Geography 1: Place and Society

Instructor: Benjamin Forest
Lecture: 10 MWF 10:00 – 11:05 AM
X-Hour: Thursday 12:00 - 12:50 PM

Contact Information:
646-0404
119 Fairchild
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00-5:00 PM and by appointment

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of how human societies organize their geographic space and why certain patterns emerge in the resulting human landscape. Principles of location, place, territoriarity and geopolitics, migration, gender, economic change, and power are used to examine the geographic distribution of human activity. Geographic comparisons are drawn between North and South, and on global, regional, and local issues.

This quarter, the class is organized around three major geographic themes: Mapping, Meaning and Power, and Transformation. Mapping examines the uses, consequences and limitations of the technique most commonly associated with geography, and illustrates how one can use spatial concepts to analyze a variety of social and economic phenomena. Meaning and Power explores how individuals and groups create and differentiate one place from another, and the significance this has for social, cultural and political activities, relationships and identities. The final section of the course, Transformation, addresses the complex relationship between humans and the natural environment.

Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>January 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project #1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>February 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 12, 9 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and essay questions. Students must complete all course assessments to pass Geography 1 and must score 60.0% or more of the course points.

Expectations: Assignments, including the set reading, should be completed in a timely fashion. Generally speaking, you will not receive credit for late assignments unless you have good reasons and have made prior arrangements with me. I also expect active participation from students during the discussions and lectures.

Disabilities and special circumstances: In general, the earlier you bring a problem to my attention, the easier it will be to address. Students with disabilities, including "invisible" ones such as
chronic diseases, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities are welcome to discuss the condition with me after class or during office hours so that we may arrange appropriate accommodations.

HOWEVER, any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations should speak to me by the END OF THE SECOND WEEK OF THE QUARTER. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Disabilities Coordinator may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

Books:
The books and reading packet are available at Wheelock Books


Readings. Most readings are in the Reading Packet, but those marked ** are available online from the Geography 1 website.


**Schedule of Classes**

*Read the assigned material BEFORE class.*

Week 1: January 5: Introduction

January 7: What is Geography?
   Reading: Tuan (1991)

**Part I: Mapping and Spatial Analysis**

January 9: Maps as Rhetoric: The Peters Projection
   Reading: Monmonier (1995: 9-44)

Week 2: January 12: Taking Measure of the World
   Reading: Sobel (1995), chapters 1-9 (*Longitude*)
January 14: Finding Order/Creating Order  
Reading: Sobel (1995), chapters 10-15 (*Longitude*)

January 16: Spatial Pattern and Process  
Reading: **Lee (1992)**

Week 3:

January 19: No Class - MLK Day.

January 21: Segregation and Exclusion  
Reading: Kaplan and Holloway (1998); Sibley (1992)

January 22: *x-period, 12-12:50 PM:*  
Geographic Information Systems  
Reading: TBA

January 23: Project 1: Racial and Ethnic Segregation  
Due February 4 in class  
Reading: TBA

Week 4:

January 26: Globalization, Industrialization and Development  
Reading: Thrift (1995); Michaels (1996)

January 28: Video: “I Used to Work in the Fields”  
Reading: Fuentes and Ehrenreich (1987); Wright (2001)

January 30: Midterm #1

**Part II: Meaning and Power: The Significance of Places**

Week 5: February 2: Landscape and Place; Memory and History  
Reading: **Lowenthal (1975); Basso (1984)**

February 4: Toponymy, Place and Culture  
Reading: Monmonier (1995: 45-71)  
**Project 1 due in class**

February 6: Gender and Sexuality in the Landscape  
Reading: Monk (1992)

Week 6: February 9: Project 2: Gender and Time Geography  
Reading: Pred (1981); **Bondi and Domosh (1998)**  
**Due March 5 in class**
February 11: Race and Ethnicity
  Reading: Anderson (1991); Forest (2002: 1-15)

February 12: Gerrymandering and Political Representation
  Reading: Forest (2002: 15-29); Monmonier (1995: 189-219)

February 13: No Class -- Winter Carnival

Week 7: February 16: Nationalism and Geopolitics
  Reading: Johnson (1995); Knight (1994)

February 18: Midterm #2

**Part III: Transformation: Human-Environment Relations**
  Begin reading Steward (1986) *Earth Abides*

February 20: The Nature of Nature

Week 8: February 23: Environmental Determinism
  Reading: Diamond (1997); **Frenkel (1992)

February 25: Domestication and Agricultural Revolutions
  Reading: **Mannion (1999); **Freidberg (1999)

February 27: Population Growth and the Demographic Transition
  Reading: Porter and Sheppard (1998)

Week 9: March 1: Dams and Development
  Guest Lecturer: Chris Sneddon (Dartmouth College)
  Reading: **The Report of the World Commission on Dams (Executive Summary)

March 3: Imagining the City
  Video: “Metropolis” (1926), Fritz Lang, director.
  Reading: **Clarke (1992)

March 5: Nature and Human Nature
  Readings: Tuan (1979); Price (1995)

Week 10: March 8: *Earth Abides* & Concluding Themes
  Project #2 due in class

March 12, 9AM, Final Exam