

Introduction to Human Geography

GEOG 142 * Spring 2018 * Olivia Molden

In this course, we will look critically at the geographic dimensions of our globalized world: why places and regions are interconnected, how they are unique, and how the movement of people, ideas, and things transforms our bodies, places, and worlds.

This course aims to provide you with the conceptual and empirical tools to *think like a geographer*. Geographers study the **flows of things**: people, money, rivers, technologies, rainclouds, commodities, or animals across space and time, especially as these flows become fragmented, uneven, or planetary (such as in the process of **globalization**). Geographers use **maps** and geospatial tools to make sense of these flows. The unique convergence of flows in a certain location is what geographers call a **place**; the interconnections and flows between places create what we call **space**. All places are inhabited, experienced, and traversed by human **bodies**; and bodies are differentiated in society according to cultural and political systems of **difference**—such as gender, sexuality, and race. In short, the study of human geography is more than reciting the list of state capitals; we explore the ‘why’ and ‘how’ of **spatial interconnections**.

By grounding spatial interconnections in real-life examples and stories, in this course you will gain conceptual tools for making sense of how and why the world changes around us. GEOG 142 is a gateway to the Geography major/minor, and fulfills multicultural requirements for the International Cultures (IC) category and general education requirements for the social sciences. **Welcome!**

ASSESSMENT

Your performance in the course will be evaluated on a variety of activities, ranging from group discussion exercises to an individual research project. The final grade is based on the total cumulative points you earn over the semester. Think of each course component as an opportunity to earn points toward your final grade. There are a total of 150 points available, divided as shown:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Points</i>
Attendance & Participation Activities	20
Canvas Exercises (3 assignments)	30
Discussion Exercises (5 assignments)	50
Research Paper (4 components)	50
TOTAL	150

As all due dates are provided in advance. Furthermore, it is our overall course policy that **no late assignments will be accepted** unless proper documentation (sports or band attendance, or medical appointments) is provided in advance.

Attendance & Participation (A&P)

Your individual attendance and participation (A&P) in lecture is essential to the overall success of the class, as well as to your own achievement. This means we will periodically check A&P using a variety of mechanisms including in-class activities and feedback on class topics.

Canvas Exercises (A&P)

Think of these as take-home quizzes where you incorporate course concepts with assigned readings.

Discussion Exercises

Discussion section is designed to help you: a) actively understand the topics being taught in lecture; b) learn the skills necessary to write a successful research paper. Over the term, you will complete five (we will take the best five of six) discussion exercises, which are short assignments (or activities) that require the application of critical reading, thinking, and communication skills.

Research Paper

Each student will write a research paper that investigates the geographical connections of a particular object. The aim of the project is to get students to consider the ways the contemporary world is constituted through a dense web of connections among people and things. More details and requirements for the paper will be provided in lecture and section.

Final Grade

The final grade will be specified using the following approximate distribution:

97%-100%	A+	80-82%	B-	63-66%	D
93-96%	A	77-79%	C+	60-62%	D-
90-92%	A-	73-76%	C	0-59%	F
87-89%	B+	70-72%	C		
83-86%	B	67-69%	D+		

THE SCHEDULE

Key

A Short Introduction to Human Geography = Short

Canvas Readings = CR

Behind the Beautiful Forevers = BBF

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings (TBD)/Assignments Due</i>
1	4/2 M	Introduction	
	4/4 W	Geography in context	<i>Canvas Exercise 1</i>
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Thinking like a geographer</i>	
2	4/9 M	People and the Environment	
	4/11 W	Food and Water	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Focus on food</i>	<i>Exercise 1</i>
3	4/16 M	The Economic Organization of Space	
	4/18 W	Uneven Development	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Research Skills: Asking Questions</i>	<i>Exercise 2 (BBF)</i>

4	4/23 M	The Urban Organization of Space	
	4/25 W	Spatial Inequalities	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Focus on urbanization</i>	<i>Research Paper Part I</i>
5	4/30 M	Cities and Climate Change	
	5/2 W	Post-colonial Urban Development	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Focus on city life</i>	<i>Exercise 3 (BBF)</i>
6	5/7 M	The Cultural Organization of Space	
	5/9 W	Religion and Language	<i>Canvas Exercise 2</i>
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Research Skills: Writing</i>	<i>Exercise 4</i>
7	5/14 M	The Political Organization of Space	
	5/16 W	Focus on the Middle East	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Focus on Middle East</i>	<i>Research Paper Part II</i>
8	5/21 M	The Global Organization of Space	
	5/23 W	Globalization	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Research Skills: Peer Review</i>	<i>Exercise 5</i>
9	5/28 M	No class - Memorial Day	
	5/30 W	Geopolitics	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Focus on geopolitics</i>	<i>Research Paper Part III</i>
10	6/4 M	Climate Change	
	6/6 W	Future Earth	
	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Research Skills: Presentation (IV)</i>	<i>Exercise 6</i>
11	6/10	Final Canvas Exercise Due	

Notes

Should any changes be made, you will be provided with a revised schedule on Canvas.