

Cultural Geography (GEOG 2)

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<http://geography.sierracollege.edu/booth/notes.html>

Course Outline Reading Assignment

Topic	Chapters
Basic Concepts	Chapter 1
Population	Chapter 2
Migration	Chapter 3
Folk & Popular Culture	Chapter 4
Religion	Chapter 6
Ethnicity	Chapter 7
Political Geography	Chapter 8
Food & Agriculture	Chapter 9
Development	Chapter 10
Industry & Energy	Chapter 11

Course Description

This course will study dynamic cultural processes and patterns worldwide, such as the distribution and diffusion of people, their religions, their customs, and their economic means. In addition, cultural geography examines how people relate to one another and how people interact with their environment, including agriculture and settlement patterns. Much of the course describes concepts used by geographers, social scientist and journalists with a systematic approach toward understanding the world as a whole.

Course Goals

By the end of this semester, I would like you, the student, to begin asking geographic questions, such as why are places different and why are they the same, and then use the textbook and lectures to help you answer these questions. It is important for you to critically think how global issues, such as population growth, regional conflicts, and commercial development affect your world. My hope for you is that you will understand global concepts and issues much better after this class.

Course Student Learning Objectives

Course Student Learning Objectives (CSLO's) are key topics that are even more specific than goals and general concepts. They have specific outcomes or "answers" that are measurable.

CSLO 1 - Explain or define basic demographic tools used to compare places, such as population pyramids and demographic transition.

CSLO 2 - Compare and contrast folk versus popular culture by investigating social customs and how they diffuse.

CSLO 3 - Summarize basic precepts of each major universalizing and ethnic religions and know where they are generally practiced.

CSLO 4 - Identify places in the world with major conflicts related to political boundaries, demographics, ethnicity and economics, enumerating key issues of each conflict, and understand history behind conflict.

CSLO 5 - Describe the forms of subsistence and commercial agriculture, the geographic extent, their methods of food production, and human ecology with emphasis on environmental challenges.

CSLO 6 - Estimate natural resources supplies, demand, and location, such as energy and water, and associated conservation issues (e.g. how much coal, where found, what demand and what environmental issues).

To help you become literate in these key concepts, the instructor will provide extended discussions, learning aids and study guides.

Texts and Suggested Reading

- *The Cultural Landscape; an Intro. to Human Geography*, Rubenstein.
- World Atlas - must have enough detail for map quizzes (see [Place Names](#))
- 12 small format scantron forms [green - [Quiz strip 815-E](#)]
- 3 large scantron sheets [green- [Form No. 882-E](#)]

Attendance, Expectations and Classroom Decorum

I expect you to come to class always, just like a job. There will be a roll sheet passed around at most class sessions, which you are asked to sign. This is not a self-guided course, and you cannot grasp the full scope of this subject on your own. Additionally, many of the test questions will come from lectures, videos and discussions.

- Essential: **Mobile devices** shall not interfere with your concentration and others in the classroom. Due to continued disregard for this principle, phones & mobile devices shall be **silenced**, and:
 - **they shall not reside on the desk** during lecture
 - if asked *more than once*, I will ask to speak with you
 - if asked three (3) times during the semester, the following will result:

Similar to "three strikes and your out" -- I will ask you to **place your phone or device in the "TSA" like plastic bin**. This plastic bin will reside at the front desk. If that does not work, you may leave the classroom for the day with your belongings.

While certainly 99% of you won't have to worry about this policy, someone always will ignore the classroom rules. Let's face it, that kind of behavior is like an addiction and a problem. See Tom Hanks in "Larry Crowne" for a fun movie in this regard. Remember, phone use is fine in some settings. However, in other settings like weddings, churches, movie theaters, classrooms, etc., they are not appropriate.

- Essential: **Please stay in your seat**. I often give a short break.
 - no getting up during a lecture or film at all, including anything to do with a phone
 - go to the restroom **before** class starts & only during a break
 - if you leave consistently, I will ask to speak with you after class
- A roll sheet will be passed to account for absences.
- If you do not attend more than the number of times allowed by the college catalog, you risk being dropped from the class roster!

Academic Honesty

Do not cheat, plagiarize, or furnish false information to the college as defined by the Sierra College academic regulations. If you are guilty of dishonesty, you will receive a failing grade. Sierra College may further discipline you through reprimand, probation, social probation, suspension or expulsion.

Grading

A = 90 to 100%	Exam 1 = 100 points
B = 80 to 89%	Exam 2 = 100 points
C = 70 to 79%	Exam 3 = 100 points
D = 60 to 69%	Quizzes, Assignments & Exercises = 125 pts
F = below 60%	Group Presentation = 75 points

Missing Tests - Taking a mid-term exam is a big deal and there are no make-up exams! For exceptions of any kind, you must tell me in advance. For extraordinary cases, such as a dire medical illness, incarceration, an alien abduction or an event beyond your control, you must contact me before the next class meeting. You must also provide proof of this situations. For chapter and map quizzes, **there are no make-up tests at all**. The class is designed to sum all your best scores and throw out your missed or low-score quizzes.

Credit / No Credit - You may take this course on a credit / no credit basis or a letter grade. A letter grade will be assigned unless you request a CR/NCR option.

Adds & Withdrawals - There will be no late adds. You must pay your fees within the first two weeks of the semester in order to be enrolled in this class. Withdrawals or a "W" cannot and will not be granted to any student who is enrolled in the class after the "W" deadline (beginning of Nov. (fall) and middle of April (spring)). It is your responsibility to initiate this process! Students who do not request a "W" before the deadline and do not complete course work (including Exam 3) will receive a failing grade.

Incomplete - an incomplete "I" grade is rarely granted except under extraordinary circumstances with verified proof, such as a written medical notice.

Methods of Instruction

This class is taught using lectures, discussions and in-class assignments. Some assignments may be assigned outside of class and you are expected to read each thematic chapter before class. In order to improve the overall learning experience, I frequently ask students for feedback regarding class material, so be prepared to answer questions in class. Participation is very important in the learning process. I also appreciate voluntary feedback from you regarding what works and what doesn't work in the classroom.

Here is what student have said to give you advise for this class > "take good notes because almost everything that is on test is presented in class" > "use study

groups" (this student went from not passing the class to receiving a "B" in the class!) > "by organizing a study group you can get the notes that you missed in class" > "take time to read the test" > "be there every day and take good notes."

Motivation, Study Habits and Testing

Probably the most important aspect for you to master in this class is finding a reason to be here.

It can't just be *any* reason to be here, however; it must be an *intrinsic* reason to be here. What does "intrinsic" mean? It **doesn't** mean you signed up for this class because it "looked good on the schedule, and besides, a friend told me it's the easiest science class to take." OR -- "it really fits my schedule on a Tuesday and Thursday." OR "the textbook had a nice cover" etc. An *intrinsic* reason means you find an internal, passionate reason to make this class meaningful to your life. "I care passionately about the environment and the Earth; I love being outside and in nature; I want to understand how a place like California is so different than Oregon or Washington; I want to know what all this talk about global warming means; when I travel, I find the world is a really cool place and I want to know more about it" ... all these statements are intrinsic reasons to be in this class. Find one for yourself. If you can't find one, find another class that's right for you. You simply won't enjoy coming to this class each week, or reading the textbook before class and after class, and studying throughout the semester for weekly quizzes if you are not motivated. Finally, you simply won't be successful in this class because you're not motivated to be here in the first place.

Regarding good study habits, which is also critical for your success:

- First, no miracles happen in this class. That is, you certainly won't succeed in this course just by coming to class and listening to lectures without a concerted effort outside of class.
- Here are some good study habits: Read the textbook before class; come to class every single time; read the textbook again after class; think about the lecture material outside of class; interact in class as much as possible, even if you are shy; study in class by listening carefully to the lecture, and take good notes that mean something to you. These all are good study habits and I'm sure you have others to add to this list.
- Likewise, bring something to class besides your pencil, namely something inside your brain regarding the topic -- your own questions about the topic, a general knowledge about the topic, personal experiences, etc. Then you to really begin the process of learning rather than simply being there.

But many students study hard for the exams and still struggle.

So what can you do to improve your test scores? Here are some test taking skills:

- The most obvious way to succeed on a test is to test yourself ahead of time. You might try doing this with a friend and classmate after you read the textbook. It's proven that people who study together do much better.
- When reading a multiple choice question, think about the answer **before** you read the selection; then go straight for the answer. Don't let the distracting answers mess you up. If you know the answers, it's there.
- For true and false questions, just read the statement to see if it makes sense in its entirety, and if it does, then mark true. If there is anything wrong with it, then mark false. It's that simple. There are no trick questions, just questions that are more detailed than others.
- Take your time because "haste makes waste." The majority of people fail on their first exam much worse than they ever imagined because they carelessly read the exam questions. Often they kick themselves afterwards because they made the dumbest mistakes.
- Remember, "the devil is in the details," and you must know the details when coming into a test. Keep in mind these questions are designed to sort out the average from the above-average student. Quite often the exam questions are not going to be as easy as they appear. Usually there is one answer that's ludicrous, one answer that is probably wrong, and then at least two answers that are very close. If you know the right answer beforehand, then it should be obvious

Concluding Words

The effort put forth by you will not only show in your grade, but also make you an informed citizen enlightened about our rich and diverse world. Geography is about everything that surrounds us... you can't miss *seeing*, *hearing*, *touching* and even *tasting* it. Stories in the newspaper, magazines and in the news abound with geographic issues every day, and this class will help you understand these issues and stories much better.