

# GEOGRAPHY 142

## INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Winter Term, 2012, Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-9.50am, Willamette 100

**Instructor:** Tom Ptak [tptak@uoregon.edu](mailto:tptak@uoregon.edu) Office: Condon 275, Office Hours: Thurs 10-11am

**Graduate Teaching Fellows:** Heather McAfee [hmcafee@uoregon.edu](mailto:hmcafee@uoregon.edu) Condon 202, Office Hours: TBA, Emma Slager [eslager@uoregon.edu](mailto:eslager@uoregon.edu) Condon 202, Office Hours: Wed 1-2:30 pm

Dylan Brady [dbrady@uoregon.edu](mailto:dbrady@uoregon.edu) 246 Columbia, Office Hours: Wed 11-12.20pm



**What is this course about?** Human Geography can be defined as what people do on the surface of the earth, where they do it and why, and what the implications of these actions are across a variety of social, political, environmental and economic processes. Through examining the wide variety of phenomena which occurs on the surface of the earth, participants in this course will develop an understanding of the interconnections and interdependence between the spatial interactions of peoples and places. This is the basis of the study of Human Geography.

## Tentative Course Schedule:

### Week 1: **Introduction to Human Geography**

Jan 10: What is Human Geography? Introductions by instructors

Required reading: Text book Chapter 1

Jan 12: Course overview, the consequences of Geographical Ignorance, the relevance of Geography

Required reading: [www.amergeog.org/newsrelease/murphy2004.pdf](http://www.amergeog.org/newsrelease/murphy2004.pdf)

### Week 2: **Cultural Geographies**

Jan 17: Cultural Geography

Required reading: Text book Chapter 4

Jan 19: Culture and Worldviews

Required reading: *The Vanishing-On Blackboard*

### Week 3: **Geo-Demographics**

Jan 24: Population and growth

Required reading: Text book Chapter 2

Jan 26: Population and its impacts

Required reading: TBA

### Week 4: **Political Geography**

Jan 31: Spatial Politics-Nations, States, Territoriality, the modern nation-state system

Required reading: Text book Chapter 8

Feb 2: Alec Murphy guest lecture TBC

Required reading: TBA

### Week 5: **Migration**

Feb 7: Migration overview-current issues

Required reading: Text book Chapter 3

Feb 9: Heather McAfee case study on Asian Labor migration in Persian Gulf, case study of Australia

Asylum seekers

Required reading: TBA

### Week 6: **Environment**

Feb 14: The Environment, conceptual frameworks and empirical outcomes

Required reading: Text book Chapter 13

Feb 16: Midterm exam

**Week 7: Environment and Agriculture**

Feb 21: The Geography of Agriculture and food production

Required reading: Text book Chapter 11

Feb 23: Food-Shifting paradigms of agricultural production

Required reading: TBA

**Week 8: Environment and Development**

Feb 28: The Geographies of Development

Required reading: Text book Chapter 10

Mar 1: Development, quality of life, and us

Required reading: TBA

**Week 9: Identity**

Mar 6: Identity and Geography-overview

Required reading: Text book Chapter 5

Mar 8: Heather McAfee identity case study

Required reading:

**Week 10: Sustainability and the future**

Mar 13: Sustainability, Case study of China, Course wrap up.

Required reading: Text book Chapter 14

Mar 15: Final class session, Movie: Home.

Final Exam: March TBA

**Course Text Book:**

Fouberg, E. H, A. B Murphy, and H. J Blij. 2009. *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture*.

Additional readings will be posted to blackboard. All readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

**Assessment Criteria:**

Pop Quizzes 20%

Discussion Section Attendance, Activities and Small Assignments 10%

Weekly Reading Responses 10%

Mid Term Exam 20%

Final Exam 20%

Final Essay Assignment 20%

## **Course Expectations:**

### **Positive Learning Environment:**

Everyone should respect the classroom as a place of learning. It is absolutely essential that all students show respect towards the instructor, teaching assistants and classmates at all times. I urge everyone to make concerted efforts to understand and appreciate that through having a wide variety of people in the course, participants will come from a diverse array of backgrounds and subsequently will bring with them significantly different experiences.

It is important to not only show basic respect, but to pay attention to other people's opinions, especially during the discussion of sensitive or controversial topics, even if you strongly disagree with their position. This is in order to ensure a positive learning experience for everyone, and to ensure that students have the ability to learn from each other during this course.

### **Laptop and Cell Phone policy:**

Under no circumstances are cell phones allowed during lectures or discussion sections, no exceptions. If students are using cell phones during class they will be asked to leave. Laptop computers are to be used for note taking only. Students who wish to use laptops will be required to sit in the front rows so as not to distract other students or those instructing. Anyone found to be surfing the internet, using social networking sites or playing games will lose the privilege of laptop use during class time and at the discretion of the instructor may have marks deducted from their final grade. Please respect your instructor, teaching assistants and your fellow students and help create a positive learning experience.

**Please be aware that this syllabus is subject to change. Therefore it is imperative that students attend lectures, discussions, and stay up to date with all course communication through the Blackboard system.**