
SOCS 1410: Foundations in Geography
University of Denver
Autumn 2009
Monday and Wednesday 10:00a – 11:50a
Sturm Hall Room 453

Instructor: Professor E. Eric Boschmann
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Office Hours: **Thursdays 2p – 3:30p**, or by appointment
Course webpage: all course resources available on Blackboard <http://blackboard.du.edu/>

Course description and objectives

“Students study the location of people and activities across the surface of the Earth. Describing the locations and patterns of human activity only lays the foundation for exploring how and why such patterns have developed historically, and how they relate to the natural environment and other aspects of human behavior.” [*Description from the DU course catalog*]

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- situate human geography as a social science, and develop the ability to use basic geographic concepts of patterns and processes, space, place, and scale;
- understand the core human geographic topics of the course;
- observe and interpret the world around them in a more meaningful way, using the acquired concepts and skills;
- locate major place-names from across the world;
- ‘do’ human geography through assignments which practice specific techniques of critiquing information; map interpretation; observation and landscape interpretation; and data analysis.

Though this is not a current events course, students will also noticeably increase their geographic literacy and knowledge of the world. To achieve these objectives, students are expected to attend class sessions, participate, keep up with reading materials, and work diligently on the assignments. Course topics include: social science, globalization, mapping and visualization, population trends and migration, nature and society, cultural geography and landscape interpretation, economic development, geopolitics, world urbanization, urban structures, and sustainability.

General Education at the University of Denver

This course fulfills the general education requirements of *Ways of Knowing: Scientific Inquiry, Society and Culture*, by meeting these basic objectives:

- Describe the basic principles of human functioning and conduct in social and cultural contexts
- Describe and explain how social science methods are used to understand these underlying principles.

Textbooks

[1] *Human Geography: Places and regions in global context*. (2010) 5th edition. By: Paul Knox and Sallie Marston. Prentice Hall. ISBN:0-321-58002-8

[2] *Goode’s World Atlas* [Rand McNally & Co.] is a highly recommended resource. 21st or 22nd edition.

Class Format

The format for class time will mainly consist of lectures, discussion, activities, and multi-media material. Class/lecture outlines are made available to you either on Blackboard, or handed out to you. These outlines are essential for you to get the most out of class and to prepare for exams. Lectures will build upon and expand from the textbook readings. Reading assignments are listed in the course schedule. There is one scheduled field trip and the class will be split into two groups.

Assignments

There are four (4) assignments, each utilizing different methods for 'doing' human geography. More specific information will be given later.

#1 Critiquing written arguments	Due: September 28
#2 Map reading and interpretation	Due: October 7
#3 Observation	Due: November 16* (*This assignment requires extra time to complete)
#4 Data analysis	Due: November 9

Map Quizzes

Being familiar with the location of major place-names across the globe is a foundational skill. There are 5 map quizzes throughout the quarter. Only the place-names on the provided list will be covered on the quizzes. To practice, utilize the blank outline maps available on the course website. For each quiz you are asked to identify 20 of the place-names. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped; if you are absent during a quiz, it will be counted as your lowest/dropped score.

Map Quiz #1 (September 21)	North America
Map Quiz #2 (October 5)	Europe/Russia
Map Quiz #3 (October 12)	Latin America
Map Quiz #4 (October 28)	Asia
Map Quiz #5 (November 4)	Africa / Southwest Asia

Exams:

There are 2 non-cumulative exams. Material on the exams is derived from in-class lectures and discussions. Textbook material not discussed in class, nor identified as review points, will not be on exams. Also, exams do not include any material from map quizzes. **Exam 1 (October 19)** covers all material through October 14. **Exam 2 (November 20 *FRIDAY*)**: covers all material through November 18. Exam format is a mix between multiple choice questions and short answers.

Course Grading:

Your grades will be weighted as follows:

Map Quizzes (best 4 out of 5)	20%
Four Assignments (1 & 2: 7.5% each; 3 & 4: 10% each)	35%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Attendance	5%
TOTAL:	100%

Final grading scale:

94 – 100%	A	73 – 76%	C
90 – 93%	A-	70 – 72%	C-
87 – 89%	B+	67 – 69%	D+
83 – 86%	B	63 – 66%	D
80 – 82%	B-	60 – 62%	D-
77 – 79%	C+	Below 60%	F

Course Calendar
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	Date	Something is Due	Topic & Activities	Readings
Week 1	9/14		Course Introduction	
	9/16		Geography as a social science	Chapter 1
Week 2	9/21	MAP QUIZ # 1	Thinking from a global context	Chapter 2
	9/23		Mapping: The art of communicating spatial information	Appendix A
Week 3	9/28	Assignment #1 DUE	Video: <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>	
	9/30		Population: Trends, patterns, and migration	Chapter 3
Week 4	10/5	MAP QUIZ # 2		
	10/7	Assignment #2 DUE	Nature and Society	Chapter 4
Week 5	10/12	MAP QUIZ # 3	Discuss article: "Paving the planet"	Article to read: Sutton et al.
	10/14		Cultural and Human Landscapes	Chapters 5 and 6
Week 6	10/19	EXAM 1		
	10/21		LoDo Field Trip: <u>Group A</u> <i>Bhutan: Group B (in class)</i>	
Week 7	10/26		LoDo Field Trip: <u>Group B</u> <i>Bhutan: Group A (in class)</i>	
	10/28	MAP QUIZ #4	Economic Development	Chapter 7
Week 8	11/2			
	11/4	MAP QUIZ #5	Politics of space and territory	Chapter 9
Week 9	11/9	Assignment #4 Due	World urbanization and urban structures	Chapters 10 and 11
	11/11			
Week 10	11/16	Assignment #3 Due	1. Global health geographies 2. Transport geographies	
	11/18		Future Geographies and Sustainability	Chapter 12
FRIDAY 11/20		10am – 11:50am EXAM #2		

POLICIES:

[1] For Autumn 2009: H1N1 Flu – Academic Continuity Plan

- The primary mode for course communication outside of the classroom is through Blackboard. In the event of temporary University closure, contingency plans are to deliver course materials via Blackboard.
- If you become ill: please do not come to class. In the case of minimal absences due to illness, accommodations can be made for missed exams, quizzes, or assignments, but a medical note is required. Lecture notes should be secured from another student. In the case of excessive absences due to illness, please contact the Registrar regarding the following options: course withdrawals/incompletes, medical stop-outs, tuition refund policy/appeal, and academic exceptions.
- If I as your instructor become ill: I will communicate with you via Blackboard and e-mail if class is cancelled. Missed material will be delivered via Blackboard.

[2] Attendance and punctuality is crucial to your success! If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to obtain the missed lecture material from another student. Neither the instructor nor the TAs will provide you will the lecture material. Random attendance checks will occur.

[3] Make-up exams are only permitted under select circumstances. In the event of severe medical problems, the death/illness of someone close, or DU sponsored varsity sports competitions, the student must notify me within 24 hours of the missed exam and provide an authorized note regarding the absence.

[4] Technology is a powerful and useful resource in our lives. But like other luxuries, it has downsides. The use of technology in class *can be a major distraction* to yourself and people around you – including me! Therefore, please NO COMPUTERS or text-messaging during class time. Also, please put cell phones on *silent* mode and pack i-Pods/MP3s away until end of class.

[5] All students and faculty are expected to adhere to the *University of Denver Honor Code* <http://www.du.edu/ccs/honorcode.html>. This includes issues related to academic integrity. In short, do your own work, cite your sources, and do not cheat on exams or quizzes. To uphold the Honor Code, any suspected incidents of Academic Dishonesty must be reported Office of Citizenship & Community Standards (CCS).

[6] Special accommodations can be made for students with disabilities. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Also, you need to contact the **Disability Services Program** located in the Driscoll Student Center South, under the Bookstore in *The Center*, to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Call DSP at – 303.871.2455 / 2278 / 7432. The **Handbook for Students with Disabilities** is available online at <http://www.du.edu/disability> (click on Disability Services Program and then publications) and is also available in hard copy and alternate format. *It is your responsibility to schedule all exams/quizzes with DSP.*

Find two fellow students in this **Fundamentals in Geography** class you can rely on:

- | | <u>Name:</u> | <u>Phone:</u> | <u>E-mail:</u> |
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| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |