

# GEO 150 Introduction to Human Geography



The "Troy" Chavez Memorial Peace Garden in Denver  
Colorado.

Photo Sig Langegger

## DETAILS

---

Spring 2019  
Mondays & Wednesdays 15:30 - 16:45  
Room D 204

Sig Langegger PhD  
Office: Building C 1-8 (open door policy - longer meetings by appointment)  
slangegger@aiu.ac.jp | slangegger.com

The best way to contact me is to email me.  
Title your email GEO 150

## DESCRIPTION

---

Translated from Greek, geography means writing about the Earth, or simply earth writing. In less poetic, geography is an academic field that includes the study of the spatial patterns of both 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 urban plans and designs, urban livelihoods, and the flow of people and ideas within urban areas. Cultural geographers are interested in the pathways of everyday life, patterns of 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. Spatial relationships are complicated. Therefore, geographers use a vast array of quantitative and qualitative methods. They also embrace a wide range of theoretical perspectives, ranging from spatial science to humanism, Marxism, feminism, and various forms of post-structuralism. This course is an introduction to the multifaceted discipline of geography.

## OBJECTIVES

---

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

---

### 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](https://www.amazon.com))

## ASSESSMENT

---

Quizzes	30
Reading Responses	26
Midterm Exam	20
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>24</u>

Total Points 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. Reading responses 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 lecture and reading material. 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

---

**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 PDF (.pdf) documents. I expect assignments to be submitted 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 beginning of the missed exam. I reserve the right to define an exceptional situation and furthermore to make all final decisions relating to amending, redoing, or making up late, incomplete, or not-completed work.

## GENERAL POLICIES

---

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission of the same work, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in the academic dishonesty other others. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

In accord with AIU policies and good practices in higher education, acts of academic dishonesty will result in the failure of the course at a minimum. An act of academic dishonesty during the final examination or assignment in lieu of the final examination will result in failure of all courses registered in the relevant academic term. Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs for relevant action.

**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**

---

**Week 1 Foundations**

April 8 **NO CLASS**

April 10 Lecture

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

**Week 2 Foundations**

April 15 Lecture

April 17 Lecture

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

**Week 3 Foundations**

April 22 Lecture

April 24 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 1 (pages 96-144)

**Week 4 Golden Week**

April 29 **NO CLASS**

May 1 **NO CLASS**

**Week 5 Biogeographies**

May 6 Lecture

May 8 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 147-186)

**Week 6 Cartographies**

May 13 Lecture

May 15 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 187-226)

**Week 7 Cultural Geographies**

May 20 Lecture

May 22 Lecture

Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 227-292)

- Week 8 Cultural Geographies**  
May 27 Lecture  
May 29 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 227-292)
- Week 9 Development Geographies**  
June 3 **MIDTERM EXAM**  
June 5 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 293-348)
- Week 10 Environmental Geographies**  
June 10 Lecture  
June 12 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 427-474)
- Week 11 Historical Geographies**  
June 17 Lecture  
June 19 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 475-526)
- Week 12 Population Geographies**  
June 24 Lecture  
June 26 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 583-622)
- Week 13 Social Geographies**  
July 1 Lecture  
July 3 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 623-686)
- Week 14 Social Geographies**  
July 8 Lecture  
July 10 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 2 (pages 687-738)
- Week 15 Urban & Rural Geographies**  
July 15 Lecture  
July 17 Lecture  
Reading *Introducing Human Geographies* Part 3 (pages 879-918)
- Week 16**  
July 22 **FINAL EXAM (Room D204 15:30-16:45)**