

**Geography 20**  
**Introduction to Human Geography**  
**Fall 2009**  
22 Deike  
MW 12:20-1:10

Instructor: Thomas Sigler

Office: 215 Walker

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-3pm and by appointment

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Teaching Assistants

Name:	Lauren Anderson	Matt Branch
Office:	329 Walker	336 Walker
Office Hours:	Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-1:30PM	Weds. 2:30-4:30PM
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**Required Course Texts:**

- *Human Geography*, Paul L. Knox and Sallie Marston, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Additional readings will be made available on ANGEL

**Course Description:** Geography 20 provides an introduction to human geography with emphasis on modes of critical thinking that stress considerations of “space” and “place”. The shirt that you are wearing, for example, was probably not made in the United States. In fact, it was probably made in a factory somewhere in Asia or Central America. It was probably made with cotton grown in India, China, or Uzbekistan, and was probably designed by someone in Europe or North America. In order for that shirt to go through the process of design, manufacture, transportation, delivery, and purchase, a very specific geographic system was shaped. This class examines how everyday objects (such as your shirt) and phenomena (getting dressed in the morning) are shaped by geography, and how geography shapes everyday processes and practices.

**Course Objectives:** The course will introduce you to the breadth of contemporary human geography. We will explore both the range of topics that geographers study, as well as some of the concepts and methods they use to study them. 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.

**Learning Outcomes:** By taking this course, students will 1) become familiar with the major approaches in human geography for examining geographic forms, structures and changes and 2) develop critical reading and analytical skills.

## **Requirements**

Readings. All assigned readings are listed in the Syllabus Schedule below. You are expected to have read the assigned material prior to attending the corresponding lecture. The majority of the assigned readings will be from the textbook, *Human Geography*, FIFTH edition, by Knox and Marston, which is available in the Penn State Bookstore.

During certain weeks, there will also be supplementary readings from other sources. These will be posted under the 'lessons' tab on ANGEL. The lectures will draw on major themes from the readings as well as material not discussed explicitly in the readings. The exams will cover material from both the lectures as well as the readings. You will also be responsible for the material covered in films shown in class.

Examinations. There will be three exams over the course of the semester (see Schedule below for dates). The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay, and they will cover material from the lectures, readings, and films. Each exam will only include material covered since the previous exam. The last exam will be given during finals week.

### Course notebook.

You cannot study human geography and engage in geographic analysis and interpretation unless you stay up to date on basic information about the world. To this end, you are strongly encouraged to read a good, major daily newspaper with strong international coverage, such as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Wall Street Journal*. *The Christian Science Monitor*, while not as comprehensive, offers excellent, in-depth reporting on specific issues, often in greater depth than other media sources. Major newspapers from other countries, such as the *London Times* or *Guardian*, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, or *Singapore Business Times*, generally offer a greater range of news about the world and a broader perspective than US newspapers, and many are available in English editions. Please ask your teaching assistant if you have difficulty locating these online.

To encourage and develop your familiarity with international news sources, one of the class requirements is that each student in the class builds a notebook containing newspaper articles related to the course, and your own commentaries on those articles. The articles must be from newspapers, not from other news websites or other media sources or web pages. You may, however, use the websites of newspapers; in fact, you are strongly encouraged to do so. This assignment will work as follows:

1. Each week, you should find and cut out (or print out) a newspaper story related to the topics covered in lecture and the readings that week. Print it leaving a very large margin, or paste it onto a clean sheet with plenty of white space. In either case, mark clearly what newspaper it came from, including the title, city of publication, page, and date. If it came from the newspaper's website, include the entire URL.
2. In the blank space, write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) explaining how, in your view, the story relates to the course material – by providing examples of concepts, raising a different perspective, showing an important element not mentioned in course materials, etc.

3. Bring it with you to section each week (this is required). Your TA will pick a few at random and ask you to share them with the class as a starting point for discussion of the week's material.
4. The clippings must come from a range of international newspapers (or domestic newspapers from countries other than the US). Many of your clippings can come from the *New York Times*, which is widely available on campus for free. However, you must have at least one clipping from each of the following sources: newspapers from or focused on Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Europe, Latin America, Former Soviet Union, Australia, and the Middle East. You may have some clippings that are from local or regional newspapers in the US (the *Centre Daily Times*, or Pennsylvania metropolitan newspapers).
5. Keep all of your clippings and commentaries in a binder, which will be turned in to your TA and graded twice during the semester.

Research Assignments. There will be two short research assignments. Specific details of the assignments will be provided in section at least two weeks prior to their due date. Research assignments will be handed in during your section and graded primarily by your TA. If you need assistance with research techniques beyond that which is provided in class, please see the teaching assistant before the due date. Each of these is worth 10% of your final grade. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day over due.

All direct quotations must be properly cited in the body of the text (providing the author's last name, the date, and page number) as well as in the bibliography using APA or other standard formats. If you are not familiar with proper formatting please see me during my office hours. Additionally, if you present specific information that is not common knowledge (*e.g.* statistics), you are required to include an in-text citation (including the author's last name, date, page number, etc.) to document the source of such information.

Attendance and Participation. You are required to attend both lecture and sections. Lectures and films will parallel and expand upon the readings, but will include material not covered in the textbook. You therefore will need to attend lectures and take careful notes in order to do well in the class. You will also be expected to actively participate in section, and as much as possible in lecture meetings. Absences may be excused only for family or medical emergencies with proper documentation. Make-up quizzes and exams will only be permitted with documentation of family or medical emergencies. All make-up exams will be in the form of essay questions based on the materials covered in class and the book. Your participation grade will reflect primarily your attendance and participation in sections, but may be adjusted to reflect attendance and participation in lecture as well.

**Sections will not meet the first week of classes or the week of the Thanksgiving break.**

Discussion sections:

Section 001:	M 10:10-11:00A	107 Willard	Matt
Section 002:	T 11:15A-12:05P	103 Willard	Lauren
Section 003:	T 3:35-4:25P	107 Willard	Lauren
Section 004:	R 3:35-4:25P	004 Deike	Lauren
Section 005:	W 1:25-2:15P	105 Walker	Matt

Section 006:	R 11:15A-12:05P	101 EE West	Lauren
Section 007:	F 11:15A-12:05P	101 Walker	Matt
Section 008:	W 10:10-11:00A	103 Walker	Matt

### **Grading**

Your final grade will be based on the following calculation:

1st exam:	20%
2nd exam:	20%
3rd exam:	20%
1 <sup>st</sup> Research Assignment (to be determined primarily by your TAs):	10%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Research Assignment (to be determined primarily by your TAs):	10%
Attendance and Participation (in class and sections):	10%
Completion of notebook assignments (to be determined primarily by your TAs):	10%

Final grades will not be curved. The following ranking system will be used to determine final grades for the course:

A:	93-100
A-:	90-92
B+:	87-89
B:	83-86
B-:	80-82
C+:	77-79
C:	70-76
D:	60-69
F:	<60

Note: Final grades will not be rounded up to the nearest whole number, or letter grade. For instance, if you have a total of 92.75, you still get an A-, rather than an A (see above). In order to get an A, you must have a 93 or higher. Exceptions may be made only if the student has demonstrated significant improvement on exams over the course of the semester. There will also be no extra-credit opportunities in the course.

Class Schedule. The course schedule for lectures and important dates (*e.g.* exams, paper due dates) is listed below. I shall do my best to stick to the syllabus schedule, although I reserve the right to modify it if something unexpected comes up during the semester.

### **Policies**

Office Hours. I strongly encourage you to come to my office hours. As the course instructor, my main goal is to help you learn, so if you have any questions about the material, or the class in general, you are more than welcome to come speak with me during office hours. If you are not available during that time, email me to set up an appointment.

Teaching Assistants. Teaching assistants provide academic support for students just as instructors do. In particular, your teaching assistant will be doing the majority of the grading for

this course. If you have a question about the course material, do not hesitate to contact your teaching assistant for help or clarification. Questions about grades should also generally be directed to your teaching assistant. If you feel that you would like to speak directly with the instructor, I am happy to field questions about anything during my office hours or by email. Please remember to be courteous in all correspondence. ☺

Note to Students with Disabilities. Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services, ODS located in room 116 Boucke Building at 814-863-1807(V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit their web site at [www.equity.psu.edu/ods/](http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/). Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for reasonable academic adjustments.

Email and ANGEL: Send all email to me using the email address listed on the first page of the syllabus (tjs316@psu.edu) or via the ANGEL web page for the course. I will do my best to respond promptly to your questions. ANGEL can be accessed by typing the following into a web browser: [cms.psu.edu](http://cms.psu.edu). You will then be prompted to type your Penn State User ID and Password. Next, click on the course GEOG 120.

To make sure that you will receive Angel emails, please do the following in Angel: Click on the "Communicate" tab, and then click on "View Inbox". Click on "Preferences" and fill in your forwarding address (i.e. write your Webmail address and if you prefer you can also write another email address that you normally use). Make sure that the "Forwarding mode" is set to "Forward mail and keep as new" and make sure to save your settings! If you send an email through Angel, please make sure to check "Send a copy to each recipients' internet email". NOTE: ANGEL ONLY WORKS WITH MOZILLA FIREFOX.

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic 'F' for the course grade, as well as possible disciplinary action by the university. This consists of cheating on exams or plagiarism on the papers. Plagiarism includes using another author's work as your own or fabricating information or citations in your paper. Properly citing sources is absolutely fundamental to academic writing, so if you have any questions about whether you are adequately citing your sources, please discuss them with me during office hours. **It is very easy to take material directly from web pages without attribution; it is equally easy for your instructors to identify such appropriation, which constitutes a violation of the course's academic integrity policy.** For further information on the EMS College's academic dishonesty policy, see the following website: <http://www.ems.psu.edu/students/integrity/index.html>

## SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Topic	Assignment
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### Week 1

Mon	8/24	Course Introduction	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	8/26	Reading Maps Critically	Knox and Marston 1-21

### Week 2

Mon	8/31	Space and Power: the Panopticon	DC's virtual panopticon (on ANGEL)
Wed	9/2	Human Geography: A Regional Perspective	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

### Week 3

Mon	9/7	NO CLASS: UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	9/9	The Geography of the American Lawn Care Industry	Robbins/Sharp: The Lawn-Chemical Economy and its Discontents (ANGEL)

### Week 4

Mon	9/14	Population Geography and Demographics	Knox and Marston 83-107
Wed	9/16	Migration	Knox and Marston 107-124

### Week 5

Mon	9/21	The Geography of International Aid	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	9/23	Economic Geography	Knox and Marston 249-259

### Week 6

Mon	9/28	The Geographies of Agglomeration: Silicon Valley	Power Hungry in Silicon Valley; Homeless on 50K/Year (on ANGEL)
Wed	9/30	<b>EXAM 1</b>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

### Week 7

Mon	10/5	Video: Life and Debt (Part One)	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	10/7	Video and Discussion: Life and Debt (Part Two)	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

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**Week 8**

Mon	10/12	Geographies of Uneven Development: Creating the 'Third World'	See ANGEL for Reading
Wed	10/14	Geographies of Development	Knox and Marston 259-294

**Week 9**

Mon	10/19	Globalization, Part I (Overview)	10 Benefits the WTO; Top 10 Reasons Against the WTO (on ANGEL) and Knox and Marston 41-81
Wed	10/21	Globalization, Part II (Regulation and Protest)	Knox and Marston 1-21

**Week 10**

Mon	10/26	Globalization, Part III (A Global Culture?)	Knox and Marston 232-246
Wed	10/28	Nationalism and Territorial Identity	Knox and Marston 173-212

**Week 11**

Mon	11/2	What is a country? Nations and States	Knox and Marston 375-386
Wed	11/4	<b>EXAM TWO</b>	<i>* No Assigned Reading</i>

**Week 12**

Mon	11/9	20 Years since the fall of the Berlin Wall: Pre- and Post-Cold War Geopolitics	<i>* No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	11/11	Guest Lecture	<i>* No Assigned Reading</i>

**Week 13**

Mon	11/16	Geopolitics (continued)	Knox and Marston 339-375
Wed	11/18	The Geography of the Panama Canal	<i>* No Assigned Reading</i>

**Week 14**

Mon	11/23	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK	<i>* No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	11/25	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK	<i>* No Assigned Reading</i>

**Week 15**

Mon	11/30	Urban Geography, Part I (Rise of the modern city)	The World Goes to Town (on ANGEL)
Wed	12/2	Video: Saving Pennsylvania	Knox and Marston 389-420

**Week 16**

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Mon	12/7	Urban Geography, Part II(Suburbanization and Postwar Decline) & SRTEs	Orlando Beyond Disney and Et in Suburbia Ego (on ANGEL)
Wed	12/9	Urban Geography, Part III (Cities in a Global Context)	The Strange Allure of Slums (on ANGEL); Knox and Marston 423-453