

Peoples, Places and Cultures
(Geography 1101)
Fall 2007

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In this course we will address contemporary problems of violence, poverty, injustice, and environmental degradation. Students will be exposed to various places around the world, and in different scales: local, regional and global. The goal of this course is to develop your geographical imagination through the practice of making the "strange" (far-off places) familiar, while making the familiar a bit stranger-- in other words, re-examining daily life and practices in our local communities.

Geography is the study of the inter-relations between humans and their environments. People have a tremendous impact on the earth; in turn our physical environs influence our identities, societies and cultures. Geography is much more than the study of where things are; it is also a way of understanding the world and our own place in it.

Cases studies introduced in lecture will complement (rather than overlap) the reading from the texts. Assignments, quizzes and exams will require students to incorporate lectures with readings. Periodic discussion sections will provide the opportunity to analysis and discuss course materials in depth.

Required Text:

Knox, Paul L and Sallie A. Marston. *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context* (4th Edition) Prentice Hall New Jersey. 2007.

Grades:

- 1) **Midterm Exam, October 9th (40%)**
- 2) **Final Exam, December 11th (40%).**
- 3) **Quizzes and In-Class Exercises (20%).**

Final grades will be influenced by the degree to which a student actively participates in class. This means careful attention to the topics presented in lecture, a thoughtful reading of the text, and the effort to articulate ideas in a focused discussion. Students who distinguish themselves in class (asking thoughtful questions and contributing to discussion and debate) will receive grades that reflect these important contributions. Final grades are ultimately determined by the professor, rather than a simple computation of 'points'.

CLASS SCHEDULE: The following is a general blueprint of the way the class will progress. Exact dates will vary depending on the pace/size of the class. It is the responsibility of each student to stay informed as to upcoming reading and writing assignments. Thank you.

Introduction: August 16th

Why study Geography? Review of syllabus and class requirements. Overview of course themes/inter-relationships: the local and the global, wealth and poverty, peoples and physical environments.

Chapters Two and Three (August 21-30):

Geography and the Age of Exploration; Colonialism and Imperialism.

Reading: Chapter One; "Geography Matters."

The Making of the "First", "Second" and "Third" Worlds: Diversity in Development

Reading: Chapter Two; "The Changing Global Context."

Local Realities in the Global Context (Case Studies)

Chapter Three:

Populations in Crisis: Decimation

Case Study: The 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

Reading: Chapter Three; "Geographies of Population."

Chapter Four:

What is Nature?

Case Study: Public Parks and Private Property

Reading: Chapter 4, "Nature and Society."

Chapter Five:

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Cultural Claims

Case Study: *Guatemala: Indigenous Peoples and Politics*

Reading: Chapter 5; "Cultural Geographies."

Chapter Six:

The Politics of Place and Landscape

Case Study: *Jerusalem and Its Wailing Wall*

Reading: Chapter 6; "Interpreting Places and Landscapes."

Midterm Exam: October 9th.

SEMESTER MIDPOINT (drop by October 12th---but please stay!)

Chapter Seven:

Footloose Global Capital Meets Local Labor

Case Study: *Nike in Indonesia*

Reading: Chapter 7; "The Geography of Economic Development."

Chapter Eight:

Food Fights

Case Study: *Mad Cows, Foot-and-Mouth, Franken-Fish, and other frightening aspects of everyday consumption*

Reading: Chapter 8, "Agriculture and Food Production"

Chapter Nine:

Space, Race and Power

Case Studies: *South Africa, Bosnia, Uganda*

Reading: Chapter 9, "The Politics of Territory and Space."

Ten and Eleven:

Urbanization: Potentials and Problems.

Reading: Chapters 10 and 11, "Urbanization," and "City Spaces: Urban Structure."

QUESTIONS and CONCLUSIONS

Globalization: the End of Borders, the End of Geography?

Reading: Chapter 12: "Future Geographies."

FINAL EXAM: December 11th.

UGA requires that the following text appear on course syllabi:

"All academic work must meet the standards contained in 'A Culture of Honesty.' Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work."

"The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary."