

GEOG 105: Introduction to Human Geography *Spring 2009*

<i>Instructor:</i>	Dr. Anne Bonds Department of Geography University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
<i>Email:</i>	bondsa@uwm.edu
<i>Office:</i>	Bolton 462
<i>Office Hours:</i>	Monday & Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 and by appointment
<i>Course</i>	
<i>Meeting Times:</i>	Monday & Wednesday 9:30 – 10:45
<i>Location:</i>	EMS E180

INTRODUCTION:

Chances are, when you think of geography, you may think about memorizing the names and locations of rivers, states, capital cities, international borders, and other customary facts about places. Following this logic then, human geography, you might believe, is the study of “who” lives “where”. Human geography, however, is much more than the memorization of mundane particulars about places and the people who live in them. Human geography examines the spatial differentiation and organization of human activities and their interrelationships with the physical environment. Geographers investigate a wide range of issues, including urban, political, economic, environmental, and cultural dynamics and the ways in which these phenomena shape geographic processes and relationships. Thus, adopting a geographical approach entails much more than learning the name of a capital city and its location on a map. It also requires the investigation of a series of other questions, such as why the capital is located where it is; who made the decision to locate the capital there; what sorts of resources (political, economic, social) shaped this decision; who has access to it (and who doesn't); and what sorts of activities take place there.

This class will be broadly organized around the theme of **globalization**, which is a term that has come to represent many things to many different people. 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 the items we view on You Tube, to the foods consume at lunch, and the goods we may purchase at Target. Yet, in spite of the increased uniformity between places and 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 or 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. These general topics will often be explored through a detailed examination of case studies.

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
- * Be aware of your position in the world and how that shapes your understanding of it

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- * **Paul Knox and Sallie A. Marston. 2007. *Human Geography: Places and Regions in a Global Context*, 4th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ, Prentice-Hall.**
 - NOTE: Available at UWM Bookstore or on-line used. Purchase a different edition of the book AT YOUR OWN RISK. All assigned readings and page numbers will assume 4th Edition.
- * **SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS** will be available on D2L
 - NOTE: These readings are critical and expect to see questions relating to these readings on quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to regularly check your course syllabus for supplementary reading requirements.
 - I reserve the right to add or remove readings as the semester progresses.

EVALUATION:

Out of a total of 400 points, your grade will be determined as follows:

Exams

[260 total points; 65% of grade]

- * Exam 1 (80 points)
- * Exam 2 (80 points)
- * Final (100 points)

Quizzes

[100 points; 25% of grade]

- * Five on-line reading quizzes (to be taken on D2L)
- * Each quiz is worth 20 points

In-class Assignments/Participation

[40 points; 7.5% of grade]

- * At the end of class, I will regularly take down names and pick up lecture questions, writing activities, film responses, and other sorts of in-class activities to document attendance. You will not be able to make-up these points if you are absent from class.

- * Material in this class is difficult and cumulative. In addition, lectures will often cover material not discussed in readings. To be successful in this class, regular lecture attendance is crucial. Although this is large class, I strongly encourage your active participation and in-class discussion. Your learning here at UWM requires your active involvement.

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%		

COURSE POLICIES & SUGGESTIONS:

- * **Attend and participate in lectures.** Lectures are a key part of this class!! Tests will cover material from lectures that is not in your readings. Be active in your own learning and participate in lectures and discussions. While I realize that a large lecture format maybe an intimidating venue to contribute, I encourage you to do so. **DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU PLAN TO SLEEP, TEXT, OR SURF THE INTERNET.** It's distracting to me as a lecturer and to your fellow classmates. If you don't want to be here, don't come.
- * **Complete all assigned readings BEFORE class.** All lectures and discussion will presume a familiarity of the readings. You are expected to come to class prepared and able to participate in the lecture activities and discussion by sharing your thoughts, views, questions etc. **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. Additionally, I do not accept emailed assignments.** Please come and talk to 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.
- * **Take advantage of office hours!** And do so BEFORE the quiz or exam. I am here to help succeed in this class. If my office hours conflict with your schedule, then email me to set up an appointment for an alternative point.

- * **Disability Accommodation:** To request academic accommodations due to a disability, 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/>

- * **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>. 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. REMEMBER, I am just as equipped with the internet as are you: if you can find something online, I will be able to locate it as well!

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Introduction

WEEK 1:	You. Me. The Class. Geography.	
Jan 26	Introduction to course	
Jan 28	Geography matters	
		READING: K & M: Chapter 1
WEEK 2:	The Restless Globe	
Feb 2	Geography and the World	
		READING: K & M: Chapter 2
Feb 4	Globalization and Geography	

Wealth, Poverty, & Development

WEEK 3:	Economic Geographies	
Feb 9	Intro to economic geography	
		READING: K & M Chapter 7
Feb 11	Global Economies	
		READING: The Free-Trade Fix (D2L)
WEEK 4:	Development and Underdevelopment	
Feb 16	Geographies of Development	
		READING: Make sure you have finished K & M Chapter 7!

Feb 18 Structural Adjustment, Debt, and Aid
READING: “The Dumping Ground”, “The Debt Burden”, and “Structural Adjustment Programs” (D2L)

WEEK 5:

Feb 23

International Food Regimes

Industrialized Agriculture & the Globalization of Food

READING: K & M: Chapter 8

Feb 25

The Green Revolution and Beyond

READING: “Lessons from the Green Revolution”; “Genetic Engineering and the Privatization of Seeds” (D2L)

Population/Movement/Settlement

WEEK 6:

Mar 2

Re-Examining Population Debates

EXAM ONE GOOD LUCK!

Mar 4

Geographies of Population

READING: K & M Chapter 3

WEEK 7:

Mar 9

Re-Examining Population Debates (con’t)

Overpopulation/overconsumption: Is there a population problem?

READING: “There is No Global Population Problem” by Garrett Hardin; “What’s your consumption factor?” by Jared Diamond (D2L)

Mar 11

Migration/Immigration – perspectives on migration

READING: Revisit section on Mobility and Migration in K & M Chapter 3 – pgs 108-119.

WEEK 8:

Mar 16

No Class

Mar 18

No Class

WEEK 9:

Mar 23 Film and In -Class Activity

Mar 25 Film and In -Class Activity

WEEK 10:

Migration/Immigration/Urbanization

Mar 30

Migration and Globalization

READING: “Managing Globalization: The Global Quest for a Second Passport; “The Right to Stay Home” (D2L)

April 1

Urbanization and City Spaces

READING: K & M Chapter 10

WEEK 11:

Urbanization

April 6

Global cities/Megacities: urbanization in the global south

READING: “The Urban Climacteric”(D2L)

April 8

EXAM 2 GOOD LUCK!

Power, Culture, & Territory

WEEK 12:

Geopolitics and The Nation State

April 13

Political Geography

READING: K& M Chapter 9

April 15

The New World (Dis)Order: geopolitics and globalization

READING: No new reading – catch up

WEEK 13:

The Geography of Culture

April 20

Cultural Geographies

READING: K & M Chapter 5

April 22

Globalization and Culture

READING: “China’s Big Mac Attack” by James Watson; “In 2000 Years, Will the World Remember Disney or Plato?” (D2L)

WEEK 14:

Nature and Society

April 27

Global Environmental Politics

READING: K & M Chapter 4

April 29

Climate change and water

READING: No new reading -
catch-up in
preparation of FINAL

WEEK 15:

Future Geographies

May 4

Mapping our futures – critical issues

READING: K & M Chapter 12

May 6

Course wrap-up/review

***** FINAL EXAM *****

WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Have a great summer!!