

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL STUDIES & GEOGRAPHY



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GEOG 2 – HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING GOALS

This course introduces contemporary human geography and looks at the range of concepts and topics that geography investigates, including some of its methods. Major topics will include the spatial organization of human activities, how social processes and structures can be understood through a geographic lens; and geographic perspectives on human-environment interactions and social and economic relationships. The course focuses on five essential themes of human geography: region, mobility, globalization, nature-culture, and cultural landscape. Sub-disciplines within human geography will be covered, including cultural geography, population geography, the geography of agriculture/the global food system, political geography, development geography, and urban geography.

The general goals of the course are:

- Students will be able to understand economic processes such as globalization, trade and transportation, and their impacts on economic, cultural, and social activities.
- Students will be able to understand demographic, social, and cultural attributes such as migration, social relations, and cultural identity. The main objective is to underline that human activities are subject to adaptation and change.
- Students will learn about the variety of political systems and nation-states, which administratively subdivide the regions of the world. How human activities are regulated and under the jurisdiction of a variety of geographical units and how these relations shape the economic and social space are of particular relevance.

REQUIREMENTS

Human Geography is a behavioral, social science course fulfilling Hofstra's distribution requirements. This means that there are several requirements for the successful completion of the course, including significant reading and writing assignments. Exam dates and due dates for assignments appear in the course schedule at the end of this syllabus.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Respective responsibilities are as follows:

- The Professor's responsibilities. Provide the most up to date and accurate information concerning the class topics. Create a challenging learning environment where the students are exposed to new concepts and ideas. Be available (virtually and physically) to answer questions and discuss issues. Provide a fair and transparent evaluation of the students' work.
- The Student's responsibilities. Class attendance is an essential student's responsibility. Participation in class discussions constitutes an important dimension of the learning process in a subject where issues, rather than the mere learning of factual material, are the focus. Students are encouraged (and expected) to verbalize their ideas and views on the issues to be discussed. Students are also responsible for reading the required material before going to class and handing the assignments at the expected deadline.

EVALUATIONS

The final grade will be based on the 5 or 6 take-home assignments that you will submit online in Blackboard. Every two topics will have a related task document (MS Word file) containing definitions, questions, short essays, and small research projects. Completing these tasks will meet the reading and writing requirements of the course. These assignments are essential since they will be the sole basis upon which your performance (and thus your grade) will be evaluated. You will need to type all the requested information in the document. Each assignment will be due on a specific date and will need to be uploaded on Blackboard through Turnitin before the deadline.

GRADES

The summation of all the points you accumulate will be converted into percentage points. To successfully complete this class, you need to get 60%:

(A) 92 points and above.	(C) Between 74 and 76 points.
(A-) Between 89 and 91 points.	(C-) Between 70 and 73 points.
(B+) Between 86 and 88 points.	(D+) Between 65 and 69 points.
(B) Between 83 and 87 points.	(D) Between 60 and 64 points.
(B-) Between 80 and 82 points.	(F) Below 60 points.
(C+) Between 77 and 79 points.	

Grades are nonnegotiable and the only way a grade will be revised is if an error was made in the evaluation process. An A is considered a reward for exceptional work, and as such will not be awarded lightly. Test material will be based on both the assigned readings and material covered during lectures. In order to gain a firm grasp of the issues discussed in class, it is

imperative that students complete the required readings before class. This amounts to about 80 pages per week, including course notes.

PENALTIES

Late assignments will be penalized as follows: 10% of the total points for the assignment will be deducted for each day the paper is handed in late (beginning immediately after the due day). No assignment will be accepted 5 days after the due date. Failure to turn in assignments will adversely affect grades.

OUTLINE

TOPIC 1 – HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: A CULTURAL APPROACH

THREE PERSPECTIVE ON HUMAN GEOGRAPHY; ORGANIZING THEMES FOR HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

TOPIC 2 – GEOGRAPHIES OF CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

CULTURAL REGIONS; DIFFERING CULTURAL FORMS; CONSUMPTION; LEISURE.

TOPIC 3 – POPULATION GEOGRAPHY

POPULATION PATTERNS; MIGRATION; ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCE; SETTLEMENTS.

TOPIC 4 – GEOGRAPHY OF LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE FAMILIES; LINGUISTICS DIFFUSION; TOPONYMS.

TOPIC 5 – GEOGRAPHIES OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

DEFINING RACE AND ETHNICITY; ETHNIC LANDSCAPES; FOOD CULTURES.

TOPIC 6 – POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

NATION-STATES; SPATIAL COHESION; SOVEREIGNTY AND TRANSNATIONALISM.

TOPIC 7 – GEOGRAPHY OF RELIGION

TYPES OF RELIGIONS; RELIGIOUS DIFFUSION; RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE.

TOPIC 8 – GEOGRAPHY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES; GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM; SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

TOPIC 9 – DEVELOPMENT GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPORTATION; CLIMATE CHANGE.

TOPIC 10 – URBAN GEOGRAPHY

URBANIZATION; URBAN HIERARCHY; URBAN MOBILITY; GENTRIFICATION.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

REQUIRED READING

Neumann, R. P. and Price, P. P. (2019) Contemporary Human Geography. Second edition. Freeman, New York.

ADDITIONAL READING

Pulsipher, L.M. and Pulsipher, A. (2017). World Regional Geography. 7th ed. W. H. Freeman. Excerpt on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, pp. 342-345.

COMMITMENT TO VIEWPOINT DIVERSITY AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISAGREEMENT

In order to create a classroom environment that supports critical inquiry through the free exchange of ideas, the following principles will be applied:

- Treat every individual with respect, even if you disagree with their opinion.
- Individuals can differ on any number of perspectives, opinions, and conclusions.

- Constructive disagreement sharpens thinking, deepens understanding, and reveals novel insights.
- Differing viewpoints are welcome, but no ideas are immune from scrutiny and debate.
- You will not be graded on your opinions.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Hofstra University Honor Code: "As a member of the Hofstra community I pledge to demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior in all aspects of my life, both inside and out of the classroom. I understand that I am accountable for everything I say and write. I will not misrepresent my academic work, nor will I give or receive unauthorized assistance for academic work. I agree to respect the rights of all members of the Hofstra community. I will be guided by the values expressed in the P.R.I.D.E Principles. I accept the responsibility to follow this Honor Code at all times."

Honor Code Short Form: "I pledge on my honor that I have done this work with honesty and integrity, without giving or receiving unauthorized assistance."

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious ethical and professional infractions. For information regarding Hofstra's statement of principles with respect to academic honesty, examples of violations, procedures for handling violations, as well as a student's right to appeal a charge, see Faculty Policy Series #11 for undergraduate students (http://www.hofstra.edu/pdf/Faculty/Senate/senate_FPS_11.pdf) and Faculty Policy Series #11G for graduate students (http://www.hofstra.edu/pdf/Faculty/Senate/senate_FPS_11G.pdf).

DISABILITIES POLICY

If you believe you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, qualified individuals with disabilities will not be discriminated against in any programs, or services available at Hofstra University.

Individuals with disabilities are entitled to accommodations designed to facilitate full access to all programs and services. SSD is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will provide students with documented disabilities accommodation letters, as appropriate.

Please note that accommodations may require early planning and are not retroactive; please contact SSD as soon as possible. All students are responsible for providing accommodation letters to each instructor and for discussing with him or her the specific accommodations needed and how they can be best implemented in each course. For more information on services provided by the university and for submission of documentation, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities, 040 Memorial Hall, 516-463-7075.

DEADLINES

Please be mindful of University deadlines. See http://www.hofstra.edu/StudentAffairs/StudentServices/AcademicRecords/acdrec_calendars.html

INCOMPLETE POLICY

Incomplete will be given only if has completed more than 75% of the required assignments and provide a reasonable explanation (e.g. family emergency or a health issue) why some of the assignments could not be provided on the announced deadlines. Hofstra's policies regarding Incomplete grades, default grades, and associated deadlines can be found in the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Bulletins (<http://bulletin.hofstra.edu/>).

NOTICE ON CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT

Hofstra prohibits sexual and other discriminatory harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and other sexual misconduct (collectively, "Gender Based Offenses"). If you or someone you know believes they have been subjected to any of these Gender Based Offenses, help is available. To make a report, or for more information about Hofstra's Student Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Harassment, Relationship Violence, and Sexual Misconduct (available at <http://hofstra.edu/sexualmisconduct>), please contact the Title IX Officer for Student Issues at (516) 463-5841 or StudentTitleIX@hofstra.edu or Public Safety at (516) 463-6606. Confidential resources and support are also available from medical and counseling professionals in the Student Health and Counseling Center (516-463-6745) and clergy in the Interfaith Center.

ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Hofstra University recognizes that students may occasionally need to be absent from class due to religious observances. Any student that will miss an exam or assignment due to religious observance must notify the instructor at least one week prior to the anticipated missed class meeting and provide details of the observance. If an exam is to be missed, the student will take the exam at an agreed upon time. For assignments, no extensions will be given due to religious observance. It is the student's responsibility to plan for any absences caused by religious observance and to provide the assignment prior to the due date. As per Hofstra policy "No student shall be expelled or refused admission to Hofstra University because he or she is unable to participate in any examination, study or work requirement because of his or her religious obligations and practices. However, all students are expected to complete all assignments and examinations. It is understood that no adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student who avails him or herself of religious observances. The University, faculty, and student shall work together to achieve a reasonable accommodation concerning any conflicts between educational and religious obligations."