

Georgia State University  
GEOG: 1101  
CRN 15851  
**INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**  
TR 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
Aderhold Learning Center 225

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### **Course Objectives**

- Human geography is the study of the complex and dynamic relationships between people and places. Presently the globalization process is homogenizing the world's environmental, cultural, economic and political scenario. However, the diversity and the uniqueness of places do not allow globalization to unfold in the same way everywhere. As such, a simultaneous process of homogenization and diversification shape the way the world's places and people interact with each other. In this class our aim will be to understand this complex interaction and interdependence of human societies living in different parts of the world. We will learn to use fundamental geographic concepts to make sense of this globalizing world and its implications for our everyday lives.
- Thinking and writing critically about social processes is absolutely essential for making sense of the globalizing world. Every day we are exposed to a sea of information, ideas, and opinions. Critical thinking provides us with the ability to analyze and evaluate the validity of this information and to make responsible decisions. Therefore, through reading and writing assignments (Labs) we will develop this ability to think and write critically.

### **Required Text**

- *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (2007) by Paul L. Knox and Sallie A. Marston, Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

While the class will mainly draw from material covered in the text it will be useful if you stay updated on what is going on in the world. The best way to do this will be to read the news. There are several on-line news sources that you may read free of charge: *The New York Times* ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)); *The International Herald Tribune* ([www.iht.com](http://www.iht.com)); and BBC News (<http://www.bbc.co.uk>). It is imperative that you keep up with the readings and with the daily news to create

and maintain your own sense of global (and local) awareness. In addition you will be asked to read supplementary materials and research on particular topics using library resources for lab assignments. This will help you better understand the course material.

### Evaluation

Item	Date Due	Weight
Lab/Quiz assignments	TBA	50%
Exam 1	2/18 in class	15%
Exam 2	4/13 in class	15%
Exam 3 (Final exam)	<b>5/6 in class (8am)</b>	20%
Participation (extra credit)		5%

### Grading Scheme

Above 93%: A	77 - 79.9%: C+
90 - 92.9%: A-	73 - 76.9%: C
87 - 89.9%: B+	70 - 72.9%: C-
83 - 86.9%: B	60 - 69.9%: D
80 - 82.9%: B-	Below 60%: F

### Assignments

Lab assignments will be a crucial part of the course work. These will test your knowledge of both reading and lecture material. At the same time they will force you to apply the knowledge gained to think about real world scenarios. Other than thoroughly reading the book and the lecture notes you will often be asked to read supplementary material and research on relevant topics to complete these assignments. You will be expected to work on these lab assignments once every month during the semester. As such you will NOT be attending the usual 9.30-10:45am class on one specific day each month (for the dates see the schedule below). Instead you will have this time to work on the lab assignment. In addition to the labs 5 to 6 in-class quizzes will be conducted that will include multiple choice and true and false type questions.

There will be three exams. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> exams will not be cumulative. But the 3<sup>rd</sup> exam which is the final exam will be a cumulative exam. These exams will give you an opportunity to synthesize what you have learned and to demonstrate how well you know the course material. Exams will mainly include multiple choice and true or false questions. The three exams are scheduled for Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, and May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Participation in class

Your active participation in the class will help you gain up to 3% extra credit. Participation includes joining in class discussion, good attendance, a demonstrated effort to master the course material and timely submissions of assignments.

## Grading Policy

Make up policy: Lab assignments must be submitted on the due date. Assignments received thereafter will be counted off 20% points per day. No assignment will be accepted after 4 days of the date it is due. Make-up exams or quizzes are not accepted under any condition barring critical illness or similar severe crisis. All notifications must be made in advance.

## Expectations

I expect you to be respectful, prepared and involved in this class. I will be working hard to make this course enjoyable to you and I hope you would work with me in making this experience worthwhile for both of us. So, please don't hesitate to ask questions at any time during the course of semester.

## Schedule (please keep up with the readings)

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1: 1/12-1/14	Introduction: Geography matters	Ch 1	
2: 1/19-1/21	The Changing Global Context	Ch 2	
3: 1/26-1/28	Geographies of Population	Ch 3	<b>Lab 1: 1/28</b> (due in the next class)
4: 2/2-2/4	Nature and Society	Ch 4	
5: 2/9-2/11	Cultural Geographies	Ch 5	
6: 2/16-2/18	Catch-up	-	Exam 1: 2/18
7: 2/23-2/25	Places and Landscapes	Ch 6	<b>Lab 2: 2/25</b> (due in the next class)
8: 3/2-3/4	Geography of Economic Development	Ch 7	
9: 3/9-3/11	<b>Spring Break</b>		
10: 3/16-3/18	Agriculture and Food Production	Ch 8	
11: 3/23-3/25	Politics of Territory and Space	Ch 9	<b>Lab 3: 3/25</b> (due in the next class)
12: 3/30-4/1	Urbanization	Ch 10	
13: 4/6-4/8	Catch up		
14: 4/13-4/15	Professor out for Conference part of the week		Exam 2: 4/13
15: 4/20-4/22	City Spaces: Urban Structure	Ch 11	<b>Lab 4: 4/22</b> (due in the next class)
16: 4/27-4/29	Future Geographies	Ch 12	
Final: 5/6 (8am)			Exam 3 (Finals)

\* The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

### **Academic honesty**

All work submitted for this course must be completed in accordance with the Georgia State University's policies on academic honesty and integrity. For a description of GSU's policies, please consult the GSU section on Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Catalog. If you are ever uncertain about these guidelines, please consult with the instructor. Any work you submit must be your own and should be submitted for this course only. If you are found in violation of the University's academic honesty policies, the severest punishment will be pursued.

### The nitty-gritty required on all syllabi:

1. According to the Georgia State University undergraduate catalog, class attendance is expected; failure to attend classes regularly may result in poor course performance. The university requires instructors to verify attendance early in the term. Failure to attend classes may result in you not appearing on the Verification Roll and being dropped from the class. Please see section 1334 of the catalog at [http://www.gsu.edu/es/catalogs\\_courses.html](http://www.gsu.edu/es/catalogs_courses.html), and click on the appropriate catalog link to read about attendance policy (posted as a .pdf file).
2. All students should be familiar with the university's course withdrawal procedures. These can be found in section 1332 of the undergraduate catalog.
3. All students are required to be familiar with the Academic Honesty policy of the university and to comply with the policy. This can be found in section 1380 of the undergraduate catalog.
4. Each student must have access to an on-line computer and is responsible for reading all messages sent to his/her university email address, and any other assignments that require the use of a computer. Class changes and/or updates may be conveyed via email, in which case the student is considered to have been informed. The student is required to check this university email box regularly.
5. Accommodations for students with disabilities:  
Georgia State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek academic accommodations must first take appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services locate in Suite 230 of the New Student Center.

**SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:** THIS SYLLABUS IS A DRAFT COPY SUBJECTED TO CHANGE. Any modification will be notified by the instructor through all necessary channels. It is the responsibility of the student, however, to be aware of the changes.

*Best Wishes for a successful semester!*