

Humans and Their Environments

ANTH/GEOG 103

Geography is a diverse academic discipline. It deals with a wide range of subjects, from spatial patterns of human occupancy to the interaction between people and their habitat. It concerns place and region and employs diverse methodologies from the social sciences, humanities, and Earth sciences. The geographer strives for a holistic view of the Earth as the home of human kind. Because the world is in constant flux, geography is an ever-changing discipline. Geographers necessarily consider a wide range of topics and view them from several different perspectives. They continually seek new ways of looking at the inhabited Earth. For example, the rise of a feminist perspective has caused geographers to see the world anew through such concepts as "gendered space," and a "postmodernist" challenge to the tenets of science has recently led geography to a more humanistic philosophy.

Course Description:

The relationship between natural environment and human activities. A basic introduction to geography.

Text:

Jordan-Bychkov, T. G., Domosh, M., (2006). *The Human Mosaic* (10th ed.). New York: Freeman and Company

Instructor:

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Office Hours:

Since this is a web course I will have "virtual" office hours (unless you want to make a quick trip to South Dakota!!). If you need to "talk" to me one-on-one, email me using one of the above addresses, or, use the course mail tool and we will set up a day and time where we can talk using the chat room.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students successfully completing this course will:

1. Demonstrate their knowledge of the structures and possibilities of the human community.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of globalization.
3. Understand the issues related to the sustainable use of land and other natural resources.
4. Identify reasons for spatial organization and interdependence.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Your Performance on the following activities will determine your final grade in this course:

Weekly Assignments/Participation (12 @ 50 pts. Ea.)	600 max points
Chapter Quizzes (12 @ 100 pts. Ea. Averaged for one grade)	100 max points
Exams (3 @ 100 pts. Ea.)	300 max points
Total Maximum Possible Points for the course	1000 points

Your final grade will be determined by the average of your total points against the course total. The following scale will be used.

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F <60%

General Information:

Quizzes and Exams:

After reading the assigned chapter you will take a quiz on that chapter. All quizzes will have 20 question in multiple choice and true/false format. Each quiz is worth 100 points. At the end of the course I will average the scores for all quizzes for one grade. All exams will be in multiple choice and true/false format and will cover four chapters. They will be taken online and timed. Make sure you know the dates the exams will be available and how much time you have to take the exam. If you go beyond the time limit, the system will not allow you to save any more answers, they will be scored as wrong. You cannot stop an exam once you have started it. If you leave an exam after logging in, your time keeps running. You will find all quizzes and exams on the "Exam" page. It is your responsibility to know the availability dates of all quizzes and exams.

Weekly Assignments and Participation:

With each chapter reading assignment I will pose discussion questions (located on the "Schedule" page) that relate to the topics covered in that chapter. After reading the chapter, discuss the questions on the Discussion Board with other students. Find out what other students think about the topics. Respond to their views and opinions. We learn just as much from others as we do from a text book. After discussing the discussion questions, you will write a short (one or two paragraphs) formal response to one of the questions. Use what you have learned from the text, other student views and opinions, and your own knowledge and opinions to formulate your answer. You will submit your formal answer to me using the assignment dropbox located within each assignment listed on the "Assignment" page. Each assignment is worth 50 points each for a total of 600 possible points. Half of the 50 points will come from my evaluation of your discussions and the other half will come from my evaluation of your formal answer submitted to me. I do take spelling, grammar, and punctuation on the Discussion

Board and your formal answer into account when I assign a grade. When I evaluate your discussions I will consider the following:

Insightfulness - Are you just quoting the text, or do you have your own opinions? (1-5 points)

Completeness - Are you taking it beyond the initial thought with full explanations? (1-5 points)

Promptness - Are you posting your comments with enough time for others to respond? All comments must be posted within 24 hours of the due date of the assignment. (1-5 points)

Writing Mechanics - Is your spelling, grammar, and punctuation consistent with a college level course? (1-5 points)

Interaction - Are you getting involved in discussing the topics rather than an individual effort? (1-5 points)

Also keep in mind that I do read and may be involved with the discussions. I should not have to read the discussion postings twice. Please do not copy and paste from the Discussion Board and submit it to me for a formal answer. I will not accept anything that has been copied and pasted. This does not show acceptable effort from the student. You will also notice that I do not mention anything about the number of postings required. I leave that to your own judgment.

Final Thoughts and Comments:

All of you can do well in this course. Just keep a few things in mind; read the chapter assignments, get involved on the Discussion Board, be ready for the quizzes and exams, and make sure you know the due dates for all assignments. Also remember that we are a group of learners all with the same goal. Through participation and interaction with each other all can achieve the goals of the course and have some fun at the same time. We don't have to make the course a "dry" subject. As you are going through the various topics, think about your "place" in the world, whether it be New Mexico, South Dakota, or anywhere else. I think each topic will give you a new view on the world around you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns during the semester contact me so we can discuss and resolve the issue quickly. I look forward to working with all of you this semester.