

SYLLABUS
Spring 2010
Geography and the World
Political Science Department
Political Science 284
W 6:00 – 8:40pm.

Instructor: Professor Patricia Ojea
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Prerequisites and University Fulfillments

Geography and the World is an upper level course that fulfills the geography requirement for teacher preparation majors, international politics, homeland security and urban studies.

Goals and Objectives:

1. **Geography in general** is a field of inquiry that traces the evolution of geographical constructs and theoretical contributions made by notable geographers
2. **Geography and the World**, on the other hand, stresses key concepts underlying the geographical perspective: location, space, place, scale, pattern, regionalization, and globalization.

In addition:

- * maps and spatial data
- * associations among phenomena in specified places
- * different scales, and the relationships among patterns and processes
- * regions and regionalization patterns
- * the changing interconnections among places
- * geographic technologies, such as GIS and GPS, and
- * geographical sources, ideas and data taken from field studies and census tables

Course Materials

The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, by James M. Rubenstein, Eighth Edition, Prentice Hall, or earlier editions. Students who purchase new copies of the Rubenstein text have full access to the book's online study guide that contains: quizzes, web destination, and other useful features. Purchasing this book is recommended for academic breath but is not required for the course.

Fundamentals of Place-Name Geography, Geography 23rd Edition –Dushkin Publisher Annual Editions --Required

[Student Atlas: World Geography](#) McGraw-Hill, 1997 --Required

SCHEDULE		
CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE	TOTAL
3 Chapter Examinations	20	60%
1 Take-Home Final	15	15%
3 on-Line Exercises	15	15%
*Completeness /Accuracy (85%)		
*Overall Presentation (15%)		
 Class Participation	 10	 10%
		100%

Exams: Exams combine: multiple-choice, true/false questions, definitions, short answer questions, and one essay.

Participation: class response and attendance.

Basic Expectations:

Rutgers University is a community in which students, faculty, and staff pursue intellectual growth. To facilitate this pursuit of knowledge Rutgers has established a Rights, Responsibilities, and Code of Conduct guideline for its members. These guidelines can be found in the University Catalogue. Students should familiarize themselves with all of these guidelines. I would like to highlight some of these and other guidelines that I think are especially pertinent to this class:

1. No Cheating or Plagiarism. The university takes these offenses seriously and so do I. If you are found cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper, you will receive an automatic F on that assignment. Plagiarism may be defined as directly copying from another source without giving a citation, direct copying from a source without quotation marks, paraphrasing the argument of another without citation, or presenting purchased research as your own. If you have any question about academic dishonesty or misconduct, please ask the Instructor for guidance.

2. Be On Time. Coming to class late and leaving early is DISRESPECTFUL, DISRUPTIVE and RUDE to the instructor and students. If you must arrive late and leave early, please notify me in advance or explain by E-mail.

3. Proper Notification. Students are entitled to excused absences for major religious holidays, however, because of past confusion, no make-up exams are granted—unless the following apply: you must notify me before the due date, and provide appropriate verification for why you cannot be present (e.g. doctor's excuse). In emergency situations, students should obtain proper documentation (e.g. accident report) and notify me by e-mail as soon as possible, after the emergency.

5. Open Dialogue. During the semester, the unexpected sometimes occurs--(girlfriend or boyfriend breaks up with you, crazy roommates, existential angst, etc.).I understand difficulties and am willing to help you overcome them. I can only do so, however, if you inform me immediately. If you wait until the end of the semester, there is nothing I can do for you. If you come to me before the first exam and tell me what is going on, I can try to help you.

DATE / MATERIAL COVERED /ASSIGNMENTS/REFERENCES

Jan 20 Course/Syllabus Overview

Film: **Tales from the Map Room**

Chapter 1

Basic Concepts

SAKAI—Read the following **UNIT I** in your **GEOGRAPHY** text and complete a TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE FORM (TYK) for each article marked TYK. The form is available for downloading from the Sakai ASSIGNMENT button on the left side.

ASSIGNMENT—Due 1/27. All multiple page assignments must be stapled and hand delivered.

The Big Questions in Geography (TYK)

The Four Traditions of Geography (TYK)

Rediscovering the Importance of Geography (TYK)

The Changing Landscape of Fear (TYK)

***GPS DEMONSTRATION*.**

REFERENCES:

Association of American Geographers:

"<http://www.aag.org>

"<http://earth.google.com>"

"<http://maps.google.com>

Jan 27 **Chapters 1/2**

Chapter 1

Basic Concepts Continued- cultural land use and environmental impact

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.zillow.com>"

ASSIGNMENT—Due 2/3. Multiple page assignments must be stapled together and hand delivered after class.

UNIT 4 ARTICLES 19, 21, 23, 25 & 27. TYK for each article.

Chapter 2

Population

A. Geographical analysis of population

1. Density, distribution, and scale
2. Consequences of various densities and distributions
3. Patterns of composition: age, sex, race, and ethnicity
4. Population and natural hazards: past, present, and future

B. Population growth and decline over time and space

1. Historical trends and projections for the future
2. Theories of population growth, including the Demographic Model
3. Patterns of fertility, mortality, and health
4. Regional variations of demographic transitions
5. Effects of population policies

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbpyr.html>"

(Interactive population pyramid)

"<http://www.prb.org>"

(Demographic and economic data on the US population)

Feb 3 Chapters 2/3

Chapter 2 – **Population** continued

Chapter 3

Migration

A. Population movement

1. Push and pull factors
2. Major voluntary and involuntary migrations at different scales
3. Migration selectivity

B. Intervening opportunities and distance decay

1. Contemporary Immigration Issues

Sakai – READ UNIT 2 –ARTICLES 10, 11, 12 (TYK)

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>"

(Map and text-based information about refugees, photos, news, etc.)

"<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>"

(Official news and views on immigration and refugee issues)

FILM: Part I – **THE REAL HILLBILLY STORY**

Feb 10 – NO CLASS RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT TBA
UNIT 5, ARTICLES 29, 31, 33 ALL TYK Due 2/17.

Feb 17 **Chapter 4**
Folk and Popular Culture

FILM: Part II – **THE REAL HILLBILLY STORY**

Lecture:

Material Cultural/Impact on land use
Distribution of Music—land use relevance

A. Concepts of culture

1. Traits
2. Diffusion
3. Acculturation
4. Cultural regions

B. Cultural differences

1. Language
2. Religion
3. Ethnicity
4. Gender
5. Popular and folk culture

C. Environmental impact of cultural attitudes and practices

D. Cultural landscapes and cultural identity

1. Values and preferences
2. Symbolic landscapes and sense of place

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.si.edu/RESOURCE/FAQ/nmai/start.htm>

(Native American history and culture

"<http://www.kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/19thcentury.html>"

(Informative details of American popular culture from the last 200 years)

Study Guide distributed for examination #1

Feb 24 Examination 1 Chapters 1-4

Mar 3 **Chapters 5/6 Language/Religion**

Chapter 5- **Language**

Origins, Distribution, Migration Patterns—
Creole, dialect/accents

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.aldertons.com/>"

(Cockney slang dictionary)

"<http://www.us-english.org/>"

"http://www.ethnologue.com/"
(source for understanding world languages)

Chapter 6 – **Religion**

Land use Patterns/Universalizing and Ethnic religious differences.
Architectural Styles of Various Religions

REFERENCES:

"http://www.adherents.com/"
(detailed statistics on religious adherence and religions
by geographic location)
"http://www.mapsoswar.com/ind/history-of-religiou.html"
(geography of religious influence in the Old World from
3,000 BC to present day)

Mar 10 **Chapters 7 /8 Ethnicity/Political Geography**

Chapter 7

Ethnicity

Migration Patterns of Local and Global Ethnic Groups

REFERENCES

<http://www.nps.gov/manz/>
(National Park Service – Japanese Internment)
"http://www.hrw.org/"
(human rights watch on ethnic conflicts)
"http://www.unmis.org/English/en-main.htm"
(homepage of the United Nations Mission in Sudan)

Chapter 8

Political Geography

Geo-Political Concepts, International hot spots.
Nation-States, physical, cultural and geometric boundaries

A. Territorial dimensions of politics

1. The concept of territoriality
2. The nature and meaning of boundaries
3. Influences of boundaries on identity, interaction, and exchange

B. Evolution of the contemporary political pattern

1. The nation-state concept
2. Colonialism and imperialism
3. Federal and unitary states

C. Challenges to inherited political-territorial arrangements

1. Changing nature of sovereignty
2. Fragmentation, unification, alliance
3. Politics of ethnicity, economy, and environment
4. Electoral geography, including gerrymandering

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.undp.org/>"

(human development report)

"<http://www.transparency.org/>"

(reporting of corruption in government)

MARCH 17 SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

Mar 24 **Chapters 5-8 Development/Agriculture**

Chapter 9 **Development**

Relevance of GDP and Development and:

A. Key concepts in industrialization and development

B. Geographic critiques of models of economic localization (i.e., land rent, comparative costs of transportation), industrial location, economic development, and world systems

C. Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development

1. Spatial organization of the world economy

2. Variations in levels of development

3. Deindustrialization and economic restructuring

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.undp.org/>"

(United Nations Development site including the annually themed Human Development Report)

"<http://www.usaid.gov/>"

(information on U.S. international development)

Chapter 10 –**Agriculture**—The impact of farming on land use and development and:

A. Development and diffusion of agriculture

1. Neolithic Agricultural Revolution

2. Second Agricultural Revolution

B. Major agricultural production regions

1. Agricultural systems associated with major bio-climatic zones

2. Variations within major zones and effects of markets

3. Linkages and flows among regions of food production and consumption

C. Rural land use and settlement patterns

1. Models of land use, including von Thünen's model

2. Settlement patterns associated with major agriculture types

D. Modern commercial agriculture: the Third Agricultural Revolution

1. Green Revolution and the beginning of the biotechnological revolution
2. Characteristics of the third revolution: blending of primary, secondary, and tertiary activities, intensification of mechanization, and development of biotechnology
3. Spatial organization of industrial agriculture
4. Diffusion of industrial agriculture
5. Future food supplies and environmental impacts of agriculture - hopes and fears

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.themeatrix.com>"

(Criticizes industrial meat production and changes in late 20th century farming)

"<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter/aquaculture>"

(a growing source of the world's protein)

"<http://www.usda.gov/>"

(environmental issues and rural development)

"<http://www.ewg.org/farm/>"

(Provides resources and references to farm subsidies in every U. S. state)

Mar 31 Examination 2 Chapters 5-9

Apr 7 Chapters 11/12 Industry/Service -Production in developed and developing countries.

Relevance of land, labor and capital

A. Key concepts in industrialization and development

B. Growth and diffusion of industrialization

1. The changing roles of energy and technology
2. Industrial Revolution
3. Evolution of economic cores and peripheries
4. Geographic critiques of models of economic localization (i.e., land rent, comparative costs of transportation), industrial location, economic development, and world systems

C. Contemporary patterns and impacts of industrialization and development

1. Spatial organization of the world economy
2. Variations in levels of development
3. Deindustrialization and economic restructuring
4. Pollution, health, and quality of life
5. Industrialization, environmental change, and sustainability
6. Local development initiatives: government policies

D. Services--Decline and significance of CBD, Service provision and land use. Basic and non basic services, world, global, producer and dependent cities

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.bls.gov>"

(statistics on labor and industry)

"<http://www.census.gov/econ/www/servmenu.html>"

(statistics on employment in the service sector)

Apr 14 Chapter 13 **Urban Patterns**

A. Definitions of urbanism

B. Origin and evolution of cities

1. Historical patterns of urbanization
2. Rural-urban migration and urban growth
3. Global cities and megacities
4. Models of urban systems

C. Functional character of contemporary cities

1. Changing employment mix
2. Changing demographic and social structures

D. Built environment and social space

1. Comparative models of internal city structure
2. Transportation and infrastructure
3. Political organization of urban areas
4. Urban planning and design
5. Patterns of race, ethnicity, gender, and class
6. Uneven development, ghettoization, and gentrification
7. Impacts of suburbanization and edge cities

REFERENCES:

"<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/habitat/index.asp>"

(lesson plans on cities of today, and cities of tomorrow)

"<http://ww.web.worldbank.org/>"

(files on urbanization rates around the world
organized at the country level)

"<http://www.unchc.org>" (reports on urban poverty, development, urbanization and the State of the World's Cities report)

FILM: TBA

Apr 21 Examination # 3 Chapters 10-12

Apr 28 Chapter 14 **Resources LAST CLASS**

Energy depletion/alternative uses and strategies, and:

1. Pollution, health, and quality of life
2. Industrialization, environmental change, and sustainability
3. Local development initiatives: government policies

FILM: TBA

FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM DISTRIBUTED
