



Spring2017 – Human Geography

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Course Description and Goals

Two questions for you to consider when deciding which subject to study: what and why? To apply this logic here: what is human geography? Why do we study human geography?

First, human geography, as one of the two main branches in geography, specifically deals with the spatial organization of human activity and its interaction with the environment. The environment consists of both physical environment and social construct.

If human activity is a subject of interest, why not study sociology, political science, economics, criminology? What is so unique about geography? Different from other social science disciplines, human geography incorporates spatial thinking into studying all social phenomenon. This spatial component is ubiquitous across all geography subfields. This is also what separate geography from other disciplines. Geography therefore can make unique contribution to improving our understanding of the relationship between human society and the environment. Human geography specially concerns the interaction between place and people.

Therefore, the primary goal of this course is to introduce students to: key concepts in human geography, main approaches/methods utilized by human geographers, and main subfields within human geography.

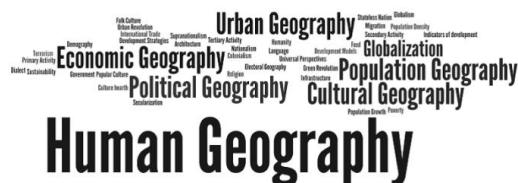


Fig 1. Subfields of Human Geography

Required Text

Knox and Marston "Human Geography - Places & Regions in Global Context" 7th edition.

Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes

By the end of this course, your understanding of the relationship between human society and environment will be updated. You will be able to identify social, cultural, political, and economic phenomena in a spatial context. Moreover, you will be able to better appreciate how place provides the community an identity and a platform on which we survive, evolve, and thrive. You will be able to detect the ubiquitous influence of globalization. You will be more conscious of the impact of human activity on environment.

Grade System

This is a "learning-centered" class. I expect you to actively participate in class discussions and other activities.

- (1) Student report: you will be assigned to two group projects, each of which is to explore one region/place by focusing on one subfield of human geography. The report will consist two parts: oral and written. The oral presentation should be accompanied by slides. That said, please do not directly read from them. Instead of putting all the text in your written report on the slides, I suggest you select photos, maps, and other visual forms to assist your oral presentation.
- (2) Reflection quiz: there will be one quiz each week to test your understanding of the basics of the material covered in that week. Quizzes will be posted on Blackboard.
- (3) Essay: I want you to write one essay entitled "The place I am fascinated with." I want you to explore this place. Where is this place in a geographic sense? What is the spatial context? What is the historic context? Most importantly, what makes this place fascinating?
- (4) Final exam accounts for 100 points. Final will be posted on Blackboard during the final week.
- (5) Attendance will account for 30 points.
- (6) Participation in class activities will be worth 5 points as extra credits.

Reflection Quiz: 16	90 pt.
Student Report: Presentation	10 pt. * 2
Report	30 pt. *2
Essay: three-page	90 pt.
Final Exam	100 pt.
Attendance	30 pt.
Participation (extra)	5 pt.
Total:	395 pt.

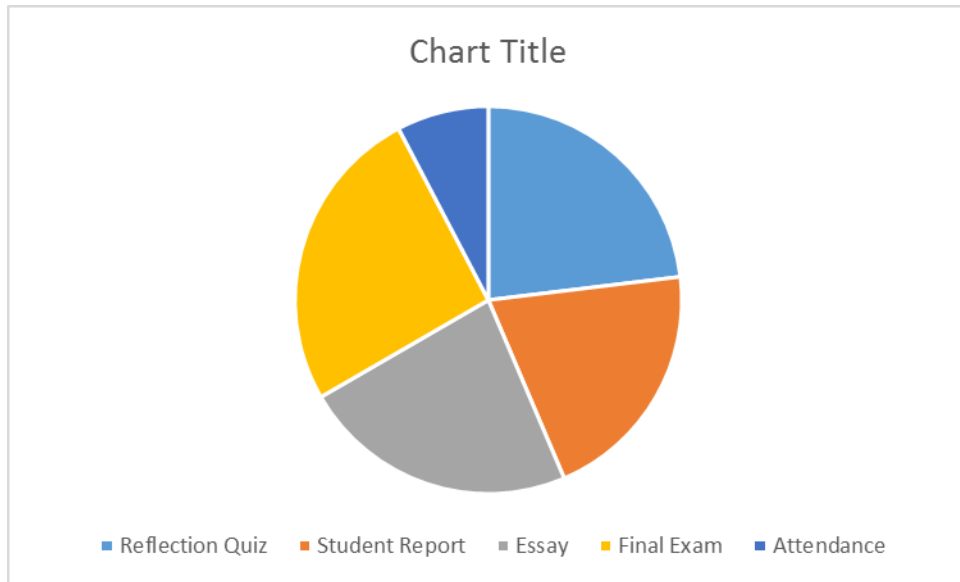


Figure2. Distribution of the Grade

Note: students are required to take all the quizzes and complete all assignments. Failure to complete all of the required assignments may result in a grade of F for the course. Points will be deducted for any work that is turned in late. 25% of the entire points for that particular assignment will be taken off if one day late. 50% of the entire points will be deducted if two-seven days late. You will get 0 for that assignment if you submit your work over a week late. A make-up essay and exam will be considered only upon receipt of a documentation for an absence.

Grade Scale

90-100%=A

80-<90%=B

70-<80%=C

60-<70%=D

<60%=F

Letter grades are based on the following guidelines

A: Demonstration of exceptional understanding of the subject and critical thinking.

B: Above average work that exceeds minimum course requirements.

C: Satisfactory completion of course requirements

D: Failure to meet course requirements satisfactorily

F: Reserved for those who show no commitments to this course

Email:

I WILL NOT respond to messages sent by any email service other than AUM Outlook Campus E-mail. AND ALWAYS PUT the course number on the subject line.

Disability Accommodations

Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours to discuss your accommodations. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not registered for accommodation services through the Center for Disability Services (CDS), but need accommodations, make an appointment with CDS, 147 Taylor Center, or call 334-244-3631 or e-mail CDS at [cgs@aum.edu](mailto:cds@aum.edu).

Free Academic Support

All students have the opportunity to receive free academic support at AUM. Visit the Learning Center (LC) in the WASC on second floor Library or the Instructional Support Lab (ISL) in 203 Goodwyn Hall. The LC/ISL offers writing consulting as well as tutoring in almost every class through graduate school. The LC may be reached at 244-3470 (call or walk-in for a session), and the ISL may be reached at 244-3265. ISL tutoring is first-come-first served. Current operating hours can be found at www.aum.edu/learningcenter.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a very SERIOUS and UNFORGIVABLE offence under AUM policy. It includes but is not limited to cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism generally refers to unauthorized collaboration on research papers and use of unreferenced Internet materials. For every paper you submit, I will use a system called Turn it In to check if there is any evidence of plagiarism. Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic "F." A student may be denied an academic degree if found guilty of academic dishonesty. This is noted permanently on the student's educational record. Please refer to the AUM Student Handbook on Academic Dishonesty or feel free to contact me for further clarification.

Conduct in the Classroom

In the classroom, I expect you to show respects for me and your classmates. All students need a comfortable, safe, and distraction-free learning environment. If you engage in any behavior that can be disruptive or disrespectful, I will ask you to discontinue immediately or leave the classroom. I have NO tolerance for cell phone use in the classroom. If you have to use your iPads or laptop to take notes, you are not permitted to engage in activities that are irrelevant to the class.

Schedule

Week 1

January 09 Introduction to the course – Syllabus

January 11 Demo on Library Database Use Demo

Week 2

January 16 No class, Student Holiday

January 18 Introduction to Geography Part I-Concepts, Maps and Methods

Week 3

January 23 Introduction to Human Geography: Changing Global Context

January 25 Geographies of Population and Migration I

Week 4

January 30 Population and Migration II: Case Study

February 1 People and Nature I

Week 5

February 06 People and Nature II: Global Environmental Change

February 08 People and Nature III: Case Study

Week 6

February 13 Cultural Geographies I

February 15 Cultural Geographies II: Case Study

Week 7

February 20 Language, Communication, and Belief I

February 22	Language, Communication, and Belief II: Case Study
Week 8	
February 27	Interpreting Places and Landscapes I: Guest Speaker Dr. Pyszka
March 01	Interpreting Places and Landscapes II: Case Study
March 03	Mid-semester Grades Due
Week 9	
March 06	Geographies of Economic Development I
March 08	Demo on Library Database Use II
Week 10	
March 13 - 17	Spring Break
Week 11	
March 20	Geographies of Economic Development II: Case Study
March 22	Last Day to Drop/Resign Classes
	Geographies of Food and Agriculture I
Week 12	
March 27	Geographies of Food and Agriculture II: Case Study
March 29	Political Geographies I
Week 13	
April 3	Political Geographies II: Case Study
April 5	Urbanization and the Global Urban System I
Week 14	
April 10	Urbanization and the Global Urban System II: Case Study

April 12 City Spaces I: Guest Speaker, Dr. Winemiller

April 14 The place I am fascinated with, Due

Week 15

April 17 City Spaces II: Case Study

April 19 Review

Week 16

April 24 Student Presentations

April 25 Classes End

April 27 Final Examinations

Week 17

May 1-3 Final Examinations

May 4 Grades for Graduating Students Due by 12 p.m.

May 6 Spring Graduation

May 8 All Other Grades Due by 12 p.m.