

**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND URBAN STUDIES**

WINTER 2014/2015

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: Cultural Geography – GEO 3200-80
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DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Cultural geography is a subfield within human geography that deals with the study of cultural products and norms and their variations across and relations to spaces, places, and regions. It looks at the characteristics of people in a location with respect to their language, religion, ethnicity, architecture, foods, clothing, and how these affect the environment. The course will discuss the nature and spatial distribution of major cultural features including population, migration, language, religion, ethnicity and political systems utilizing examples from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The problems resulting from the depletion, destruction, and inefficient use of resources such as energy, water, air, mineral, forests, and soils in developing countries will also be addressed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will:

1. Discuss global issues, processes, and trends including the growth and distribution of the world's population, global migration patterns, world religions, and the distribution of cultural groups.
2. Analyze diverse cultures in terms of their cultural traits, environments, and economy through cross-cultural perspectives.
3. Analyze the distribution of different cultural traits and beliefs as well as the problems that result from those spatial patterns.
4. Examine similarities and differences in the cultural features at different places, the reasons for their distribution, and the importance of these differences.
5. Discuss cultural problems that result from the depletion, destruction, and inefficient use of the world's natural resources.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand global issues, processes, trends, and systems in Cultural geography including arts, beliefs, cultures, customs, politics, religions, and environmental change.
2. Analyze diverse cultures, regions, and environments with respect to cultural features including diversity of religions, languages, ethnicity, and political systems through cross-cultural perspectives.
3. Employ diverse frames of reference, including different theoretical, methodological, conceptual, ideological frameworks, approaches, and themes to expand critical thinking about issues relevant to cultural geography.
4. Identify similarities and difference in cultural traits, values, and traditions at various local, regional, and global scales.
5. Use knowledge of processes, trends, issues, and problems associated with cultural features across different regions to extend access to information, experience, and understanding.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to keep up with the reading assignments. Assessments will include three online Exams and Theme discussion questions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture by H.J. de Blij 10th Edition.

COURSE EVALUATION

Three online exams- FORMAT WILL BE MULTIPLE CHOICE—REVIEW SHEETS ARE ON BLACKBOARD UNDER DOCUMENTS (80%) of grade

Theme discussion questions on blackboard under assignments (20%) of grade

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the role played by people in shaping places.
 - Agriculture
 - Industry
 - Urbanization
2. To provide the geographic context in which major issues occur so that we can have a better understanding of the world.
 - Development
 - Population
3. To analyze the complexities of globalization and how it is affecting various cultures.
 - Migration
 - Population
4. To think geographically and critically about the world in terms of what we see, hear or read.

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Three online Exams will be given. Exam dates will be announced through email and Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Reading Assignment – week of 12/22/2014 – 12/29/2014

1. Introduction to Human Geography - Page 1-34
2. Population - Page 36-77
3. Migration - Page 78-111
4. **Theme discussion 1 due on 12/26/2014 before 11:59PM**

Online Exam 1 – on Blackboard under Exams

Exam 1 will be available from **12/29/2014 8AM to 11:59PM**

Week 2: Reading Assignment – week of 12/30/2014 – 1/5/2015

1. Geography of Identity - Page 144-175
2. Religion - Page 203-247
3. Urban Geography - Page 288-333
4. Development - Page 335-363
5. **Theme discussion 2 and 3 due on 1/2/2015 before 11:59PM**

Online Exam 2 – on Blackboard under Exams

Exam 2 will be available from **1/5/2015 8AM to 11:59PM**

Week 3: Reading Assignment – week of 1/6/2015 – 1/11/2015

1. Agriculture - Page 365-402
2. Industry - Page 403-433
3. Human Environment - Page 434-463

Online Exam 3 – on Blackboard under Exams

Exam 3 will be available from **1/10/2015 8AM to 1/11/15 11:59PM**