College of Staten Island - The City University of New York  
Department of Political Science & Global Affairs

Course Syllabus

Cultural Geography  
GEG 225 - 4 credits  
10305

Summer Session - July 3-27, 2017  
Monday-Thursday, 9-12:30

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Geography is the study of the Earth as home to human beings. Yi-fu Tuan

Geography is not an immutable thing. It is made, it is remade every day; at each instant, it is modified by men's actions. Elisee Reclus

Course description: This course will provide a global context to explore various cultural issues while highlighting the role of human impact on places, landscapes, and the planet. Students will develop an understanding of the basic concepts of cultural geography, including those related to population, migration, religion, ethnicity, urbanization, agriculture, nature and environment, resource use, and territoriality. (cont. wld.) Prerequisites: ENG 151, COR 100

OFFICE HOURS: 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

COURSE READINGS: All course readings are posted on Blackboard as PDF files.
- Selected chapters from Introduction to Contemporary Geography, by James Rubenstein et al, Pearson, 2016.

COURSE GRADE BREAKDOWN:
- Homework: 20%
- Map quizzes: 15%
- Geography in the News project: 10%
- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2 (cumulative): 30%

I post all grades to Blackboard throughout the semester. Grading scale for the final grade:
A 93% to 100%; A- 90 to 92; B+ 87 to 89; B 83 to 86; B- 80 to 82; C+ 77 to 79; C 70 to 76; D 62 to 69

HOMEWORK: Multiple choice and true/false homework questions from selected chapters of Introduction to Contemporary Geography are posted to Blackboard > Course Documents > Homework. Homework due dates are list in the course schedule.

READING ASSIGNMENTS: There is one required reading assignment (“Fundamentalist Colonialism”) for the class. Additionally, there are a handful of optional extra credit reading assignments. Reading assignments (along with related readings) are located at Blackboard > Course Documents > Readings. The reading assignment due dates are listed in the course schedule.
Each reading assignment consists of four parts:
1. A well-written one-sentence **summary**, *in your own words*, of the reading.
2. A well-written one-sentence **response** to the reading. This is your opportunity to engage with the author and particular aspect of the reading. Please avoid using such language as: “I was shocked to read about such a serious issue” “My heart broke when I…” “This situation should not be allowed” “I was completely and utterly appalled” “I felt sad that” “I found it interesting that” “always” “I did not know that” “I found it fascinating” …
3. **Brief** answers to ten questions about the readings.
4. At least one page of notes, stapled underneath the assignment.

**MAP QUIZZES:** Dates for seven regional map quizzes are listed on the syllabus. Lists of map items you need to know for each regional map quiz, along with helpful outline maps, are located on Blackboard > Course Documents > Map Quiz Material. Failure to earn at least a 70% on each map quiz will result in the student not earning any map quiz percentage points toward the final grade. The best way to memorize countries is by downloading an app like TapQuiz Maps World Edition (iphone) or Countries Location Map Quiz (Android). For each map quiz, you will need to locate around ten physical features, countries, and cities on a blank regional map. You can find listed locations online at websites that include: Google Maps; Google Earth; Wikipedia; CIA Factbook; http://worldatlas.com/; and http://go.hrwc.com/atlas/norm_hmt/world.htm. Study aids include Geography Games http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm and Traveler IQ Challenge http://www.travelpod.com/traveler-iq

**GEOGRAPHY IN THE NEWS ASSIGNMENT:** You will find fifteen *New York Times* articles that relate to one of the “18 Geographical Approaches to Understanding the World” listed in the syllabus. On a regular basis, visit the *New York Times* website – www.nytimes.com – and examine the World, U.S., Economics and N.Y./Region sections to find locate articles. It is essential to take into account the following in order to do well on this assignment!
1. The publication date of the articles must be between July 3 and 28, 2017.
2. No more than one article per day of publication is allowed.
3. You must base your assignment on the attached “Geography in the News” model.
4. AP/Reuters/Bloomberg News articles, Op-Eds, opinion articles, editorials, and blog posts are not allowed.
5. You may apply the same geographical approach to no more than four of your fifteen articles.
6. You must include the attached cover sheet/check list to your assignment upon submission.

As CSI students you have free access to a New York Times Academic Pass, which means that you can read the New York Times website from your smartphone or computer as much as you like. Normally, this would cost $420 per year!

Here are the instructions to register for your free account:
Go to nytimes.com/passes.
1. Click on "Register" to create a NYTimes.com account **using your school email address**.
2. At the bottom of the Welcome page, click "Continue."
3. If your email address is from an eligible school, you will then see "Check your email."
   Look for our message, Confirm Your Email Address, which should arrive within 15 minutes.
4. Click on the link in our confirmation email. This will simultaneously verify your eligibility and grant your Academic Pass, which will provide access to NYTimes.com for your campus designated period.
5. If you don’t get our confirmation email, check your spam filter. If you still do not receive it, send an email from your school email account to.edu@nytimes.com

**EXAMS:** The midterm and final exams will consist of multiple choice questions, true-false questions, short answer questions, definitions, and a short essay question. Exam content will be based on: lectures, homework questions, and reading assignment answers. Except for the essay question, any question that appears on the midterm exam may reappear on the final.

**LEARNING GOALS AND ASSESSMENT:**

**Goal 1:** Development of a basic understanding of core geographic concepts and principles. Based on lectures, class discussion, and readings, students should be able to understand and illustrate a majority of the core concepts and principles of the National Council for Geographic Education’s eighteen “National Geography Standards” that fall
under the categories of The World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical and Human Systems, Environment and Society, and Uses of Geography. Assessment: Students will be required to show in their reading response papers, discussion during class, and answers to exams that they have satisfactorily developed a basic understanding of core geographic concepts and principles.

Goal 2: Further development of basic map literacy. Students should be able to locate on a regional map the area’s countries, capitals and major cities, and major physical geographic features. They should also understand the basics of maps and map reading, including major map projections, latitude and longitude, scale, direction, and size and shape of land masses. Assessment: Students will take six map quizzes on various world regions throughout the semester. They will also be tested on the above concepts on exams through multiple choice and short answer questions, as well as by drawing maps from memory.

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:
By taking this course, each student agrees to and understands the following:
- Use of smart phones is prohibited during the lecture.
- Students should refrain from talking with one another during lecture.
- Students are responsible for regularly checking: 1) the syllabus for important dates related to assignments and exams, and 2) their CSI e-mail accounts for class-related updates.
- The professor does not accept late reading assignments.
- The professor does not accept assignments by e-mail.
- As a rule, there are no make-up quizzes or exams. Please give me advance notice if circumstances prevent you from attending a class during which a quiz or exam will be given.
- The professor does not post lectures to Blackboard. Please exchange contact information with a couple of your classmates in case you or they should be absent and need notes.
- Everyone in the class should approach one another with courtesy and respect.
- Cheating or plagiarism may result in a failing grade.

Statement on Academic Integrity*

In all of your assignments you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, websites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a website and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses. If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor. Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors.

July 3: Course Introduction

July 5: Thinking Geographically
Map quiz 1: U.S. and Canada
Due: Homework for Ch. 1 - Thinking Geographically

July 6: Population
Due: Homework for Ch. 5 - Population
Extra Credit Due: Map Exercise focused on Staten Island neighborhood
Extra Credit Due: National Geographic “7 Billion” reading assignment

July 10: Trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 108 Orchard Street, Manhattan
Due: Please read and take notes on the “Home” chapter of Luc Sante’s Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York, posted to Blackboard > Course Documents > Readings

July 11: Migration
Map quiz 2: Europe
Due: Homework for Ch. 6 - Migration
Extra Credit Due: Migration & travel map
Watch Vice’s Mexico’s Other Border before class: http://www.vice.com/video/mexicos-other-border

July 12: Political Geography
Due: Homework for Ch. 8 - Political Geography
Map quiz 3: Russia, Central Asia, and Transcaucasia

July 13: Political Geography
“Fundamentalist Colonialism” Reading Assignment Due

July 17: Food and Agriculture
Map quiz 4: Latin America
Due: Homework for Ch. 10 - Food and Agriculture
Due: Extra Credit - New York Times and Rolling Stone articles on E.Coli/Boss Hog

July 18: Exam 1

July 19 Industry
Map quiz 5: Middle East and North Africa
Due: Homework for Ch. 11 - Industry
  Due: Extra Credit Reading Assignment: The Great Leap

July 20: Urban Patterns
Map quiz 6: Sub-Saharan Africa
Due: Homework for Ch. 13 - Urban Patterns

July 24: Field Trip to Lower Manhattan

July 25: Development and Resources
Due: Homework for Ch.9 & 14 - Development, Resources
Due: Extra Credit Reading Assignment: The Sixth Extinction

July 26: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change
Due: Homework for Ch. 2 - Weather, Climate, and Climate Changes
Map quiz 7: Asia
Due: Geography in the News Assignment

July 27: Exam 2