

Geography 111-004: Introduction to Geography
Course Syllabus - Spring 2009

Instructor:	Dr. Gillian Acheson	Time:	TR 2:00-3:15
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Office Hours:	M 10:30-12:30; R 10-10:45; or, by appointment		

Course Website: <http://www.siue.edu/~gacheso>

Course Description & Objectives: In this course, physical & human geographic principles are examined in order to understand spatial distributions of phenomena, & to understand their interrelationships. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to: (1) think critically about geographic concepts and models, (2) apply those models & concepts to everyday situations, & (3) describe the nature of geography as an academic discipline.

Text: Bergman, E. F. and W. H. Renwick. 2008. *Introduction to Geography: People, Places, & Environment*, 4th edition.

Course Mechanics: Your final grade is comprised of the following:

Three exams (non-cumulative)	60%
Group project	
Project	20%
Evaluation	5%
Reflection	5%
Exercises	10%

Exams are a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions based on lecture material and on assigned readings. Please note: you must bring a scantron (standard, 8.5 x 11) and a #2 pencil to class on exam days. For students who have difficulty with multiple choice tests, an alternative, essay-style test is available. Please see me if you would like to discuss this option.

Make-up exams are granted only if you (1) contact me within 24 hours of missing the exam, and (2) have a valid, University-sanctioned excuse. Exams taken at any time other than the scheduled date are essay format.

Group Project: In groups of four, students will submit a group project. In addition to the final project, you will evaluate another group's project and write a short reflection (1-2 typed pages) on the group project. The evaluation and reflection are completed individually. Details, as well as a grading rubric, will be provided at a later date.

Exercises: Quizzes, in-class exercises, and homework assignments will be used to monitor (1) your understanding of course material, and (2) attendance from time to time. Exercises cannot be turned in late or made up. Please note that exercises comprise a significant portion of your final grade (10 percent), and consequently can affect the final outcome of your grade.

Final grades: Final grades are as follows: A = 90.0% and above; B = 80-89.9%; C = 70-79.9%; D = 60-69.9%, and, F = 59.9% and below.

Discussing your grades: Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, I cannot discuss your grade with anyone other than you. Consequently, your grades will be available on the course website via a 4-digit personal identification number that you select if, and only if, you give written consent to do so. Grades will not be given via e-mail or the phone, but you are always welcome to stop by my office to discuss any of your work in this course.

Schedule and Readings: The schedule listed below is flexible and can be modified over the course of the semester. Readings are listed below. Keep up with the readings: they will enhance your understanding of lecture material, especially if you study the maps.

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
1/13	Introduction to Geography (Chapter 1)	3/10	Spring Break
1/15		3/12	
1/20	Weather & Climate (Chapter 2)	3/17	Food Supply (Chapter 8)
1/22		3/19	
1/27	Landforms (Chapter 3)	3/24	Tying it all together...
1/29		3/26	Exam 2
2/3	Biosphere (Chapter 4)	3/31	Environment (Chapter 9)
2/5		4/2	
2/10	Tying it all together...	4/7	Cities & Urbanization (Chapter 10)
2/12	Exam 1	4/9	
2/17	Population & Migration (Chapter 5)	4/14	Political Geography (Chapter 11)
2/19		4/16	
2/24	Cultural Geography (Chapter 6)	4/21	Development (Chapter 12)
2/26		4/23	
3/3	Language & Religion (Chapter 7)	4/28	Globalization (Chapter 13)
3/5		4/30	Tying it all together...
		5/5	Exam 3 (During scheduled final exam period: 12-1:40 pm)

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected, and will be taken from time to time. *You are responsible for all course material regardless of attendance.*

First Day Attendance Policy: Students who are not in attendance on the first day of class will be dropped from the class at the instructor's discretion.

Class notes: Lectures are done in PowerPoint and the slides will be available on the course website. These notes are an outline of what is discussed in class. If you want to be successful in this course, then you must take notes in class in addition to these PowerPoint slides.

Class Courtesy: It is important for each person enrolled in this course to be treated with, and to treat others, with respect and courtesy. To that end:

- (1) come to class on time and stay the entire time;
- (2) turn your cell phone off; no ringing and no text messaging;
- (3) come to class prepared to listen & participate (i.e. do not do other work while in class);
- (4) listen to each other's comments and opinions with an open mind; and,
- (5) avoid using offensive speech. Inflammatory comments which provoke or insult anyone in this class will not be tolerated.

Scholastic Honesty: Each student enrolled is expected to earn her/his grade honestly, without cheating. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses; they will not be tolerated. Please note: it is unacceptable to turn in the same work for credit in more than one class (e.g. turning in the same paper for credit in two different classes). Cheating of any kind will be dealt with according to the *Student Code of Conduct*.

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Disability Support Services at 650-3726.