

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND URBAN STUDIES

COURSE SYLLABUS

Winter 2016

COURSE TITLE: Cultural Geography – GEO 3200-80 - ONLINE WINTER 2016
(12/26/15-1/14/16)

PROFESSOR: Monica Nyamwange

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OFFICE HOURS: Best way to reach me is by email.

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, 11th Edition.
 ISBN: 978-1-118-79314-5

COURSE EVALUATION

Three on-line Exams (multiple choice)

EXAM 1	20%
EXAM 2	20%
EXAM 3	30%
Discussion Questions	30%

Grading System: 94 – 100 = A, 90 – 93 = A-, 87 – 89 = B+, 84 – 86 = B,
 80 – 83 = B-, 77 – 79 = C+, 74 – 76 = C, 70 – 73 = C-, 67 – 69 = D+, 64 – 66 = D,
 60 – 63 = D-, 59 and below = F

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.

ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Reading Assignment – 12/26/15 – 1/3/16

1. Introduction to Human Geography - Chapter 1
2. Population - Chapter 2
3. Migration - Chapter 3
4. **Discussion Questions Part 1 due on 12/28/15 before 11:59PM**

Online Exam 1 – on Blackboard under Exams

Exam will be available from **12/30/15 8:00AM to 1/31/16 8:00AM**

Week 2: Reading Assignment – 1/4/16 – 1/9/16

1. Local culture, popular culture, cultural landscapes - Chapter 4
2. Identifying: Race, ethnicity - Chapter 5
3. Language - Chapter 6
4. Religion - Chapter 7
5. **Discussion Questions Part 2 due on 1/6/16 before 11:59PM**

Online Exam 2 – on Blackboard under Exams

Exam will be available from **1/8/16 8:00AM to 1/9/16 8:00AM**

Week 3: Reading Assignment – 1/10/16 – 1/14/16

1. Urban Geography - Chapter 9
2. Development - Chapter 10
3. Agriculture - Chapter 11
4. Industry - Chapter 12
5. Human Environment - Chapter 13
6. **Discussion Questions Part 3 due on 1/12/16 before 11:59PM**

Online Exam 3 – on Blackboard under Exams

Exam will be available from **1/13/16 4:00PM to 1/14/16 11:59PM**