

Principles of Geography
Geography 1305 – CRN 10072
Fall 2010

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Class times:	12:00 12:50 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
Class location:	Irby 311
Office Hours:	M - F: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. or by appointment
Home Page:	www.brooksgreen.net
Prerequisite:	None
Required Text:	Getis, Getis, and Fellmann, <i>Introduction to Geography</i> 12 th edition

The General Education Context

This course is one of the Behavioral and Social Science General Education Electives. As such, after you complete this course, you should be better able to: 1) use a variety of concepts, principles, models, laws, and theories to explain human behavior, 2) understand how the study of human behavior is founded on empirical/scientific observation, and 3) recognize the effect of the environment on individual behavior, or recognized the effect of social institutions and processes on human interaction.

Additionally, this course is designed to assist in improving your information and computer literacy skills. As such, after you complete this course, you should be better able to: 1) locate information from a variety of sources, 2) utilize technology to create written and graphic documents, and to retrieve and communicate information effectively and efficiently, 3) critically evaluate information and its sources, 4) incorporate information gained outside of textbooks into your knowledge base, 5) utilize technology skills to more effectively write, conduct research, and produce graphic representations, and 6) understand ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information sources.

Finally, this course is designed to broaden your attitudes and to help clarify your values regarding your geographical world. As such, after you complete this courses, you should be better able to: 1) perceive and understand ongoing world events, 2) perceive and understand other peoples and cultures, 3) perceive and understand the forces and processes of nature, 4) perceive ongoing physical and cultural processes at the local, national, and global scales, 5) perceive and understand environmental concerns and problems, and 6) understand the relationships between humans and their natural environment.

Course Description

Geography is part of your every day life and part of your understanding of the world in which you live. Every time you ask where something is, why something is located where it is, how an event or phenomenon is influenced by where it is, or what is the best location for something, you ask a geographical question. Your experiences and your knowledge of the world are, among other things, geographical. The purpose of this course is to explore components of your geographical world.

To help you in understanding your place in the world more fully, each of you will attempt to achieve the following objectives: 1) learn what geography is, and 2) gain some knowledge of the physical and human geography of the Earth.

Activities

1. Each of you is expected to read the assigned chapters in the text. If you fail to read them you may fail the exams. I test from the text and lectures, so read the text carefully and take good notes during class.
2. Write three short papers. The topics for these papers are: 1) What do you learn from the display on Climate Change in the hall adjacent to the Geography Department? 2) What is overpopulation and how does one know if a country is overpopulated? 3) Is India a developed country? Each paper is worth 50 points. Each paper MUST contain the following: 1) a title page, 2) no more or no less than two pages of text, 3) a References Cited page, and 4) in-text citations.

Papers are due on specific dates. I DO NOT accept late papers, so please pay attention to due dates.

3. There are four exams during the semester. My exam questions come from the textbook and class lectures and consist of a variety of questions such as multiple choice, short answer, map, and true and false. Anything I say in class or anything you should read in the text can be tested. If exams are missed for “excusable” reasons (illness, family emergencies, etc.) they may be made up after consultation with me.

Attendance and Grading Policies

You are required to attend each class period. A grade will be given for attendance. If you happen to enter the classroom late, and I have already taken roll, you are absent unless you inform me at the end of class that you were in attendance. I do not drop students for missing a specified number of classes. No excuse for an absence is accepted unless I have a document stating that you were participating in an authorized university function. Notes from doctors are never needed.

Final grade: Your final grade will be based upon the percent obtained from dividing the scores of the four exams, the three papers, and attendance by the total possible points. My grading scale is: 0-59%=F; 60-69%=D; 70-79%=C; 80-89%=B; 90-100%=A. In borderline cases—such as 79.4, 69.3, etc.—I reserve the right to determine which grade is assigned. You are welcome to visit

with me anytime to determine your current grade or to talk about assignments, etc. I do give occasional bonus assignments.

3 Papers	150 points	26.0%
Attendance	38 points	6.6%
Exam #1	101 points	17.5%
Exam #2	88 points	15.2%
Exam #3	78 points	13.5%
Exam #4	123 points	21.3%
	TOTAL 578 points	100.00%

(The total points may change if the number of points on exams or other assignments change)

Topics and Reading Assignments

	Date	Reading Assignment and Topics
1	Friday, Aug. 27	Introduction to course, beginning lecture: "Myths About Geography"
2	Monday, Aug. 30	Chapter 1: pp. 3 – 21, "Myths About Geography"
3	Wednesday, Sept. 1	"The Four Traditions of Geography"
4	Friday, Sept. 3	"Five Fundamental Themes of Geography"
	Monday, Sept. 6	LABOR DAY
5	Wednesday, Sept. 8	"Geography Today" "A Definition of Geography"
6	Friday, Sept. 10	"Geographic Perspective" "Careers in Geography"
7	Monday, Sept. 13	Chapter 3, pp. 55 – 66, "Earth Structure"
8	Wednesday, Sept. 15	"Continental Drift Theory" "Plate Tectonics"
9	Friday, Sept. 17	"Earthquakes" "Volcanic Activity" "Mountain Building"
10	Monday, Sept. 20	"Diastrophism" "Rocks" "Gradational Forces"
11	Wednesday, Sept. 22	EXAM #1
12	Friday, Sept. 24	Chapter 4, pp. 87 – 125, "Earth-Sun Relationships"
13	Monday, Sept. 27	"Atmospheric Cooling and Heating"
	Wednesday, Sept. 29	NCGE
	Friday, Oct. 1	NCGE
14	Monday, Oct. 4	"Air Pressure" "Pressure Gradient"
15	Wednesday, Oct. 6	"Coriolis Effect" "Fronts" Paper #1 is due
16	Friday, Oct. 8	"Global Wind System" "Air Masses" "ENSO"
17	Monday, Oct. 11	"Evapotranspiration"
18	Wednesday, Oct. 13	"Humidity" "Precipitation"
	Friday, Oct. 15	SWAAG
19	Monday, Oct. 18	"Climates and Climate Regions"
20	Wednesday, Oct. 20	Exam #2
	Friday, Oct. 22	FALL BREAK
21	Monday, Oct. 25	Chapter 6, pp. 171 – 207 "Population Geography vs. Demography" "Population Issues and Controversies" "World and US Population"
22	Wednesday, Oct. 27	"Population Concentrations" "Population of Countries"
23	Friday, Oct. 29	"A History of Population Growth" "Malthusian Theory" "Linear vs. Geometric Growth"
24	Monday, Nov. 1	"Rates of Natural Increase" "Measures of Population Pressure"
25	Wednesday, Nov. 3	"DAC Line" "Brandt Line" "North vs. South" Paper #2 is due

26	Friday, Nov. 5	"Demographic Transition Theory/Model
27	Monday, Nov. 8	"Population Pyramids" "Types of Movement"
28	Wednesday, Nov. 10	"Migration: Economic/Refugee" Review for Exam #3
29	Friday, Nov. 12	Exam #3
30	Monday, Nov. 15	Chapter 7, pp. 209-259 "A Definition of Culture" "Subsystems" "Terms"
31	Wednesday, Nov. 17	"American Culture" "Southern Culture"
32	Friday, Nov. 19	"Cultural Ecology" "Cultural Regions" "Cultural Landscapes"
33	Monday, Nov. 22	"Cultural Diffusion" "Culture Hearths"
	Wednesday, Nov. 24	THANKSGIVING
	Friday, Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING
34	Monday, Nov. 29	"Language" "Religion: Definitions and Classifications" Paper #3 is due
35	Wednesday, Dec. 1	"Hinduism > Jainism and Sikhism" "Buddhism"
36	Friday, Dec. 3	"Judaism"
37	Monday, Dec. 6	"Christianity"
38	Wednesday, Dec. 8	"Islam"
	Friday, Dec. 10	Study Day
	Monday Dec. 13	11:00 am - Final Exam

Other Items

- ❖ "The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 450-3135. For information or advice on the services available, go to <http://www.uca.edu/divisions/student/disability/index.htm>
- ❖ You are expected to do your own work. If you are caught cheating on an exam or class assignment in any way, these are some of my options: 1) your grade in the course or on the exam or assignment affected by the misconduct may be reduced to an extent, including reduction to failure; 2) you may be placed on probation or suspended from the university for a specified period of time; 3) you may be expelled from the university; 4) or, I may simply drop you from the course with a WF (withdraw failing).

If you present someone else's work (for example copy material from an Internet site) and present it as your own, your name will be turned over to the university to prosecute in any manner it sees fit. Plagiarism (stealing someone else's words or ideas) is an intellectual property crime. The *Student Handbook* provides a full discussion of students' rights and responsibilities with reference to academic honesty and other topics. The full text of the *UCA Student Handbook, 2001-2002*, can be found at: <http://www.uca.edu/divisions/student/handbook/>
- ❖ Cell phones **must** be turned off while in class and kept off your desk. They may not be kept on your desk unless explicit permission is granted!!
- ❖ Laptop computers may be used as long as they are not disruptive.
- ❖ Sexual harassment by any faculty member, staff member, or student is a violation of both law and university policy and will not be tolerated at the University of Central Arkansas. Sexual harassment of employees is prohibited under Section 703 of Title VII of

the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and sexual harassment of students may constitute discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Go to the following link for full discussion: <http://www.uca.edu/divisions/student/handbook/>

- ❖ The university calendar listing all deadlines (for adding and dropping classes, etc.) can be found at: <http://www.uca.edu/calendar/>
- ❖ I reserve the right to change any and all parts of this syllabus, including assignments and their relative point value. You are responsible for being in class to hear any change in the syllabus.