



Learning Enabler: Ismaila Odogba, Ph.D. **Office:** Science B303 **Email:** iodogba@uwsp.edu
Office hours: Wed: 10:30-12:30 via Zoom. However, I am readily available via email or email to set up a Zoom appointment.

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 end 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):

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 these categories.

FORMAT:

This is a **100% distance-learning (completely online) course and time will go by quickly, so try not to get behind.** Distance learning uses technology to facilitate learning without the limitations of time or place. We shall not meet in the traditional face-to-face environment. Whilst an online environment is not suited for everyone, everyone is able to adapt.



Visit <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/overview/> for a brief overview. Also, peruse the documents under the **Relevant Information module** on the **Course Home Page**. Be aware that this is an **Asynchronous online course**. This means that students are provided with content and assignments and are given a time frame to complete course activities. Asynchronous online learning environments are effective for students with time constraints or busy schedules. It is my belief that an asynchronous format is best considering that we have some students in different time zones and some of your other courses might have adopted a synchronous format.

TECH SKILLS:

Students should be competent in the use of computers, the World Wide Web, and commonly used software programs such as Microsoft Office Suite applications. In this course, we will be using the university's management system, **CANVAS**. Students without experience using Canvas can contact the Student Help Desk at (715) 346.HELP (4357) or 1.877.832.8977 to arrange instruction. The **Syllabus Page** has a listing of course activities that need to be completed with the respective due dates whilst the **Course Home Page** has a weekly framework of tasks and other related course materials.

ESSENCE OF COMPLETING TASKS IN SEQUENCE:

To enhance learning, **try to complete course tasks in their appropriate sequence** and by the suggested due date (the course calendar provides dates). Note that you must complete all assignments and take quizzes within the scheduled timeframe. I will not accept late submissions without a verified excuse; late postings, quizzes, and essays will receive zero credit. The failure of hardware/software is not a valid excuse for missing due dates.

Communication: Refer to the **Course Communication Policy** under the Course Information module on the Course Home Page. I strongly advise that you check your email regularly. Part of being professional is learning to communicate professionally with your professors and colleagues. The following are some etiquettes for sending good Email messages. I will not respond to unprofessional Emails.

1. Begin with a salutation (for example, "Hello, Professor SpongeBob")
2. Always include a subject heading so that your email does not get put into the spam folder and deleted.
3. Be concise and brief. Lengthy discussions should be held in person.
4. Pay attention to grammar and spelling. Emails are professional communication and should not read like text messages.
5. Be professional and polite. Ask for help rather than make demands or lodge complaints. Negatively tinged emails usually go over poorly with the recipient.



GRADING:

This course is worth 195 points. Your grade will be based on performance on three exams, ten activities, and a film connection assignment. The point values assigned to each are as follows:

	Points Each	Points Possible
Exams (2)	35 points	70
Chapter Activities (11)	10 points	100
Film Connections Assignment	25 points	25

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 A+ or D- grades. An incomplete is not an option in this course. I will only honor a request for an incomplete course 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. Students must arrange for an incomplete before the final day of the course. **Extra Credit ...** there is none. Please do not ask.

LECTURES (READINGS):

- In lieu of formal lectures, students will complete assigned readings, i.e., the corresponding chapters for activities from the textbook and from various online sources.
- Topical Lecture Outlines/PowerPoints Slides are provided to guide students in learning the most salient points from their readings.
- **Expect to spend at least three hours each day reading the text chapter and reviewing lecture material.**

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:

There are 11 activities corresponding to chapters, each with a value of 10 points. All your written chapter activities must be submitted as a Microsoft document MS.docx. When you upload your activity submissions, it is extremely important that you include your name in your document. When I download your work, I simply need to know who you are. It is also extremely helpful that when you name your file that you include your name in the title of the file. For example, you might give your first homework assignment the title, "smith_homework1.doc". Assignments must be submitted in an MS Word Document.

- You will upload each activity to Canvas. All papers submitted to Canvas should have your "Last Name" and the activity "Title" as part of the **file name** (i.e., smith_final_paper.doc - not smith.doc or paper.doc).
- Each activity is worth 10 points and has a grading rubric. I will make comments, as necessary.
- Your lowest activity grade will be dropped. If you forget to do an activity, this will count as your dropped assignment.
- The activities account for approximately 51% of your grade.

FILM CONNECTIONS ASSIGNMENT:

- You are expected to watch a film for the course.
- The film is available on the Canvas Home page under “eReserve Films”
- This writing piece should use geographic terms and concepts. You should connect topics described and presented in the book/ PowerPoints with ideas presented in the film. You should describe what, where, and why: what is the issue or concern, where is this happening, and why is it happening at that location? Think Geographically!
- The film connection assignment accounts for approximately 13% of your grade.

EXAMS:

These two open-book online exams comprise of 35 multiple-choice questions relating to previously assigned readings from the textbook. You will have two attempts for each exam and the highest scores will be taken. **For those that like working ahead, the exams are available from the first day of class.**

- There will be two (2) open-book, online exams. Exams are multiple-choice format and cover material from the assigned readings, activities, and slides.
- Exams are not cumulative and can be accessed via the Course Homepage.
- Exams account for approximately 36% of your grade.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

UWSP prohibits academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to understand the issues concerning academic standards, disciplinary procedures, and students’ rights and responsibilities at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu. In addition, I will accommodate religious belief according to UWSP 22.03.

FAQs:

Is the course self-paced?

Answer: Up to a point. The pace is flexible within an individual unit, but each unit must be completed within the unit’s weekly time frame. Each unit is divided using chapters. You have the flexibility to do some of the activities prior to the due date, i.e., the end of the week.

Do exams have to be proctored?

Answer: No, your quizzes do not have to be proctored.

How do I find out if there are any new class announcements that I need to know about?



Answer: You should always check the Course Home page you see when you first log in to the course

COURSE MATERIALS:

Rubenstein, James. 2019. *Contemporary Human Geography*, (Fourth Edition). New York: Pearson. The Text is available at the [University Store/Text Rental](https://www.pearson.com/store/p/contemporary-human-geography/P100000840073) and can also be obtained as an e-book at <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/contemporary-human-geography/P100000840073> for approximately \$9.99 per month. Other materials for the course (syllabus, PowerPoint slides, videos assignments, etc.) are available on Canvas.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus and schedule when necessary to meet learning needs or due to unforeseeable reasons.

Suggested Due Dates for Chapter Activities

	Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Saturday
Unit 1: Jan 3-7	1	2 No Class	3 Thinking Geographically	4 Population Pyramid	5 Europe's Most Fortified Border	6 Folk & Popular Culture	7 Ethnic Diversity
Unit 2: Jan 9 - 13	8	9 <u>Exam One.</u> <u>Due Jan 9, latest 11:50 pm.</u>	10 Non-State Spaces	11 Agriculture	12 Development Indicators	13 <u>Film Connection.</u> <u>Due Jan 16, latest 11:50pm.</u>	14
Unit 3: Jan 17 - 20	15	16 No Class	17 Industry	18 Urban Patterns and Services	19 Resource & Pollution: Mother Earth	20 <u>Exam Two.</u> <u>Due Jan 20, latest 11:50pm.</u>	21

NOTE: Though the pace is flexible within each unit, the chapter activities must be completed within each unit's weekly time frame. For instance, all chapter activities for Unit 1 must be completed latest by the end of that week, i.e., January 7 at 11: 50 pm.

Students are strongly encouraged to check their UWSP email and the **Announcement Page** regularly for information pertaining to the course.