



**Learning Enabler:** Ismaila Odogba, Ph.D.   **Office:** Science D337   **Phone:** (715) 346-4451  
**Office Hours:** Mon. & Wed., 11:00-12:30 and by appointment   **Email:** [iodogba@uwsp.edu](mailto:iodogba@uwsp.edu)  
**Class Schedule:** Tuesday and Thursday   **Time:** 11:00-12:15   **Venue:** SCI B328

### **Course Description:**

This course examines the components and spatial aspects of contemporary culture including the patterns and problems of population, migration, language, religion, settlements, and political and economic development. It introduces students to several traditional subfields of human geography as well as fundamental geographic concepts. This course focuses on concepts, *not* facts about places, which are traditionally associated with *regional geography*.

### **U.S. National Geography Standards emphasized in the course:**

- The physical and human characteristics of places.
- The changes that occur in meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources
- The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlements
- The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

### **Enduring Understandings of the Course:**

- A spatial perspective of the social world is of crucial importance in the generation of a broad and informed understanding of the world
- The world is an interdependent system of settlements within which people live their lives as part of a continual process of struggle and transformation.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, successful students will possess the knowledge necessary:

1. To describe the major concepts in human geography (including place, space, scale, and landscape)
2. To recognize and assess the diversity of cultural backgrounds and personal experiences that influence people and how they perceive places
3. To demonstrate a geography perspective in understanding and solving problems
4. To illustrate the interrelationships between people and places in the developed and less developed world

### **General Education Program (GEP) Alignment:**

This course fulfills the Cultural and Environmental Awareness, and Investigation requirement of the GEP. Geography tends to examine, from a spatial perspective the diversity and range of the physical and human systems across the planet. Consequently, it complements and aligns with the learning outcomes in the aforementioned categories.

### Investigation- Social Sciences

- *Explain or apply major concepts, methods, or theories used in the social sciences to investigate, analyze, or to predict human. (Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 3).*

- *Examine and explain how social, cultural, or political institutions influence individuals or groups. (Course Learning Outcome 4).*

Using the concept of place and scale, students will examine population growth as well as the socio-economic problems associated with this growth in various societies. From a spatial perspective, the investigation will range from the global world to the local community.

#### Cultural and Environmental Awareness - Global Awareness

- *Identify the components found within one or more cultures that are distinct from those found in predominantly English-speaking cultures. (Course Learning Outcome 2).*
- *Analyze key forces or processes that contribute to global interconnectedness and their implications. (Course Learning Outcome 4).*
- *Demonstrate curiosity and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives. (Course Learning Outcome 2).*

Students will identify and discuss diverse cultures, what constitutes culture, understand how cultures shape and influence settlements across time and space in the global village.

#### **Format:**

Designed for classroom delivery, the course shall involve lectures, map exercises, class discussions, assignments, movies, online quizzes, and exams.

#### **Course Policies:**

Readings. Complete the assigned readings prior to class. Be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class. Being up to date on current events enhances one's geographical knowledge. Students should follow current world events by consulting a variety of sources, in particular, the following internet sites: [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com) and [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com). You are responsible for all material presented in class and the assigned readings. ***If you miss a class, do not email me asking, "What did I miss?"***

Participation. Participation in discussions is very desirable. You are strongly encouraged to participate during class. Do share your ideas, thoughts, and ask questions. If this is difficult for you due to language, shyness, or a disability, ***please see me***. The purpose of the class discussion is to enhance understanding about geographic issues; ***so do respect the ideas, thoughts, and opinions of others***. Do note that each member of the class deserves to learn in an environment where they are all treated with the highest levels of dignity and respect. Abusive, offensive, discriminatory, or otherwise harassing behavior is not permitted.

Attendance. I will take attendance regularly. Arriving late and leaving early disrupts class and shall result in a reduction in your final grade. Each individual is permitted ***only one unexcused absence***. Thereafter, every unexcused absence will cost you ***2 points***. If you are unable to attend class, please inform me ahead of time (except in case of an emergency or illness). All electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, and similar devices are prohibited during class. These constitute distractions that reduce the ability to absorb class content. I will permit the use of laptops for taking notes but you must sit in the front row or at an end seat.



Exams, Quizzes, and Assignments You must submit all assignments and take quizzes at the scheduled time. The instructor will not accept late submissions without a verified excuse; **late submissions will receive zero credit**. Likewise, make-up quizzes will require a verifiable excuse.

Exams: Exam I, II, and III (Collaborative Testing)  
Quizzes: 1-5 (Collaborative Testing).  
Assignments I and II: The core performance tasks of the course.

### Grading

This course is worth “300” points.

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|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Attendance                     | 20 pts.  |
| 2. Quizzes (5; 10 pts. each)      | 50 pts.  |
| 3. Assignments (2 @ 25 pts. each) | 50 pts.  |
| 4. Participation                  | 30 pts.  |
| 5. Exams (3; 50 pts. each)        | 150 pts. |

### Percentage ranges for letter grades

93-100% = **A**; 90-92% = **A-**; 87-89% = **B+**; 83-86% = **B**; 80-82% = **B-**; 77-79% = **C+**;  
73-76% = **C**; 70-72% = **C-**; 67-69% = **D+**; 60-66% = **D**; Below 60% = **F**

University policy does not recognize grades for A+ or D-. An incomplete is not an option in this course. I will only honor a request for an incomplete under the most extraordinary, and documented circumstance (such as an illness documented with a doctor’s written excuse) which hinders the completion of course requirements.

Requirements for an Excellent Grade: 1) attend class regularly, 2) participate in discussions and class activities, 3) peruse the readings for each chapter, 4) complete and submit all assigned work on time and, 5) prepare adequately for quizzes. Do feel free to email me or drop by my office if you have any difficulties regarding this course; emails should contain **your name, class, and section number**.

### Informed Contribution

Students will get credit for contributing to the class when they participate in class dialogues. A quality contribution to class discussions has any or all of these attributes:

1. It contributes new information to the dialogue. For instance, if a student agrees with a colleague’s statement, the student must present reasons that were not cited by the initial speaker.
2. It raises a question that generates reflection on the subject.

Special Accommodations I will only honor recommended accommodations from Disability and Assistive Technology Center at 715-346-3365. Please, do visit this office (room 609 in the Learning Resource Center) if you have any condition such as physical or learning disability that make it difficult to carry out the work as outlined or will require academic accommodations. In addition, I will accommodate religious belief according to UWSP 22.03.

Academic Dishonesty UWSP prohibits academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to understand the issues concerning academic standards, disciplinary procedures, and students' rights and responsibilities at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Concerns%20for%20Students.aspx>

Student Policies

**Materials:**

Rubenstein, James. 2013. *Contemporary Human Geography*, (2<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York: Pearson.

Other materials for the course (syllabus, world outline maps, assignments, etc.) will be made available on D2L.

**Tentative Schedule:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and schedule when necessary to meet the learning needs of the students, compensate for canceled classes or other unforeseen circumstances.

Jan. 23: Course Overview

*Introductions, course policies, expectations, student policies or ground rules, and office visit*

Jan. 25, 30: Thinking Geographically (Chapter 1)

Feb. 1, 6: Population Geography (Chapter 2) – **Quiz 1**

Feb. 8, 13: Migration (Chapter 3) – **Quiz 2**

Feb. 15: Folk and Popular Culture (Chapter 4) – **Assignment 1**

Feb. 20, 22: First Exam (Collaborative Testing) and Debrief

Feb. 27 and Mar. 1, 6: Cultural Geography (Chapters 6 & 7) – **Quiz 3**

Movie: *On Our Watch*

Mar. 8, 13: Political Geography (Chapter 8) – **Assignment 2**

Movie: *Revolution in Cairo*

Mar. 15, 20, 22: Economic Geography/Development (Chapter 9) – **Quiz 4**

Movie: *Life and Debt*

**March 23 - April 1: Spring Break.**

Apr. 3, 10: Midterm Exam (Collaborative Testing) and Debrief

**April 5: Enabler at Conference, No Class.**

Apr. 12: Food and Agriculture (Chapter 10)

Apr. 17, 19: Location Matters: Industry (Chapter 11)

Apr. 24, 26: Urban Geography/Urban Patterns (Chapters 12 & 13) – **Quiz 5**  
Movie: *City of God*

May 1, 3: Urban Geography/Urban Patterns (Chapters 12 & 13)

May 8, 10: Human Environment Interaction (Chapter 14)

**Final Exam: Open Class**

Monday, May 14 from 12:30-2:30

**Important Dates:**

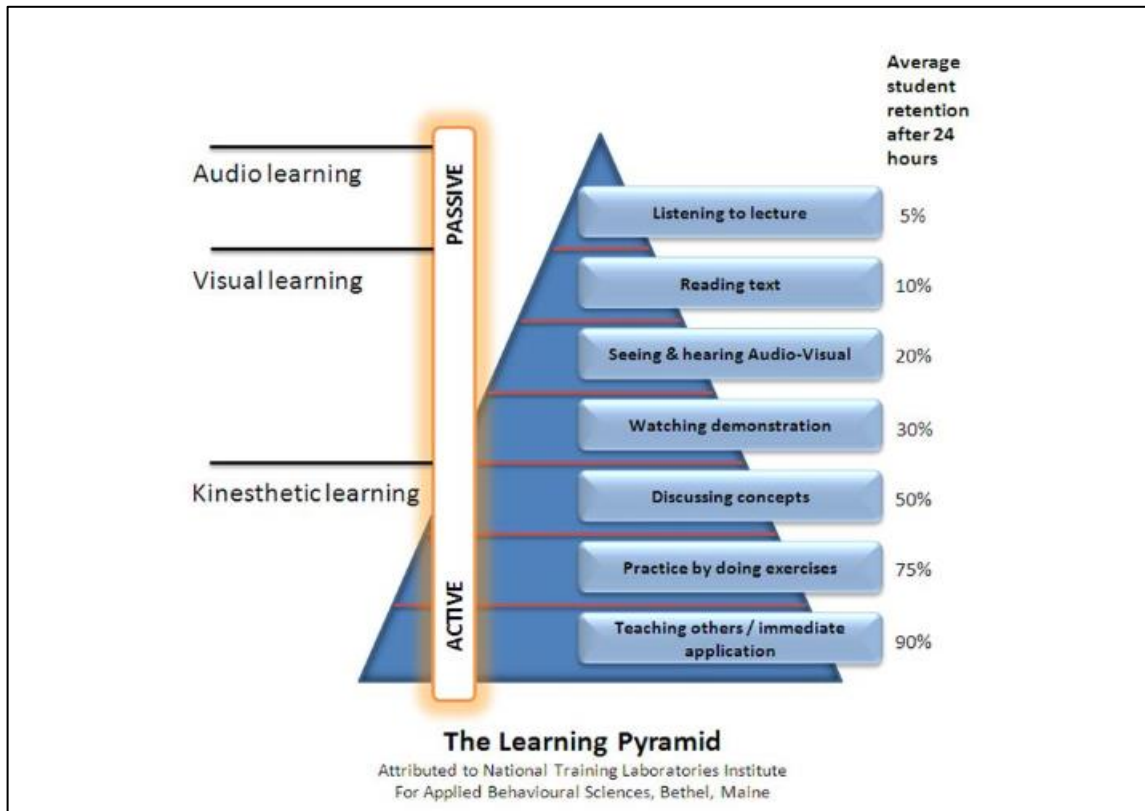
January 31: Last day to add or drop a 16-week course without a grade.

April 6: Last day to drop a 16-week course.

May 11: Last day of classes.

Students are strongly encouraged to check their UWSP email and the D2L news site regularly for information pertaining to the course.

A core set of beliefs about teaching and learning influence my teaching; one of which is that ***learning is an active student-centered activity and teaching is simply not the transmission of knowledge from the instructor to the students.*** The process of instruction involves both the learning enabler (i.e., the instructor) and students (learners) engaging in an interactive environment to discover, understand, and apply knowledge to practical issues.



Bligh (1998) gives some evidence for the effectiveness of different teaching methods. In 1954, a similar pyramid with slightly different numbers had appeared in a book, *Audio-Visual Methods in Teaching*, published by the Edgar Dale Dryden Press, New York.

Demonstrate a geographic perspective when analyzing a phenomena, event or geographic issue.