

**Geography 205-001: Human Geography  
Course Syllabus - Fall 2011**

**Instructor:** Dr. Gillian Acheson  
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**Office Hours:** W 10-12; or, by appointment

**Time:** MW 3:00-4:15  
**Classroom:** AH 1316  
**Office:** AH 1401

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

**Course Description & Objectives:** This course is a survey of the major sub-disciplines within human geography. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to (1) describe the nature and characteristics of geography, specifically human geography; (2) apply geographic models and concepts to everyday situations; and, (3) identify, describe, and explain spatial patterns and relationships particular to human geography.

**Text:** Rubenstein, J. M. 2011. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* (10<sup>th</sup> edition).

**Course Mechanics:** Your final grade is a weighted average. It will be comprised of the following components:

Three exams (non-cumulative)	60%
Journal	
Individual Entries	22.5%
Comprehensive Entry	7.5%
Exercises	10%

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, definition, & short answer questions based primarily on lecture material, but also on assigned readings. A review sheet and practice questions will be posted to the course website about one week prior to the exam date. 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 will only be granted if you (1) contact me within 24 hours of missing the exam, and (2) have a valid, University-sanctioned excuse. Exams taken on any day other than the scheduled exam day will be essay format.

Journal: It is important for you to have the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of course content. To that end, you will read a series of newspaper articles over the course of the semester, and consider how these articles relate to course content. Journal articles are available via Blackboard (<http://bb.siue.edu>).

- Six individual journal entries comprise 22.5% of your final grade;
- A comprehensive entry, which requires you to reflect on all of the journal entries that you completed, comprises 7.5% of your final grade.

Directions, including due dates, and a grading rubric, are available on the course website. There is choice in this assignment in terms of which individual journals you complete. Please make note of the due dates as late assignments will not be accepted.

**Exercises:** Quizzes and small group work will be used to monitor (1) your understanding of course material, and (2) attendance from time to time. Exercises cannot be made up. Please note that exercises are worth 10 percent of your final grade - if your final grade is borderline, exercises can affect the final outcome. *You are responsible for all course material regardless of attendance.*

**Syllabus & journal quiz** (Due: 9/1/11 by 5 pm): An optional syllabus & journal quiz is available in Blackboard. This quiz will help you become familiar with the information in these two documents (and that familiarity will help you be successful in this course). If you submit the syllabus quiz on time *and* earn a perfect score, it will replace one of your six individual journal entries with a score of 100 (in other words, you will complete 5 journal entries, and a 100 will be entered for your sixth individual journal entry). This quiz is optional, but I strongly encourage you to take the time to complete it. Please note that you will complete and submit the quiz in Blackboard.

**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.

**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 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. *Printing out the notes alone is not enough.*

**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 and put it away (it should not be on your desk, in your lap) - 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*. (See [www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml](http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml) for more information.)

**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.

**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 graded assignments will be returned to you and 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. Textbook readings are listed below; see the Journal Assignment handout for journal readings.

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
8/22	Introduction (Chapter 1)	10/17	Ethnicity (Chapter 7)
8/24		10/19	
8/29		10/24	Political Geography (Chapter 8)
8/31	Population (Chapter 2)	10/26	
9/5	<i>Labor Day - No Class!</i>	10/31	Exam 2
9/7	Population (Chapter 2)	11/2	Development (Chapter 9)
9/12	Migration (Chapter 3)	11/7	
9/14		11/9	Agriculture (Chapter 10)
9/19	Culture (Chapter 4)	11/14	Industry (Chapter 11)
9/21		11/16	Services (Chapter 12)
9/26	Tying it all together...	11/21	<i>Thanksgiving Break - No Class!</i>
9/28	Exam 1	11/23	
10/3	Language (Chapter 5)	11/28	Urban Geography (Chapter 13)
10/5		11/30	Resources (Chapter 14)
10/10	Religion (Chapter 6)	12/5	
10/12		12/7	<i>Tying it all together...</i>
12/14	Exam 3 (held during the final exam period from 2:00-3:40 pm)		