**Course Description:**
This course introduces you to the discipline of human geography. It covers basic themes and concepts in geography, and it teaches you to look at the world from a geographical perspective. We will examine a wide range of topics in the areas of culture, politics and the economy.

This class will be broadly organized around the theme of **globalization**. Over the past 500 years or so, the world has been moving toward becoming one integrated global system rather than many different independent systems. This change has profound impacts on our lives and the world around us. It is against this background that we will examine the core principles of human geography. Most broadly defined, we can think of globalization as a set of processes that have increased connections, influence, and interdependencies across geographic space. We can see elements of globalization in nearly every aspect of our daily lives, from our facebook feeds, the foods consume, and the goods we purchase in our daily lives. Yet, in spite of the highly connected nature of our globalized interactions, the **world in fact remains remarkably divided** in many ways. At the same time that a growing number of people are part of an emerging global consumer culture, a vast and increasing portion of the world lives in deep poverty. While a portion of the globe lives in relative comfort, many others live lives characterized by violence and distress. Extremes of wealth and poverty across the globe underlie conditions of health and illness, educational opportunity and illiteracy, land ownership and forced migrations, employment protections and unregulated ‘flexible’ work. Clearly, one of the most pressing challenges facing us in the contemporary moment is the world’s ability to address the inequalities that characterize globalization.

Our focus for this semester will be to think critically about the complex and dynamic relationships between peoples and the world in which they live, particularly as these relationships are shaped and reworked by the processes we associate with globalization. Major topics will include: the spatial organization of human activities; ways in which social processes and structures can be understood through a geographic lens; and geographic perspectives on human environment interactions and economic relationships.

**Learning Objectives:** In this class, we will strive to develop critical thinking skills and an appreciation for human geography in order to:
* Become familiar with the basic concepts and issues within the field of human
geography in order to understand how a geographical approach can provide a useful
lens through which to analyze global issues and problems
* Develop an appreciation for the complexity of geographic processes and
relationships
* Consider how the dynamic of globalization has generated new and often
contradictory relationships between people and places
* Become aware of your position in the world and how that shapes your understanding
of it

**Format:** This is a **fully online course.** We will never meet face to face. Is online learning
for everyone?  No! Many students operate with the misconception that an online course will
be less work or will be less rigorous. This is not the case.  An online course has the same
level or rigor as a face-to-face course and can, in fact, be more challenging in some aspects.
Online courses are student-centered and require a great deal of self-discipline, organization
and scheduling. Rather than showing up for weekly lectures, you must remember to go
online and download and complete the readings and lecture, to communicate and actively
participate in online discussions on a timely basis, to effectively complete required
assignments and submit them online, and to email the professor or other students if you are
lost or confused.

I highly encourage students to schedule regular times to go online multiple times a week as if
you were attending a face-to-face course.  For example, you may schedule yourself to go
online Mondays, Wednesdays, and Sundays from 9 am to 10:30 am to review agendas,
download readings, read lectures, post discussion comments, and interact with your
classmates in discussion.  Further, you need to schedule time off-line to complete readings,
develop your discussion responses, complete field assignments, and study for exams.  You
will not succeed in the class if you only visit the course D2L page once a week.

**Required Textbook and Technology:**

  in a Global Context, 6th Edition.**
  - NOTE: Available at UWM Bookstore or on-line used. Please be aware of the
    multiple editions of this book in circulation. All course content will be
    oriented around the 6th edition.
  - The readings for this class are critical to the course. My lectures will assume
    a familiarity with the readings and will not review what you’ve been assigned
to read. Rather, the lectures will supplement the assigned readings. Thus,
material that is covered in the readings but not necessarily in the lecture will
appear on exams. For this reason, I strongly encourage you to ask questions
about concepts in the readings that are unclear in your weekly discussion
posts.
* **Required Technology:** You will need routine access to a computer that has a
  high-speed internet connection. If you do not have access to a broadband
  connection at home, you will need regular access to a computer at a library or college
campus with a high-speed connection. You need to regularly check your email. If
you do not use your UWM email address, it is your responsibility to forward your UWM email to an alternative account. You can find information on forwarding your email at https://www-ssl.uwm.edu/uits/ePanther/email/. You will also need to become familiar with using D2L, available at http://d2l.uwm.edu.

- **Need help?** If you encounter problems with access to D2L, please contact help@uwm.edu or call (414) 229-4040. The Help Desk can assist you with technical issues with the class. Please do not email me with technical questions about D2L.

- Not having access to technology or the appropriate technology to complete the course requirements is **not a valid excuse.** You must be willing to obtain access to required hardware, software, and internet. You must be willing to check your email daily and check the D2L course site at least 3 times a week. If you are not willing or able to do these things, you should consider dropping this class, enrolling in an alternative course, or taking this course when it is offered face-to-face.

**ASSIGNMENTS & COURSE EVALUATION:** Your participation in online class discussions will be an important part of your assessment. Detailed guidelines for all of your assignments will be posted on the website. Please read these guidelines very carefully. They will clearly explain my expectations and grading policies.

**NOTE:** The deadlines for your discussion posts and assignments will be strictly enforced. **Assignments that are posted or turned in after the deadlines will not be accepted.** To avoid any last minute problems, such as a malfunctioning computer, start your work early enough so that dilemmas don’t prevent you from turning in your work in a timely manner. Again, **late work is not accepted without documentation.**

**Assessment Overview**
Out of a total of 250 points, your grade will be determined based on the following assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>5 points</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussion Posts</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Response posts</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film reviews (2 * 20 points)</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes (4 * 30 points)</td>
<td>120 points</td>
<td>48%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I use the following scale to determine your grades:

- A= 90-100%
- A- = 87 - 89.99%
- B+ = 83 - 86.99%
- B = 80 - 82.99%
- B- = 77 - 79.99%
- C+ = 73 - 76.99%
- C = 70 - 72.99%
- C- = 67 - 69.99%
- D+ = 63 - 66.99%
- D = 60 - 62.99%
- D- = 57 - 59.99%
- F = 0 - 56.99%
Description of Assignments: (Remember to consult assignment guidelines for detailed information about requirements, expectations, and grading!)

1. **Introduction [5 pts]**
   Each of us will post an introduction to the website on the first day of class. Since we will be considering the geography of cities for the course of the semester, I will ask you to reflect upon some specific questions about your experience in urban environments in your post. See more details about the introduction on the D2L site under the Introductions discussion forum.

2. **Scavenger Hunt [5 pts]**
   Both the syllabus and D2L site contain valuable information that can easily be missed. This assignment will consist of some short questions designed to make sure that you are familiar with key course policies, assignments, and are able to locate important materials on the D2L site.

3. **Weekly Discussion Posts [4 posts * 10 points = 40 points]**
   Each week, I will pose questions (by 5 pm Tuesday) based on the week’s topic, lecture, and readings. After completing the readings and the lecture, you will post an initial discussion post based both upon the question(s) that I pose as well as your general reactions/reflections to the readings and any questions that you’d like to discuss in further detail. Make sure that consult the Weekly Discussion Guidelines & Rubric to make sure that you include all the details necessary to receive a good grade. Each post is worth 10 points. **Due on Wednesday each week by 11:59 pm.**

4. **Weekly Response Posts [4 posts * 10 points = 10 points]**
   You are not only expected to contribute your thoughts via an initial discussion post, you are also expected to read and closely follow the discussion thread, consider the issues raised by your fellow classmates, and post a response that replies to the questions or themes raised by other in a constructive and substantive manner. In other words, a response post that says: “I agree/disagree with Student x” will not be sufficient. Once again, it is critical that you read the Weekly Response Guidelines & Rubric to ensure that you receive maximum points. Each response post is worth 5 points. **Due on Friday each week by 11:59 pm.**

5. **Film Review [2 * 20 points = 40 points]**
   The film reviews are designed to encourage you to critically watch a film and connect it to major themes from lectures, readings, and class discussions. In this assignment, you will be asked to view a film and write a short reaction that responds to the film and analyzes it using course material.

6. **Weekly Quizzes [4 * 30 points = 120 points]**
   You will be required to complete weekly on-line quizzes based upon the material covered during the week. The quizzes will focus on the assigned reading material and lecture material lecture material covered in the week preceding the quiz. The best preparation for these examinations will be to
complete all readings, lectures, and engage in class discussions. Quizzes are to be completed on D2L and are “open book”. Because of the timed nature, however, you’ll need to be very familiar with the material as there will not be sufficient time to look up every answer in the book or lectures. Make sure you have a secure connection when you begin your quizzes! I will make quizzes available each FRDIAY by noon. You can complete the quizzes anytime between Friday at noon and Sunday at 11:59pm. **Quizzes must be completed each week by Sunday at 11:59pm.**

**COURSE POLICIES:**

- **Communication:** Because this is an on-line course, if you have a question or are uncertain about course material and course content, it is essential that you first closely review the course syllabus and course D2L site for the answer. While a familiarity with your course syllabus and D2L site is important for all classes, it is even more essential for an online course, when our primary form of communication will be in written form. All course procedures, policies, and expectations will be available on the course D2L site, so please be certain to read ALL DOCUMENTS closely. If you are still uncertain, then please contact a classmate or me. **If a question can be ascertained by reading the syllabus, I will respond accordingly. Please note:** I require at least 24 hours to respond to emails. If you email me over the weekend, do not expect a response until Monday morning.

- **Complete readings and participate in discussions.** On-line discussions are a key part of this class. Be active in your own learning. All lectures and discussions will presume a familiarity of the readings. **READ CRITICALLY.** Make sure that you not only understand the content of the assigned readings, but also consider the significance and validity of the argument and analysis presented.

- **Complete work thoughtfully and on time.** Except in the case of a verifiable medical or family emergency precluding timely submission, **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please contact me in the event of a life or health emergency. I will not be able to help you with your course requirements unless you inform me of your circumstances.

- **Actively and Respectfully Contribute.** We all have a responsibility to ensure that an open and welcoming atmosphere is maintained. If we all agreed on everything, our university classes would be rather boring. Instead, a multiplicity of opinions means that we can share and learn from each other. However, you must make informed arguments and respectfully engage with one another. Make sure that you are practicing proper “netiquette”.

- **Take advantage of office hours!** Please plan to meet with me either in person or via the phone/skype if you have questions. And plan to do so BEFORE the exam. If my office hours conflict with your schedule, then email to set up an appointment for an alternative time.
• **Special Accommodations:** To request academic accommodations due to a disability or special need, please contact the UWM Student Accessibility Center and inform me as soon as possible about special accommodations so that I can best meet your needs. Student Accessibility Center, Mitchell Hall Room 112, (414) 229-6287, [http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/](http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/)

• **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of your contract as a student and I will consider them as such. You are expected to know and follow the University’s guidelines: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html). You are guilty of cheating whenever you present as your own work something that you did not do. You are also guilty of cheating if you help someone else to cheat. Buying, copying, or quoting work without proper citation will result in serious consequences.

• **Student Rights and Responsibilities:** A summary of university policies related to your rights and responsibilities and the instructor’s rights and responsibilities can be found at [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf)

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**SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consult Weekly Checklist</td>
<td>Lecture and Discussion questions posted by 3 pm</td>
<td>Complete lecture &amp; readings</td>
<td>Complete lecture &amp; readings</td>
<td>Lecture posted by 3 pm</td>
<td>Discussion responses due by 11:59 pm</td>
<td>Complete Weekly Quiz by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete assigned readings</td>
<td>Discussion Posts due by 11:59 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete lecture &amp; readings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz will be available on D2L by noon.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion responses due by 11:59 pm</td>
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**Lecture Topics, Readings & Assignments**

The outline is subject to change (with advance warning) so please assume responsibility for keeping up with classroom announcements by checking your email regularly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Readings</th>
<th>Tasks/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 5/26 | Introduction to course & thinking geographically | • Introduction  
      |      | READING:         | • Start reading K & M chapter 1  
      |      | • Course Syllabus & introduction | • Finish reading Chapter  
      |      | • K & M: Chapter 1: Geography Matters | • Read lecture 1.1  
      |      | • Lecture 1.1 and Discussion Question 1 | |
|      | 5/27 | Geographies of Globalization: The restless globe | • Scavenger Hunt  
      |      | READINGS         | • Discussion post 1  
      |      | • K & M: Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context | • Begin reading Chapter 2  
|      | 5/28 | Geographies of Globalization: The restless globe | • Finish Chapter 2  
      |      | READINGS         | • Lecture 2.2  
      |      | • Lecture 1.2 | |
|      | 5/29 | No new readings | • Response Post 1 due  
      |      | • Catch up and prepare for and take Quiz 1 | • Quiz 1  
| 2    | 6/1  | Cultural Geographies & Globalization | • Begin reading Chapter 5  
      |      | READINGS:        | |
|      |      | • K & M: Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies | |
|      | 6/2  | Cultural Geographies & Globalization | • Finish reading Chapter 5  
      |      | READINGS:        | • Read lecture 2.1  
      |      | • Lecture 2.1 and Discussion Question 2 | |
|      | 6/3  | Reading the Cultural Landscape | • Discussion post 2 (Due by 11:59 pm)  
      |      | READINGS:        | • Begin reading Chapter 6  
      |      | • K & M: Chapter 6: Interpreting Places and Landscapes | |
|      | 6/4  | Reading the Cultural Landscape | • Finish Chapter 6  
      |      | READINGS:        | • Lecture 2.2  
<p>| | | |
|      | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>NEW READMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6/5  | 2.2     | - No new readings  
  
- Catch up and prepare for Quiz 2  
- Watch the film for Film Review 1 | 2.2 | - Response Post 2 due (by 11:59 pm)  
  
- Quiz 2 |
| 6/8  | 3       | **Economic Geographies: Development and Underdevelopment**  
- **READINGS:**  
  
- K & M Chapter 7: Geographies of Economic Development | 3 | **Film Review #1 Due 11:59 pm**  
  
- Begin reading Chapter 7 |
| 6/9  | 3       | **Economic Geographies: Development and Underdevelopment**  
- **READINGS:**  
  
- Lecture 3.1 and Discussion Question 3 | 3 | - Finish reading Chapter 7  
  
- Read lecture 3.1 |
| 6/10 | 4       | **International Food Regimes**  
- **READINGS:**  
  
- K & M Chapter 8: Food and Agriculture | 4 | **Discussion post 3 (Due by 11:59 pm)**  
  
- Begin reading Chapter 8 |
| 6/11 | 4       | **International Food Regimes**  
- **READINGS:**  
  
- Lecture 3.2 | 4 | - Finish Chapter 8  
  
- Lecture 3.2 |
| 6/12 | 5       | - No new readings; catch up and study for Quiz 3  
  
- Watch film for Film Review #2 | 5 | **Response Post 3 due (by 11:59 pm)**  
  
- Quiz 3 |
| 6/15 | 6       | **Urbanization**  
- **READINGS:**  
  
- K & M Chapter 10: Urbanization | 6 | - Begin reading Chapter 10 |
| 6/16 | 7       | **Urbanization**  
- **READINGS:**  
  
- Lecture 4.1 and Discussion Question 4 | 7 | - Finish reading Chapter 10  
  
- Read lecture 4.1 |
| 6/17 | 8       | **City Spaces and Urban Structure**  
- **READINGS:**  
  
- K & M Chapter 11: City Spaces: Urban Structure | 8 | **Discussion post 4 (Due by 11:59 pm)**  
  
- Begin reading Chapter 11 |
| 6/18       | City Spaces and Urban Structure
             | **READINGS:**  
             | • Lecture 4.2 | • Finish Chapter 11  
             |               | • Lecture 4.2  
             |               | • Film Review #2 Due 11:59 pm |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 6/19       | • No new readings; Catch up on the week’s readings and key ideas to study for Quiz 4 | • Response Post 4 due (by 11:59 pm)  
             |               | • Quiz 4      |

**** Have a great summer!! ****