

GEOGRAPHY 142

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Online: Summer Term, 2015

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What is this course about? Human Geography can be understood as what people do across the surface of the earth, where they do it and why, and how implications of particular actions influence and shape a variety of social, political, economic and environmental outcomes. Through an examination of the diverse phenomena which occurs in our contemporary world, participants in this course will develop an understanding of the interconnections and interdependence between people, places, environments and systems. Developing this understanding is the foundation of a “geographic perspective” and basis of Human Geography.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to facilitate development of students' knowledge and skills for engaging critically in geographical inquiry. By the end of the term, students who invest their time and effort fully in meeting course expectations and requirements should be able to:

- Understand geographical perspectives to explain key concepts, themes, and approaches in human geography
- Recognize and interpret of a variety of phenomena at different scales and in different places around the world
- Synthesize and apply common frameworks used by human geographers to engage in debates related to current challenges faced by humans around the world
- Recognize how common problems can be better analyzed using a “geographic perspective”, use this perspective to understand how broader issues are often misunderstood
- Use their own experiences and perspectives to think critically about course material
- Use their own voices to contribute in a meaningful way, ideas about current challenges at a variety of scales using a “geographic perspective”

COURSE ACCESS AND COMMUNICATION:

With the exception of the required novel, all course materials such as lectures, weekly writing and lecture responses, exams and communications can be accessed via Blackboard. If you have trouble accessing or using Blackboard, technical help is available through the UO Blackboard FAQs for students. **Please make use of these resources prior to contacting the GTFs or instructor for assistance:**

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/scis/blackboard/fag/questions.html?category=students>

You can find in-person Blackboard assistance on the Main Floor of the Knight Library on the UO campus.

Students will have one GTF assigned as their “primary” contact for the course.

All questions about course assignments, quizzes, exams and grades should go to the primary contact GTF, not the instructor.

The instructor (and GTFs) are available to address any questions about course concepts, readings, videos and lectures.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Human Geography

June 22-28: What is Human Geography? Overview of discipline, history, future directions and relevance, course expectations and consequences of Geographical ignorance,

Required reading: **Awash in a Sea of Geographical ignorance (On blackboard)**

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 1-2, p. 1-32**

Week 2: Geography and Culture

June 29-July 5: How geography expands common perceptions and understandings of culture

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 3-7, p. 33-66**

Required reading: **The Vanishing (On blackboard)**

Week 3: Political Geography

July 6-July 12: Nations, States, Territory, Sovereignty

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 8-9, p. 67-88**

Required reading: **The best country on earth? (On blackboard)**

Week 4: Geo-Demographics

July 13-July 19: Complexities of population from a geographic perspective

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 10-16, p. 89-156**

Required reading: **Impact of Population Growth on the Environment vs The overpopulation myth (On blackboard)**

Week 5: Migration

July 20-July 26: Migration, geographical connections and outcomes

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 17-23, p. 157-234**

Required reading: **Far from home (On blackboard)**

Week 6: Environment, Agriculture and Food

July 27-August 2: Perceptions of 'environment', human-environment interaction and connections through food

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 24-29, p. 235-305**

Required reading: **The Great Forgetting (On blackboard)**

Week 7: Development

August 3-August 9: Understanding development through Geography

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 30-34, p. 306-357**

Required reading: **Another day in the drop zone (On blackboard)**

Week 8: Sustainability and the future

August 10-August 12: Sustainability and the future. Course summary.

Required reading: **The Boiling Frog (On blackboard)**

Required Movie: Home (**Available on Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqxENMKaeCU>)

Course Text Book:

This course will not adopt a standard text book, however, students will read a novel through the duration of the term which will be complimented by supplemental readings. The novel is compulsory reading and must be purchased before the term begins.

Novel: The Good Earth, Pearl S. Buck, available on Amazon.com

Supplemental readings are posted to blackboard. All readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

Assessment Criteria:

Weekly reading responses 16% **Due each week Friday 5pm Pacific Standard Time**

Weekly lecture critiques 14% **Due each week Friday 5pm Pacific Standard Time**

Discussion sections 10%

Mid Term Exam 20%

Final Exam 20%

Term Assignment 20%

As all due dates and exam dates are provided in advance, no make-ups will be provided for any of the required course components. No late assignments will be accepted.

Please note there are NO EXCEPTIONS to this rule unless students can provide documented evidence of a medical emergency.

POLICIES:

Changes to the course schedule: Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grading policy and course standards, may be changed with advanced notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Should any schedule changes be made, instructor will notify students of any changes via a Blackboard announcement. Please always refer to the copy of the syllabus posted on Blackboard to make sure you have the latest version.

Computers and other electronic equipment: To complete this course, you will need reliable access to a computer and internet service.

Incompletes and Extensions: As all due dates and exam dates are provided in advance, no 'make-ups' will be allowed for any of the required course components. Except in the case of documented emergencies, no late assignments will be accepted. Retaining copies of all coursework: Please retain copies of all work submitted and the original copy of all work

returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these copies as documentation.

Academic Honesty: Please review and familiarize yourself with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct regarding academic honesty, <http://conduct.uoregon.edu>. Violations of academic honesty will be met with disciplinary action (the usual punishment is an “F” for the course).

Individual Differences: If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don’t hesitate to consult with me. If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your education process. The university offers a wide range of services to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements, including the following:

University Teaching and Learning Center (TLC): TLC provides numerous resources (including courses, workshops, and tutoring) to help UO students succeed. They work with a diverse student body with a wide range of needs. If you are unsure which resources would work best, they are happy to answer questions and share suggestions. Web: <http://tlc.uoregon.edu/>
Phone: 541-346-3226.

University Counseling and Testing Center (UCTC): The UCTC provides comprehensive mental health care and testing services to the University of Oregon campus. The primary mission of the UCTC is to provide quality clinical/therapeutic services, psychological testing and assessment, psychoeducational workshops, and outreach as well as emergency services. Web: <http://counseling.uoregon.edu/dnn/> Phone: 541-346-3227

Accessible Education Center (AEC): The AEC is dedicated to facilitating and supporting accessible education through active collaboration with students, faculty, staff, and the community. The AEC works to create and sustain physical, curricular, and informational environments that are informed by and responsive to the diverse characteristics and experiences of students with disabilities and variations of ability.
Web: <http://aec.uoregon.edu/> Phone: 541-346-1155

Please be aware that this syllabus is subject to change. Therefore it is imperative that students attend lectures, discussions, and stay up to date with all course communication through the Blackboard system.