**Geography 202 Human Geography Monday & Wednesday 3:00-3:50**

**Tydings Hall Room 0130**

**Syllabus Spring 2016**

**Instructor Teaching Assistant**

Instructor: Dr. Martha Geores Nayoung Jo

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**Course Description and Objectives**

GEOG202 is the Introduction to Human Geography and it takes a holistic approach in terms of the interrelationships among social processes, the spatial nature of life, and the sustainability of human activity. We live in a complex world where questions about the environment are as much human questions as they are physical questions, and understanding climate change is as much social as it is physical. This course is designed to give students a geographic perspective on current events. The course emphasizes the role that geography and spatial thinking play in determining the nature and dynamics of the world’s social, political, cultural, economic, demographic, and environmental systems and phenomena. We will explore these topics from multiple perspectives with reference to- and examples from- conditions in countries, societies, and population in the United States and across the world. Particular attention is paid to the human role in environmental sustainability.

The study of Human Geography have many subfields and sustainability is at the core of each field. In this class we will focus on:

Global Climate Change: Choices and Consequences

Political Geography: Who Controls the World?

Population Geography: Who we are and where we live.

Urban and Economic spaces.

Agriculture: How we created a natural hazard

Consumption: What’s mine is mine, what’s yours is mine too.

We will also explore some tools and techniques used by human geographers such as cartography, visualization, census data, statistics, and models.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course you should expect to have gained proficiency in human geography and the ability to use geography and spatial thinking to think creatively and critically about the human systems that govern the world around you, and about the human role in environmental sustainability. This is a foundation that can be used in a variety of coursework in the geographical sciences, as well as the socio-behavioral sciences, planning and public policy, law, humanities, sustainability and environmental science, and the life sciences. The course should also prepare you for higher-level

coursework in the geographical sciences.

**Course Expectations**

Students are expected to obtain and read relevant and assigned course materials and to

take independent initiative to read that material outside items assigned through the course. Students are also expected to attend class meetings and participate class discussion, in a collegial and constructive manner.

**Course Structure**

\**Textbook:*

The text book in this class is Human Geography: Where we live and What we do there. The course is structured around the text, which is an e-textbook. In the book is an interactive text, so in addition to the explanations of the principles, it includes prompts for websites and YouTube videos which are an integral part of the course.

*\*Lecture*

The class is designed to use a combination of teaching techniques which include in-class and online lectures (through CANVAS). The syllabus outlines the dates and topics of the in- class- and online lectures. Online lectures are accessible via Canvas website.

The majority of the course materials (lectures), quizzes, paper assignments will center on

The e-textbook, and additional readings available via CANVAS. All exams will take place in the lecture time and place.

NO LAPTOPS are allowed in class.

 *Discussion*

Twelve discussions will take place during the semester .Attendance is a mandatory. Students should come PREPARED to discuss their blogs and COMPLETE the assigned activity as a group. If the student is LATE to discussion, points will be deducted from their ‘discussion grade’. If the student does not attend discussion, they will receive an automatic zero and there will be no make-up or extra credit, unless they have a medical excuse.

**Coursework**

\*\*There will no extra credit opportunities and no make-up exams, quizzes, blogs, discussion, or paper assignment without medical excuses (official documents must be presented to the TA). \*\*

Your performance in the course will be evaluated in the context of the assigned work which will test your knowledge of key aspects of the material reviewed in class and in readings. Seven quizzes will be given at the beginning each module.

*Exams*

There will be 2 midterm exams and the final (100 points each). Exam format is a combination of multiple choice questions and short answers. All exams will take place in lecture hall.

*Quizzes*

At the end of each module, students will take a timed quizzed on CANVAS based on the e-textbook, lecture, and assigned course readings. The date and time will be announced in class. There will be total of 7 quizzes- there will be NO MAKEUP quizzes unless there is a medical excuse.

*Blogs*

At the end of each module, students are required to post a blog related to the lecture topic. All blogs should be 2 complete paragraphs and posted on CANVAS (time and date will be announced in class). The purpose of the blog is to connect the human geography with the world today. You can use a current news article, scholarly article, or video. For example, if the topic relates to population geography, you are required to find a newspaper article or video related to that topic. You will be paired up with a classmate who will both read and comment on your blog.

**Required Text**

1. E-Textbook *Human Geography: Where we live and what we do there.*

Here is the link: [http://www.kendallhunt.com/geores/](https://exch.mail.umd.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=UCgaaF6qNkeLF90JbpunGVSCKzmN7tAIZqyCSEwQc1FdW5NqYl-ceyqxwI4wLf-BDHOE9G_qf64.&amp;URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.kendallhunt.com%2fgeores%2f)

2. Other required readings will be available on the CANVAS course website.

**Course Website**

All students should actively use CANVAS because we will use it to make announcements, post grades, readings, and other documents. Students will also post their blogs (a total of 7 throughout the semester) and take their quizzes before each module in CANVAS. Please make sure that you have access to this course through ELMS (myelms.umd.edu) and that the email listing you have attached to this account is active and routinely monitored. It will be your responsibility to download all course materials promptly.

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Module 1: Introduction to Human Geography

Module 2: Global Climate Change: Choices and Consequences

Module 3: Political Geography: Who Controls the World?

Module 4: Population Geography: Who we are and where we live

Module 5: Urban and Economic spaces

Module 6: Agriculture: How we created a natural hazard

Module 7: Consumption: What’s mine is mine, what’s yours is mine too

**Grading Procedures** Exam#1-100 points Exam#2-100 points

Exam #3- 100 points (final)

CANVAS blogs (7x 10 pts) - 70 points

Quizzes (7 x 10pts) - 70 points

Discussion Attendance (12 x 10 pts) – 120

Total points = 560

**If you fail to complete an assignment, you will and points for the assignment will be deducted in that assessment. Example: Missing Blog – 0 for exercise and -10 for not completing the assignment.**

**Let’s go explore the world!**