marston and Knox, Chapter 9.
 Klaus Dodds, "The nature of geopolitics and globalization," in
Global Geopolitics: A Critical Introduction (Pearson, 2005),
 chapter 2.

THANKSGIVING: NOVEMBER 22

Note: **No discussion sections will be held during week of Thanksgiving.**

Week 12 (11/27, 11/29)

Week 13 (12/4)	Critical Geopolitics – Popular Geopolitics
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Reading: Jason Dittmer, 2005, "Captain America's empire: reflections on identity, popular culture, and post-9/11 geopolitics," *Annals of the AAG* 95 (3): 626-643.

Film: *Captain America. Winter Soldier* (2014).

Recommended: Captain America, Vol. 1. *The New Deal* (2003).
 Captain America, Vol. 2. *The Extremists* (2003).
 Captain America, Vol. 5. *Homeland* (2004).

Note: **Essay 2 Draft due Week 12 in Discussion Section.
 Peer reviews due Week 13 in discussion section.**

Week 13-14 (12/6)	Wrap up and Review
(12/11)	EXAM 2

Note: **Essay 2 due Friday, 12/14, by 4 pm.**