

Introduction to Human Geography – GEOG 142  
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Xiaobo Su

Lecture: **14:00-15:20, M/W, 129 MCK**

My office: 175 Condon, Tel: 6-4568; E-mail: [xiaobo@uoregon.edu](mailto:xiaobo@uoregon.edu)

My office hours: 12:30-2:30 pm Thursdays or by appointment

## Teaching Assistants

Sanan Moradi ([smoradi@uoregon.edu](mailto:smoradi@uoregon.edu))

Stuart Steidle-Nix ([ssteidle@uoregon.edu](mailto:ssteidle@uoregon.edu))

Jingshu Xia ([jingshux@uoregon.edu](mailto:jingshux@uoregon.edu))

## Course Description

Have you ever looked around and wondered why some places are different than others? Why are some US cities growing rapidly while others are shrinking? Why do some countries rely on exporting crops while others manufacture high-tech gadgetry? How is it that the success of a soccer team in England can excite and unite sports fans in Pakistan? Why do Quebecers speak French while the majority of Canadians speak English? And why is there so much more publicly-owned land west of the Mississippi than east of it?

Human geography is the study people, places and connections between them. It takes as its subject the human element of processes that take place across the earth's surface, asking, "where, and why there?" In this course you will learn about how people make sense of their surroundings, how their individual and collective activity give meaning and character to different places, and how the growing level of interdependence between those places shape and reshape the cultural, political and economic nature of individual societies and global society as a whole.

In this course we will explore a number of human-geographic themes like globalization, identity, migration and adaptation, among others. We will touch on more specific research areas within human geography like cultural geography, urban geography, political geography and economic geography. Each of these areas asks similar questions about different processes at work in the world today and allow us an opportunity to better understand the bigger picture of where we've been, where we are and where we might be going.

This course satisfies the Social Science (<2) and International Cultures (IC) groups

## Textbook

*Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Erin H. Fouberg, Alexander B. Murphy & Harm J. de Blij. 2015. ISBN-10: 9781118793145

The textbook is available through the University of Oregon Bookstore, though I recommend that you check Amazon and compare prices before making your purchase. While these texts are not cheap, the e-book version of the text is available and is somewhat cheaper than the hard copy.

The ebook version is available in Duckstore:

<https://uoduckstore.redshelf.com/book/992044/human-geography-people-place-and-culture-992044-9781119153771-erin-h-fouberg-alexander-b-murphy-harm-j-de-blij>

Renting the text is also a viable option for keeping the cost of course materials low. This text is **mandatory**, and you will be expected to have your own copy by the end of the first week of instruction.

**Read the assigned chapters in your textbook before coming to class. The lecture is NOT a repeat of the textbook, but an elaboration of certain concepts.** Reading the textbook prior to the lecture will greatly assist you in understanding the concepts.

## Discussion Sections

Each week you will meet in smaller groups in order to discuss in more detail topics covered in lecture and the text. Discussion sections are an opportunity for you and your classmates to interact with one another while working through key concepts in a collaborative manner. This is a space for you to raise questions, discuss related concepts and connect the more academic-theoretical pieces we will cover to your observations in the real world. Discussion is meant to be fun, lighthearted and interactive environment in which you should feel comfortable agreeing with, challenging, or otherwise thinking more deeply about the material we have covered previously in the week.

Your TA will lead the class in setting up the topic for that day, but it is incumbent on you to actively participate in the discussion. Your level of active and thoughtful participation will be noted by your TA and is a component of your attendance and participation grade for the course. **Discussion section attendance is mandatory.** Your TA will be taking roll for each section and absences will significantly impact your attendance and participation grade. If for any reason extenuating circumstances prevent your ability to attend discussion, you must contact me and your TA **prior to the date of that discussion section** and we will work it out.

You are also expected to be polite and considerate with one another. Mean-spirited or disparaging comments towards groups or individuals is absolutely not acceptable. Likewise, provocation and hate speech will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the course and a referral to the Dean of Students. We can disagree and debate the issues while being respectful and inclusive. See <https://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3-administration-student-affairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code> for more information.

## Office Hours and E-mail Policy

Students are encouraged to attend instructor and/or TA office hours on a drop-in basis. In some circumstances it may be necessary to set up a meeting outside of the time set aside for drop-in office hours. Contact the instructor directly to make such arrangements and we can work something out.

The instructor and TAs do their best to respond to e-mails in a timely manner. That said, e-mails sent after 5pm on a weekday may not be responded to until the next day. Likewise, emails sent over the weekend may take up to 24 hours to receive a response.

## Late Work Policy

Late work submissions will be accepted for up to 24 hours after the posted deadline at a 10% points deduction. Work cannot be submitted beyond that point and you will automatically receive a zero for that assignment. We recognize that life happens and sometimes it is not easy or possible to meet a deadline. You must get in touch with me if you require an extension – **do not ask for an extension after a deadline has passed, I will not grant it.**

### Academic Integrity

You are required to do all of your own work. Cheating on tests is conceptually straightforward and is a violation of the Academic Guidelines. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is strictly enforced. All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students. Ignorance of the definition of plagiarism is not an adequate defense. For more information on what constitutes plagiarism, please see <https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism>.

### Course Components

Your grade will be based on participation and attendance, three short response writing exercises, a midterm exam, a final exam and a final research paper. The grade breakdown for these assignments is as follows:

<b>Participation and Attendance</b>	<b>20%</b>
Lecture	6%
Discussion	6%
In-class quiz	2%x4=8%
<b>Responses via Canvas</b>	<b>2%x4=10%</b>
<b>Exam</b>	<b>50%</b>
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
<b>Final research essay</b>	<b>20%</b>

Grades are structured in a way that no one component has a disproportionate impact on your final grade relative to the others. In other words, an unsatisfactory grade on one assignment will not make it impossible to earn a good grade in the class overall.

### Participation and Attendance

Your grade for participation and attendance will be based mostly off your attendance and participation in discussion sections. TAs will be taking role and noting your active engagement with the discussion topic for that week. There will also be four in-class quizzes that relate to the supplemental readings assigned for that day that will be reflected in your participation and attendance grade.

There will be four in-class quizzes. They are randomly assigned. Each quiz includes two questions: one on lecture contents and one on reading material. If you miss one quiz without any advanced notice, you will lose the quiz points and get a penalty of 2 points out of your class attendance and participation. If you inform me of your absence in advance, you can avoid extra penalty. Quiz makeup is allowed under two circumstances: (1) inform me of absence in

advance; and (2) absence as a result of strong or urgent reasons (critical medical condition, professional sports activities, and so on).

### **Short Response Exercises**

These are opportunities for you to comment on concepts from a specific reading assignment. You will be given a set of questions to guide your response and your grade will be based on your ability to stay on topic, address each part of the questions and demonstration of your understanding of the material. The exercises will be approximately 300 words (one page double-spaced, 12 point font in Times New Roman with regular margins) and you will be required to write in full, grammatically correct sentences with proper spelling. **These will be due by 12:59pm on the second day that they are listed in the course schedule in Canvas.**

### **Final Research Paper**

Partway through the course we will be focusing on geographic questions and how researchers go about answering them. You will be required to select a topic of your choice and consider it from the perspective of human geography. As we get later into the course you will be asked to discuss your research question for feedback as well as provide feedback for others' research questions. The final product will be a paper of approximately 1200 words (4-5 pages) that cites at least four peer-reviewed, scholarly sources such as books or journal articles. We will go over what constitutes an acceptable source when we begin discussing the project after the midterm exam.

### **Midterm and Final**

The midterm and final will be similar to each other in format. There will be a series of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions based on material from the book, lectures and discussion sections. The midterm will be administered during week 5 and will address material covered up to that point. **The final will be non-cumulative**, meaning that it will only address material covered after the midterm.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings Due	Assignments Due
Week 1-2	Course Introduction	Syllabus	----
Week 2-1	Core Concepts in Human Geography	Text: Chapter 1	----
Week 2-2	Population and Health	Text: Chapter 2	
Week 3-1	Migration	Text: Chapter 3;	Response 1
Week 3-2	Culture	Text: Chapter 4	----
Week 4-1	Identity: Race and Ethnicity	Text: Chapter 5	----
Week 4-2	Identity: Gender and Sexuality	Text: Chapter 5	
Week 5-1	Language	Text: Chapter 6	Response 2
Week 5-2	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	NONE	----
Week 6-1	Religion	Text: Chapter 7	----
Week 6-2	Political Geography	Text: Chapter 8	----
Week 7-1	Urban Geography	Text: Chapter 9;	Response 3
Week 7-2	Development	Text: Chapter 10	----
Week 8-1	Agriculture and the Rural Landscape	Text: Chapter 11	----
Week 8-2	Industry and Services	Text: Chapter 12	----
Week 9-1	The humanized Environment	Text: Chapter 13	Response 4
Week 9-2	<b>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving</b>	N/A	N/A
Week 10-1	Globalization	Text: Chapter 14	
Week 10-2	The Geography of Networks	Text: Chapter 14	Research Paper