

GEO 2420 (Section 2296 / Fall, 2005)
INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
PROFESSOR A. GOLDMAN

M,W,F 4th period (10:40 –11:30 AM) **220 Florida Gymnasium (FLG 220)**

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Office hrs: Mon & Th 12:00- 1:00 PM,
(or by appt)

General Education requirements: International Studies (I); Social Sciences (S)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces some of the main themes of human geography, focusing on historic and contemporary issues of human adaptation, population growth, resource use, modernization, and major features of cultural change. Among the broad themes of the course are the interactions of human societies with physical and biological environments, which has been one of the central concerns of human geography. Another major course theme involves the origins, diffusion, and current significance of major cultural features, particularly language and religion, and their relation to modernization and recent political and social developments. The non-Western world is emphasized in much of the course, and comparisons between developing and industrialized countries are explored. Recent research and viewpoints are stressed, and current events relevant to course themes will be examined throughout the course.

TEXTBOOK & READINGS

James Rubenstein, *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, 8th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2005

Additional readings (see reading list) will be available in course pack. Course reading pack to be available at **Orange & Blue Textbooks** (309 NW 13th St., tel: 375-2707).

Other readings & web assignments: Further related readings may be assigned or recommended during the term as they appear, particularly at the *New York Times* website (www.nytimes.com). Assignments will be announced in class. Other materials, including course study guides, will be posted at the course website (see below).

REQUIREMENTS

You need to both attend lectures and do the assigned readings if you expect to do well in the course. The lectures do not necessarily repeat the material from the readings, and the exams include material from *both the lectures and the textbook*.

There will be **three examinations**, tentatively scheduled for **Sept. 30, Oct. 28, and Dec. 7** (regular class periods). Each exam covers material from that section of the course. The last exam does not include questions from earlier parts of the course. The exams

include multiple choice questions as well as several map identifications. Exam and course grades are curved based on class performance.

WEBSITES: The syllabus, reading list, study guides, and other course information are posted on the **course website** found at: www.geog.ufl.edu (under course syllabi for Fall, 2005). Most course material, including the **study guides** for each exam will be available only at the website, not in paper handouts.

It is possible that there will be additional reading assignments during the semester depending on current events or stories at the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) or other websites. These will be discussed and assigned in class. Current *New York Times* articles are available free at the website, though you will need to register. **The news articles listed in the reading list are all included in the readings packet from Orange & Blue Textbooks.**

The **publisher**, Prentice Hall, also has a **website** for this textbook that includes some useful study material (not required, unless specified in class): www.prenhall.com/rubenstein/.

NOTES: (1) ***No makeup exams are given, and there will be no incomplete grades.***

(2) ***A student must have a legitimate documented reason for not taking an exam; otherwise he or she will receive a score of zero for the missed exam. If excused from one of the exams, the student's grade will be based on the two exams taken.***

(3) ***Students may be asked to provide proof of identification at the exam.***

(4) ***No extra credit assignments are available to individual students.***

University's honesty policy: Cheating is a serious offense. The University of Florida has a policy of academic honesty to which all students are expected to abide. You can view this policy at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/Academic_Honesty.html.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean's Office will provide the student with appropriate documentation. The student must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Class behavior: As a courtesy to fellow students as well as the instructor, please follow these guidelines: (1) **Turn off your cell phones** before class; (2) Please **do not talk** excessively during class; (3) Please **wait until the end of class** before packing up your things and leaving; (4) Please **do not read newspapers** or other materials during class.

COURSE OUTLINE (GEO 2420, Fall 2005)

Note: Reading assignments are listed separately at the course website: www.geog.ufl.edu

Approximate dates

- 1. Introduction: Themes of Human Geography** 8/24 – 8/31/05
 - A. Regions: cultural, functional, physical, & vernacular
 - B. Diffusion patterns & examples; the Columbian Exchange & crop diffusion
 - C. Geography and human ecology

2. Environmental Adaptation & Modification; Origin of Agriculture 9/2 – 9/12

- A. Environmental adaptation & modification in traditional & modern societies
- B. Origins and impacts of agriculture
- C. Dams, water management, & environmental modification

3. Population Growth & the Demographic Transition; Disease & population

9/14 – 9/28

- A. History of human population; the demographic transition & modern population growth
- B. Population projections, fertility decline, & social change
- C. Aging populations; gender & sex ratios; young populations & impacts
- D. Disease & population

Exam #1: Fri. 9/30/05 [date subject to change]

4. Resource Issues: Food, Energy, Pollution, & Climate Change 10/3 – 10/14

- A. Population & resource debates: Malthus and others
- B. Dynamics and diffusion of the Industrial Revolution
- C. Increasing food supply in the 20th and 21st centuries
- D. Energy sources, use, and supply
- E. Air pollution & climate change

5. Cultural Change & Globalization

10/17 – 10/26

- A. Folk and popular culture; diffusion & globalization
- B. Equality & modernization: Gender, caste, class, & ethnicity

Exam #2: Fri. 10/28/05 [date subject to change]

6. Language Origins, Diffusion, Variation, & Conflicts 10/31 – 11/9

- A. History, diffusion, and distribution of the world's major language families
- B. Linguistic variation, change, and standardization
- C. Language and political conflict

7. Geography of Religions & Religious Conflicts

11/14 – 11/28

- A. Ethnic & universalizing religions; monotheism & polytheism
- B. History & diffusion of major world religions
- C. Religion and political conflict

8. Ethnicity, Nationalism, Political Change, & Ethnic Conflicts 11/30 – 12/5

- A. Ethnic diversity, in regions, empires, and nations; historic development of nations & nationalism
- B. Ethnic conflicts in comparative perspective; globalization, demography, resources, & conflicts; Ethnic cleansing

Exam #3: Wed., 12/7/05 (Regular class time; 4th Period) [date subject to change]