

GY 110-001
PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
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Office Hours: MWF 10:00am – 11:00am or by appointment

Course Prerequisites: none

Assigned Textbook: Human Geography, 7th edition, de Blij and Murphy

Course Description: The behavior of humankind is the fundamental factor in the structure of societies and in the organization of space. This behavior, in turn, is based upon the perceptions of the environment. Only from those perceptions, and the images and mental maps they create, can individuals make decisions that lead to movement on the earth's landscape. In turn, this movement requires the choice of locations for activities, choices that are increasingly dependent on the dynamics of the social collective. Therefore, how these social collective decisions partition and organize space, perceive the environment, move in space, and choose locations becomes the basis for the course.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course students will be able to understand the fundamentals of human behavior and human decision making. Specifically, students will learn how human events (e.g., births, deaths, migration, population growth, etc.), the earth's natural resource system, agrarian and industrial economies, and global urbanization all impact how humankind lives, organizes the space in which they live, and influences their future.

Course Outline

(1) Principles of Human Geography: An Introduction

- a. building context for human geography (the four basic themes, the four basic geographic concepts, the five principles of human geography, the two fundamental questions)

- b. capitalism as a governing political-economic framework (Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Karl Marx, John Keynes)
- c. spatial tools and concepts of human geography (properties of space, spatial process/spatial structure, spatial interaction)
- d. evolutionary development of human geography (the four paradigms)

(2) Population (exercises 1 and 2)

- a. exploring global population spatial and temporal patterns (population agglomerations, arithmetic density, physiologic density, underlying causes for world population distribution)
- b. establishing population profiles—age structure (the dependency ratio, economic sectors and occupational structure of a labor force, population pyramids)
- c. population growth—natural increase, crude birth rate, crude death rate, population growth rate, exponential growth, the concept of doubling times, comparing the developed and the developing world, the demographic transition)
- d. population movement—migration (causes of migration, laws of migration, outcomes of migration—demographic, cultural and economic)

(3) The Earth's Natural Resource System

- a. natural resources and sustaining populations (measures of economic development, physical limitations, market price, resource vs. reserves, human well-being, natural resource depletion)
- b. carrying capacity and the role of technology
- c. nonrenewable and renewable natural resources
- d. the United States as an example

(4) Agrarian Paths to Development (The Developing World) (exercise 3)

- a. agriculture as a path to development
- b. subsistent vs. commercial agrarian economies

- c. issues confronting agrarian economies (available farmable land, soil loss and the process of desertification, population growth, dietary change in the world's population)
- d. possible solutions to effectively deal with the major issues confronting world food production (technologies that reverse desertification, chemicalized farming and the Green Revolution, biotechnology)
- e. von Thunen's agricultural land use model

(5) Industrial Paths to Development

- a. industrial prerequisites
- b. Weber's model of industrial development: a least-cost approach (transportation cost, labor cost, and the concept of agglomeration)
- c. Smith's model of industrial development: a maximum profit approach (scale, technique, and relative location)
- d. industrial growth strategies: vertical, horizontal, and diagonal integration
- e. global industrialization patterns

(6) The Concept of Urbanization

- a. types of society and corresponding urban development
- b. processes underlying city building
- c. contemporary models of urban land use
- d. the human geography of the American city: a static and temporal perspective
- e. American urban governance, invisible income, and urban fragmentation

Performance Measures

Exam 1	100pts.	February 18, 2004
Exam 2	100pts.	March 24, 2004
Quizzes (3)	75pts.	January 28, March 10, April 21
Exercises (3)	75pts.	to be announced
Final exam	<u>100pts.</u>	May 5, 2004
Total	450pts.	

Course Policies

- (1) **Exam Make-ups:** The Geography department policy states: Make-up examinations will only be given for verifiable emergencies, serious illness, or your participation in an official university activity which requires your absence from regularly scheduled classes. You must provide supporting documentation as to evidence as to why your absence should be excused. Acceptance of any excuse and approval for a make-up exam are at the discretion of the instructor. **If you can not take a regularly scheduled exam, you MUST contact your instructor before the exam or within 24 hours after the examination. Failure to do this will seriously jeopardize any opportunity to take a make-up exam regardless of your explanation.** All departmental make-up exams will be given on Fridays 2:00pm in Farrah Hall room 220.
- (2) **Attendance:** Attendance is strongly encouraged. Attendance is taken every day on which class is scheduled. Attendance is considered only when a student's final course grade falls within 2 percentage points of the next higher letter grade designation. (An attendance record of 90% or greater will allow a student to earn the next higher letter grade designation. Otherwise, a student with less than a 90% attendance record will be awarded the letter grade designation that corresponds to his/her final grade percentage solely based upon his/her course performance measures. There is no grade penalty for not attending class).
- (3) **Disability Statement:** To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services (348 – 4285). After initial arrangements are made with that office, contact your professor.
- (4) **Academic Misconduct Statement:** Academic misconduct by students includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically-related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, each of the following acts when performed in any type of academic or academically-related matter, exercise or activity. (a) cheating—using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information, (b) plagiarism—representing the words, data,

works, ideas, computer program or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own, (c) fabrication—presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material, and (d) misrepresentation—falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts. Any and all infractions of the above academic misconduct statement will be reported to the proper hierarchies.