

# GEOGRAPHY 1302

## Introduction to Human Geography Syllabus

Instructor: Sig Langegger, PhD

Day/Room: Monday/2-203 and Wednesday/2-217

Time: 8:00 – 9:50 am

Office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 12:00 and Thursday 10:00 – 12:00

Office: ICB 419

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### **DESCRIPTION**

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This course offers a broad introduction to the field of human geography. We will explore how human societies function spatially, and to how people impact places and in turn impact make people. We will cover aspects of cultural geography, including language, music, religion, and cultural practices. Turning our attention to economics, we will explore the spatial relationships between market forces and human settlement patterns. Moving to the arena of health policy, we will untangle the spatial relationships between physical/social environments and geographic patterns of disease, epidemics, and other health issues.

### **OBJECTIVES**

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Upon completion of this course students will:

1. be able to think spatially about socio-cultural problems.
2. be able to identify where human geography intersects with other fields, such as sociology, economics, communication, public health, and city planning.
3. be comfortable using geographical terminology in written and oral communication.
4. have gained a geographic perspective on globalization, migration, conflict, and cooperation.
5. be able to think, write, and argue critically about human geography. That is, using appropriate evidence, you will be able support or challenge models and theories presented in this course.

### **STRUCTURE OF COURSE**

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This course is structured around the textbook. Each week we will grapple with a chapter from this text. Students will be assessed by their performance on four (4) unannounced quizzes, their participation in class discussions, the submission of weekly discussion questions, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

### **READINGS**

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Erin Fouberg, Alexander Murphy, and H.J. de Blij *Human geography: culture, society and space* (10<sup>th</sup> edition), Hoboken, NJ, John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 2012

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

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Participation	10%
Discussion Questions	10%
Pop Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

## **GRADING POLICY**

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Students will be assessed on their participation in “Special Topic” discussions. Each Tuesday, aside from the first day of class, students must submit an insightful and relevant question about the assigned reading. Pop quizzes test students’ knowledge of reading material. All material covered in assigned readings and during lectures is likely to show up on either the mid-term or the final exam.

I do not grade on a curve. Furthermore, I insist that grades are *earned*; they are not *given*. The grade each student’s earns on each assignment and her/his final grade will reflect individual performance.

All grades are final, unless students can prove finding a gross grading error. No extra credit will be offered.

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

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### **Academic Honesty.**

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without crediting that person. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, and dismissal from the University.

Students are responsible for being attentive to or observant of University of Colorado Denver and International College Beijing policies about academic honesty as stated in the University’s Student Code of Conduct.

### **Attendance.**

This course is structured around class discussion. Therefore attendance and participation of each student is vital for all students’ learning outcomes. Not only is attendance required, it contributes toward your final grade. For exceptions to this policy, please refer to the University’s policies on excused absences, emergency absences, and religious observances.

### **Students with Disabilities.**

If you require accommodations, please alert me of your needs on the first day of class so that I, working within University of Denver and International College Beijing policies, may adequately provide them.

### **Civility and Classroom Decorum.**

Silence all cell phones, beepers, etc. during class.

Unless being used as a part of a class exercise or to take notes, please close laptop computers.

This course is based in large measure on critical thinking and class discussion. Disagreement is part and parcel of these processes. Colleagues can disagree *and* maintain respect for each other and one another’s views. I insist that we strive to learn from the differences that manifest while debating the

merit of theoretical and empirical evidence by maintaining an atmosphere of civility during discussions.

## **SCHEDULE**

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### **Introduction to Human Geography**

February 25<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 1)

February 27<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: Inequality (Video: Guns, Germs and Steel (part 1))

### **Population**

March 4<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 2)
- Due: Discussion question

March 6<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: Colonialization (Video: Guns, Germs and Steel (part 2))

### **Movement and Migration**

March 11<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 3)
- Due: Discussion question

March 13<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: The geography of music (Video: Deep Blues)

### **Local Culture, Popular Culture, and Cultural Landscapes**

March 18<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 4)
- Due: Discussion question

March 20<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: Teen culture (Video: The Merchants of Cool)

### **Identity: Race, Ethnicity and Gender**

March 25<sup>th</sup>:

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 5)
- Due: Discussion question

March 27<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: Aztlán and the American Southwest

### **Language**

April 1<sup>st</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 6)
- Due: Discussion question

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Special Topic: Language and Nationalism

## Language

April 8<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: Dialects, Accents, and Social Barriers
- Due: Discussion question

**\*April 10<sup>th</sup>**

- **Midterm Exam**

## Religion

April 15<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 7)
- Due: Discussion question

April 17<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: World Religions

## Political Geography

April 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 8)
- Due: Discussion question

April 24<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: Political geographies of East Asia

## Urban Geography

**Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 9)
- Due: Discussion question

**\*May 1<sup>st</sup>**

- **No Class – International Workers' Day**

## Development

May 6<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 10)
- Due: Discussion question

May 8<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topic: From manufacturing to retailing (Video: Is Wal-Mart Good for America?)

## Agriculture

May 13<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 11)
- Due: Discussion question

May 15<sup>th</sup>

- Special Topics: Desertification and rain forest destruction

## Industry and Services

May 20<sup>th</sup>

- Lecture: *Human Geography: people, place and culture* (Chapter 12)
- Due: Discussion question

May 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Special Topic: Globalization (Video: Guns, Germs and Steel (part 1))