

GEO 101: Introduction to Cultural Geography

Spring 2018

FACULTY INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Jim McCluskey
Office Phone: 715.261.6362
Home Phone: 715.453.9443
email: jim.mccluskey@uwc.edu

Office: Room 282-B
Office Hours: 12:30 to 2:00 on Tuesdays (other times by appointment)

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

GEO/GLG 101: Introduction to Cultural Geography (3 credits; SS)
A survey of world patterns of culture, such as population, language, religion, urban and rural settlement, and their causal relationships, emphasizing the global diversity of world cultures, contrasting worldviews and the issues thus raised. This course fulfills the UWC requirement for Social Sciences (SS).

GEO/GLG 101 as a Blended Course

There are several benefits from teaching GEO 101 as a blended course. In blended courses a portion of the learning activity is moved online and time traditionally spent in the classroom is reduced accordingly. Students enrolled in Introduction to Maps and Air Photos course when taught as a hybrid course will realize numerous benefits that would not be available singularly in either a lecture or online format because a hybrid course combines online learning activities with face-to-face instruction. These benefits include:

- Flexibility in scheduling several learning activities through the use of the digital resources of the World Wide Web thus releasing the student from the temporal and physical constraints of traditional classroom-only teaching
- Direct contact with the instructor at key milestones in the course to facilitate the learning process during scheduled class meetings
- Interaction on a one-on-one basis in both the classroom environment and online discussions

COURSE OUTLINE

- Week 1: *Overview of Geography*
- Week 2: Chapter 1 - *This is Geography*
- Week 3: Chapter 2 - *Population and Health*
- Week 4: Chapter 3 - *Migration*

- Week 5 - Chapter 4 - *Folk and Popular Culture*
- Week 6: Chapter 5 - *Language*
- Week 7: Chapter 6 - *Religion*
- Week 8 – **Midterm Exam**
- Week 9: Chapter 7 - *Ethnicities*
- Week 10: Chapter 8 - *Political Geography*
- Week 11: Chapter 9: *Food and Agriculture*
- Week 12: Chapter 10 – *Development*
- Week 13: Chapter 11 - *Industry and Energy*
- Week 14: Chapter 12 - *Services and Settlements*
- Final Exam: Friday, May 18, from 10:30 to 12:30

COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are for you to gain an appreciation for:

- The global community and an ever shrinking world
- The similarities and differences among different cultures
- The causes of global and regional conflict based on cultural differences
- The causes of global and regional cooperation based on cultural similarities
- The practical application of concepts related to cultural geography at the regional and local level

COURSE PROFICIENCIES

As a result of the successful completion of this course, you will improve your ability to:

- Analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and interpret information and ideas.
- Interpret graphs, tables, and diagrams.
- Select and apply scientific and other appropriate methodologies.
- Recognize and use a variety of written communication forms and styles.
- Read and listen with comprehension and critical perception.
- Demonstrate a large and varied vocabulary

ASSIGNED READINGS

You will have assigned readings from the textbook on a weekly basis. The required textbook for the course is:

James M. Rubenstein, ***The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography***, 12th edition. (Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, N.J., 2017).

You will also have online readings associated with select topics

GEO 101 COURSE SITE

You will be using the *GEO 101 Course Site* extensively for this course on the UW-Colleges Desire2Learn online courseware platform. Outlines for all of your classes will be posted to it. Additionally, any important announcements or alternative class assignments in the event of my absence from class will be posted to it. To get access to the course site go to

<https://d2l.uwc.edu/>

and use your UW-Colleges user name and password to log into the site. Your user name and password are the same as you would use for your campus email account.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Class attendance and participation is expected and roll will be taken at every class meeting. Class attendance is taken in order to maintain information required by the University. Class attendance is not calculated directly into your final grade. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire notes from your classmates.

ALTERNATE CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

In the event that I am not able to teach class due to illness or weather, an announcement will be placed on the website and posted on the classroom door. Alternative class assignments will be posted to the class website. This work will take the place of our scheduled class. These assignments will be self-explanatory. (We will review the assignment following the class that I am absent.) Each assignment will have a value of 25 points and will be considered in your final class average in the calculation of final grades.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Learning is a serious business and should be approached as a job. Just as if you were working on a job certain behavior is appropriate and expected. If for some reason you must arrive for class late or leave class early, please do so quietly. Please keep your conversation to a minimum during class time. Excessive talking during class is distracting to your fellow students and to the instructor. If I feel that any student is being disruptive in the classroom, I will take appropriate actions based on the guidelines of UW - Marathon County.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student who has a disability and feels that alternative accommodations need to be made to facilitate their classroom experience should contact Student Services as soon as possible.

CELLULAR PHONES

Please turn off your cellular phones while you are in the classroom. When they ring, it can disrupt the class.

TAPE RECORDERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Several students are now taping classroom lectures in order to help them recall class material and to study. If you wish to tape lectures this is a permissible. I only request that you make me aware that you are taping lectures.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cases of cheating and plagiarism on any assignment or exam will be handled on a case by case basis in accordance with the policies of the UW Colleges.

ACCOMODATION OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

|
A student who has a conflict between an academic requirement and a religious observance must be given an alternative means of meeting the academic requirement, providing the student notifies his or her instructor within the first three weeks of classes during the regular semester (or the first week of classes during the summer semester). At that time, the student must specify the specific days or dates on which they have conflicts between scheduled academic requirements (such as exams) and religious observances.

OTHER POLICIES

We shall adhere to all policies and schedules operative at UW - Marathon County and as published in the *College Bulletin* and in the *Student Handbook and Policies* at <http://www.uwc.edu/students/handbook-policies>. The handbook covers several a wide range of situations with which you need be aware.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE

As a student enrolled in the course, programs that you are required to use include

- Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, or Google Chrome web browser,
- Microsoft Word, and
- Adobe Acrobat Reader.

OPEN DISCUSSION FORUMS

On our Discussion board, we have three open discussion threads where we can exchange general information. The first thread is *Raise Your Hand*. This is the place that you can ask me questions about the different topics that we are studying in the course. The second thread is the *Cyber Cafe*. This is an area where you can exchange information off the main topics of the course. You can consider this the chat area for the

course. Please feel free to exchange ideas in the *Cyber Cafe*. The third thread is the *Current Events* forum where you can post any announcements about upcoming events that are relative to our course material.

ASSESSMENT

The UW-Colleges assessment program enhances the quality and effectiveness of curriculum, programs, and services to our students. Because they are of primary importance for student learning in Geography and Geology, the following proficiency will be assessed in this course: Quantitative Skills. More specifically, the Department is interested in your ability to read, analyze, and interpret graphs.

In order to assess your proficiency in this area, we will be using a supplemental math website called: "The Math You Need, When You Need It" (TMYN). You will complete a module on graphing skills followed by a short quiz located at the "Washington Mathematics Assessment and Placement" website. The results of this assessment will impact your grade only insofar as these skills are a normal part of the expectations in this course, and the questions being tracked do not impose a different, higher standard of knowledge or ability from questions normally asked in this course in any given semester. Your individual performance on these questions will be reported, using your name, to the UW Colleges Central Office, and the overall results of the class (*without your name*) will be reported to the Geography-Geology Department Assessment Committee at the end of the semester. The results will be used to help the university, academic departments, and professors improve teaching as well as assisting students in improving their learning in general and their quantitative skills specifically.

COURSE EVALUATION

Quizzes:

Quizzes associated from material from lecture and the textbook and will be taken on a weekly basis. Each quiz will consist of 15 multiple choice questions. Each question has a value of 1 point for a total of 15 points. The time allowed to complete the quiz is 120 minutes. You are only allowed to take the quiz three times and you will receive feedback on the questions that you have answered incorrectly. Your highest score will count as your grade.

There will be 12 quizzes during the semester for a total of 180 points towards your final grade. You will take the quizzes through D2L. Your quizzes must be completed by the due date and time.

Make-up Quizzes:

Make-up quizzes will be given only in the case of excused absences and must be taken before the next scheduled exam. Excused absences include such situations as participation in University sponsored events, illness, death in the family. However, there

are also several other situations that occur in daily life that also may be considered on a case by case basis.

Homework Assignments:

You will have thirteen homework assignments. Each homework assignment is related to a chapter in the textbook. The homework assignments have a value of 15 points. Your assignments must be submitted in a MS Word Document (*.doc or *.docx) or in a Rich Text Format (*.rtf) and uploaded to the appropriate folder in the Dropbox.

Video Reviews:

You will complete five video reviews during the semester. Each video review has a value of 20 points for a total of 100 points. You will be viewing the videos outside of class time **Your video reviews must be a minimum of 400 words in length to receive a passing grade.** Your video reviews must be submitted in a MS Word Document (*.doc or *.docx) or in a Rich Text Format (*.rtf) and uploaded to the appropriate folder in the Dropbox.

Exams:

You will have a midterm and a final exam. The exams consist of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions and have a value of 100 points.

Make-up Exams:

Make-up exams will be given only in the case of excused absences and must be taken before the next scheduled exam. Excused absences include such situations as participation in University sponsored events, illness, death in the family. However, there are also several other situations that occur in daily life that also may be considered on a case by case basis.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS TO THE DROPBOX

All of your written assignments are to be uploaded to the Dropbox. The assignments must be submitted in the appropriate folder. Your file should be named using this format: "Smith_AssignmentTypeX.docx". You should also include your name in the actual document. In naming your file, you should **not** use any spaces or any special characters (# \$ % & =); an underscore character is okay. All your assignments need to be submitted as a Microsoft Word file or in a Rich Text format (rtf).

CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADES AND POSTING OF GRADES

Your final grade will be calculated by the percentage of total points that you earn during the semester out of the total 715 points that are available. If alternative class assignments are given, they will be incorporated into your final average. All of your

grades will be posted in the D2L Grade Book. The breakdown of the value of each component of your grade is given below.

Quizzes.....180 Points
Homework Assignments180 Points
Video Reviews.....100 Points
Midterm Exam.....100 Points
Final Exam.....100 Points

Points Available...660 Points

Final grades will be determined by the point distribution given below.

- A >93
- A- 90-92
- B+ 88-89
- B 84-87
- B- 80-83
- C+ 78-79
- C 74-77
- C- 70-73
- D+ 68-69
- D 64-67
- D- 60-63
- F < 60