

# GEO 150 Introduction to Human Geography



The "Troy" Chavez Memorial Peace Garden in Denver Colorado.  
Photo Sig Langegger

## DETAILS

Fall 2017  
Mondays & Wednesdays 15:30 - 16:45  
Room D 201

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## DESCRIPTION

Translated from Greek, geography means writing about the Earth, or simply earth writing. In simple terms, geography is an academic field that includes both the study of the spatial patterns of human and physical phenomena. By foregrounding human geography, this course provides a general introduction to the field of geography. Human geographers have many topical interests and employ varied approaches to investigate geographic phenomena. For example, economic geographers investigate the spatial flow of capital and the location of particular industries and firms. Political geographers seek to understand the creation of boundaries, territorial conflicts, and the intersection of power, place, and identity. Urban geographers are interested in spatial patterns of culture, development, and decline in cities, and therefore study the planning and design, urban livelihoods, and the flow of people, goods, and ideas within and between urban areas. Cultural geographers are interested in the

pathways of everyday life, social formations, as well as the history and meaning of landscape. Cultural, political, and historical ecologists are interested in nature-society relationships. Cartographers are interested in making graphic arguments concerning real and imagined worlds. They also seek to understand how maps both shape and reflect the societies that use them. Human geographers use a vast array of quantitative and qualitative methods when they investigate local and global phenomena. They also embrace a wide range of theoretical perspectives, ranging from spatial science to humanism, Marxism, feminism, and various forms of post-structuralism.

## OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Have a working knowledge of geography as an academic discipline.
2. Be able to think spatially about world history, current events, cultural complexes and environmental issues.
3. Be able to identify where geography intersects with other fields such as economics, cultural studies, political science, and development studies.
4. Be comfortable using geographical terminology in written communication.
5. Have gained a geographic perspective on globalization, migration, international conflict & cooperation, and climate change.
6. Have developed a skill-set enabling them to critically think about how human and physical geographies interact with political systems, religious systems, and systems of *commonsense*.

## READING

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### Required

Introducing Human Geographies - (2014 Third Edition); Eds. Paul Cloke, Philip Crang, and Mark Goodwin (Available as an eTextbook (purchase or rent) on amazon.com)

## ASSESSMENT

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Quizzes	30
Reading Responses	26
Midterm Exam	20
Final Exam	24
Total Possible	100

### Reading Responses

Each week I will assign a question or discussion topic relevant to the assigned reading. Response questions assess your ability to synthesize material presented in class and in the textbook with history, current events and possible human futures; in other words, they allow me to see you think. Responses should not exceed 250 words. There are a total of thirteen (13) questions throughout the semester. Questions will be

assessed as very good (2 points), adequate (1.25 points), and insufficient (.5 points). Questions must be posted on AIMS by 12:00 each Monday, unless otherwise noted.

### **Quizzes**

There will be a total of fifteen (15) quizzes, each worth two (2) points. The quizzes cover lectures and reading materials. They will comprise multiple-choice, short answer and true/false questions.

### **Midterm Exam**

The midterm will cover material presented in lectures and in the reading assignments. It will cover *terms, concepts and theories* as well as *regional specifics* presented during the first part of the semester. It will comprise multiple-choice, short answer, true/false and essay questions.

### **Final Exam**

The final will cover material presented in lectures and in the reading assignments during the entire semester. It will cover *terms, concepts and theories* covered during the entire semester and *regional specifics* presented during the second part of the semester. It will comprise multiple-choice, short answer, true/false and essay questions.

## **ASSESSMENT POLICIES**

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### **Format Requirements**

All written assignments must include the following in the upper left corner of the first page: Student's name, student ID number, assignment name, and due date. All assignments must be formatted in the following manner: double spaced, font size of 11 or 12 point, standard margins, and an indented first line for each paragraph.

### **Submission Requirements**

Unless otherwise instructed, students are expected to submit written assignments on the AIMS platform. I will only accept Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF (.pdf) formats. All files submitted must be saved in the following manner: Student Name\_Assignment Name.docx. I expect assignments to be submitted via AIMS on time. Assignments due in class must be turned in at the beginning of class. I reserve the right to deduct points for late submissions and I reserve the right to determine the percentage to be deducted.

### **Makeup Work**

Aside from *exceptional situations*, there will be no chance to make up missed exams or quizzes or turn assignments in past their due day/time. Proof of an exceptional situation must be submitted to me in writing and signed by the appropriate authority within 24 hours of the due date. I reserve the right to define an exceptional situation and furthermore to make all final decisions relating to amending, redoing, or making up late or incomplete work.

## GENERAL POLICIES

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### Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, failing the class, and possibly dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission of the same work, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for being observant of and attentive to Akita International University's policies about academic honesty.

### Attendance

This course is not an online or distance course—being in class matters! Learning is an ongoing process; one that builds upon previously acquired insights and skills. Consistent and engaged attendance is vital for success in this and all college courses. I will sanction attendance by tracking assignments and random roll calls. I reserve the right to deal with or exceptional or extended absences, on a case-by-case basis.

### Special Needs

If you require accommodations, please alert me of your needs on the first day of class so that I can work within Akita International University policies to adequately provide them.

### Civility & Classroom Decorum

Silence all cell phones, beepers, etc. during class. Speaking on cell phones, texting, or using electronic equipment in any way that is not directly related to class (i.e. taking notes, using a translation program during lectures, etc.) is strictly prohibited.

### Student Participation

Learning is a participatory process; therefore student contribution to class is important. This course is based in large measure on critical thinking and class discussion. Disagreement is part 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 discussion. I will sanction participation by tracking of individual student contribution to the in-class learning environment.

## SCHEDULE

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### Week 1 Foundations

Sept 4 Lecture

Sept 6 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 1 (pages 7-50)

### Week 2 Foundations

Sept 11 Lecture

Sept 13 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 1 (pages 51-95)

<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Foundations</b>
Sept 18	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Sept 20	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 1 (pages 96–144)
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Biogeographies</b>
Sept 25	Lecture
Sept 27	Lecture
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Cartographies</b>
Oct 2	Lecture
Oct 4	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 147-186)
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Cultural Geographies</b>
Oct 9	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Oct 11	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 187-226)
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Cultural Geographies</b>
Oct 16	Lecture
Oct 18	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 227-292)
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Cultural Geographies</b>
Oct 23	Lecture
Oct 25	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 227-292)
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Development Geographies</b>
Oct 30	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Nov 1	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 293-348)
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Environmental Geographies</b>
Nov 6	Lecture
Nov 8	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 427-474)
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Historical Geographies</b>
Nov 13	Lecture
Nov 15	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 475-526)
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Population Geographies</b>
Nov 20	Lecture
Nov 22	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 583-622)
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Social Geographies</b>
Nov 27	Lecture
Nov 29	Lecture
Reading	<i>Introducing Human Geographies</i> Part 2 (pages 623-686)

**Week 14 Social Geographies**

Dec 4 Lecture

Dec 6 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 623-686)

**Week 15 Urban & Rural Geographies**

Dec 11 Lecture

Dec 13 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 687-738)

**Week 16**

Dec 18 FINAL EXAM (Room D 201 15:30-16:45)