

Principles of Geography
Geography 1305
Summer I - 2008

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Class times: 9:40 – 11:10 am
Class location: Irby 311
Office Hours: 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. daily

Home Page: www.brooksgreen.net

Prerequisite: None

Required Text: Getis, Getis, and Fellmann, Introduction to Geography, 11th 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) more clearly understand a variety of concepts, principles, models, laws, and theories to explain human behavior, 2) more clearly 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) more clearly understand ongoing world events, 2) more clearly understand other peoples and cultures, 3) more clearly understand the forces and processes of nature, 4) more clearly understand ongoing physical and cultural processes at the local, national, and global scales, 5) more clearly understand environmental concerns and problems, and 6) more clearly 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 a few components of your geographical world.

To help you more clearly understand your place in the world more completely, 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 Earth.

Activities

1. Each of you is expected to read the assigned chapters in the text. If you fail to read them you may not do well on the exams. I test from the text and lectures, so read the text carefully and take good notes during class.
2. Write two, short papers. During the term you will be assigned topics about which you will write two pages. These assignments are meant to enhance your technical writing and citation skills. I do not accept late papers, so please note due dates! Both papers will carefully follow the instructions and model given to you in class or on my website. The topics are: 1) Humans Cannot be Divided into Racial Groups. You should argue for and against this proposition. 2) Muslim Polygamists Should be Allowed to Immigrate to the U.S. Muslim men can have up to four wives. You should argue for and against this proposition.
3. There are three exams during the term. Exam questions will come from the textbook and class lectures. They will 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 consulting with Dr Green.

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. There are NO excused absences unless you are participating in a university-sponsored event and I have written documentation regarding that event. Therefore, there is NO need to bring doctor excuses, etc.

Final grade: Your final grade will be based upon the three exams, the two written assignments, and attendance. 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.

2 papers	100 points	23.8%
Attendance	21 points	5.0%
Exam #1	100 points	23.8%
Exam #2	100 points	23.8%
Exam #3	100 points	23.8%
TOTAL points	421	100.00%

(The total points may change if the number of points on exams changes)

Topics and Reading Assignments

1. Monday, June 2: Introduction to course, "Myths About Geography," "The Four Traditions of Geography," "Five Fundamental Themes of Geography," Chapter 1: pp. 3 – 21
2. Tuesday, June 3: "Geography Today," "Geographic Perspective," "A Definition of Geography," "Careers in Geography," Chapter 3, pp. 53 – 69, "Earth Structure," "Continental Drift Theory" "Plate Tectonics"
3. Wednesday, June 4: "Earthquakes," Volcanic Activity," "Mountain Building," "Diastrophism," "Rocks," "Gradational Forces"
4. Thursday, June 5: Chapter 4, pp. 85 – 129, "Earth-Sun Relationships," "Atmospheric Cooling and Heating"
5. Friday, June 6: "Air Pressure," "Pressure Gradient," "Coriolis Effect," "Fronts," "Global Wind System," "Air Masses" Paper #1 due
6. Monday, June 9: "ENSO" "Evaporation, Transpiration," "Humidity" "Precipitation"
7. Tuesday, June 10: Exam #1
8. Wednesday, June 11: Chapter 6, pp. 177 – 213, "Population Geography vs. Demography" "Population Issues and Controversies" "World and US Population," "Population Concentrations" "Population of Countries"
9. Thursday, June 12: "A History of Population Growth" "Malthusian Theory," "Linear vs. Geometric Growth"
10. Friday, June 13: "Rates of Natural Increase" "Measures of Population Pressure"
11. Monday, June 16: "DAC Line" "Brandt Line" "North vs. South"

12. Tuesday, June 17: "Demographic Transition Theory/Model" "Population Pyramids"
13. Wednesday, June 18: "Types of Movement" "Migration: Economic/Refugee"
14. Thursday, June 19: Exam #2
15. Friday, June 20: Chapter 7, pp. 215 – 265, "A Definition of Culture" "American Culture" "Southern Culture" "Concepts of Culture"
- Monday, June 23: No Class
- Tuesday, June 24: No Class
- Wednesday, June 25: No Class
16. Thursday, June 26: "Cultural Ecology" "Cultural Landscapes" "Cultural Regions"
17. Friday, June 27: Cultural Diffusion," "Culture Hearths," "Language" Paper #2 due
18. Monday, June 30: "Religion: Definitions and Classifications," "Hinduism > Jainism and Sikhism"
19. Tuesday, July 1: "Buddaism," "Judaism"
20. Wednesday, July 2: "Christianity," "Islam"
21. Thursday, July 3: Exam #3

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/>

- ✓ It is disruptive and inconsiderate to enter class late, leave and return in the middle of class, or to leave early, so please be prompt and stay in class until class has been dismissed. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off while in class and kept off your desk in a book bag or under your desk on the floor. They may not be kept on your desk unless explicit permission is granted!!
- ✓ 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 necessary change in the assignments and their value.