

Geography 200:

Introduction to Human Cultural Geography:

Syllabus:

Welcome to Geography 200 – 'Introduction to Human Cultural Geography'.

This is a five-credit course that fulfills a Social Science requirement for the Associate in Arts and Sciences (AAS) Degree at Bellevue Community College. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Course Description:

This is an introductory course that explores the cultural Geography of place.

The course is built upon a series of the major themes within the study of human geographic enquiry. The interplay between the natural physical environment and the cultural landscape and the interrelationships between different peoples and cultures will be the basis from which this class will be developed.

A series of case studies will support these themes and will seek to unfold a fascinating mosaic of life on Earth. Studies will include a look at life on the streets of Havana to the soccer stadiums of Europe and Latin America; as well as explorations of the spiritual realms of places of pilgrimage and the cultural adaptations of the Inuit to the physical challenges imposed by the places they call home.

The class will identify the aspects of culture that illuminate life on Earth. Our path will explore a variety of themes and ask a series of probing questions: including - why Han culture dominates in China: why the Makah of Washington hunt the whale: and why the Maya of Mexico supported the Zapatista Revolution. The course will invite the student to explore the cultural undertones of wearing the hijab in Iran: of the cultural and spatial links that associate Seattle and Starbucks: to the fight to preserve indigenous languages throughout the world: and the meaning of the word 'cubanismo'.

I hope that you will enjoy our journey as we explore the cultural realms of planet Earth.

Additionally, I hope that the course material will create a desire to understand the intricacies of these systems and inspire a deeper appreciation of these components of Geographic enquiry. For intimacy with a landscape inspires respect for that landscape and ultimately a better understanding of our-selves.

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Please use the Course Online email form of communication if at all possible – otherwise my college email is gwalker@bellevuecollege.edu

Course Objectives:

- to consider the basic themes that make-up the core of geographic enquiry
- to explore the relationships between physical and cultural landscapes
- to investigate the spatial component of cultural processes and interactions
- to study the changes that occur in the human landscape
- to provide a foundation in geographic enquiry that will act as a catalyst for future

study

· to develop a sense of place and foster a sharper sense of intimacy with both the physical and cultural world in which we live.

Format and Mark Allocation:

(a) The 5 Modules Exams – each will be worth a maximum of 100 marks

(b) The 5 Module Discussion Topics – each will be worth a maximum of 30 marks

(a) The Five Modules

The course material is subdivided into Five Modules. You should proceed through each Module in the following way.

1) Each Module begins with a PowerPoint presentation of Module Class Notes that highlight and focus on the major components of that particular topic. Read carefully through this material and make your own notes that highlight the key points. You will be tested on this material in the Module Exam. If you wish you can print off the notes that are featured on the PowerPoint and use these as a framework as you work your way through the Class Notes. You may wish to make additional notes to supplement the Class Notes to better understand the material.

2) Now turn your study toward the Module Recommended Reading section of the Module. There will be a series of articles that you need to read – each has a number of questions that you will need to answer. Complete this section before you progress onto the Module Exam. The Exam will contain questions from both the Recommended Reading and the Class Notes - using a multiple-choice 'open book' format.

3) Module Discussion Topic – each Module has a topic for class discussion (the topics can be viewed when you follow the link to Discussion Topics from your Home Page). You should read the relevant material associated with the topic and make a post of between 150-200 words that reflects your views and thoughts. Then complete a

second (or more if you wish) posting of approximately 75-100 words in response to postings of your class mates. The initial post will carry 20 marks and the response post(s) an additional 10 marks. You should make these posts during the period when we are working on that particular Module – and no later than one day after the Module has closed.

4) Module Exam. Before you attempt the exam carefully read through your notes from the PowerPoint Class Notes section and make sure that you have all of the answers to the questions from the Recommended Reading section. Please note that all of the questions on the exam will be taken directly from the material in the Class Notes and the questions from the Recommended Reading articles. I would advise you to read through the Class Notes a number of times as this will give you the option during the exam of looking back through the notes for an answer to a question that you cannot readily remember. You should have enough time on the exam to do this assuming that you have a thorough understanding of the material. You will only have one chance to do each Module Exam – and once you start you must continue to finish the exam and SAVE your answers before you submit the exam for marking. Please remember that you will be limited to 75 minutes for each Module Exam of 35 questions with 3 marks per question. (Note that there are 5 points available for extra credit in each of the five Module Exams as each exam carries 100 marks toward your total, but, there are 35 questions worth 3 marks each, which gives a total of 105 marks).

Please note that each of the Module Exams (there is no final exam) will be available for you to take during an 'open period' of about one week. This is designed to allow flexibility in the course and at the same time to keep you on a sensible schedule of work. However, there will be no make-up opportunities and so I strongly advise you to not leave things until the last moment – just in case you have technical or other

difficulties.

5) I use the Course Email and Course Calendar and ask that you check these on a daily basis. There is also a Chat Room for you to discuss issues with your class mates as we progress through the quarter – again see the link to Discussions from your Home Page.

Grading:

The total mark allocation for the course is 650 marks.

5 Module Quizzes will be worth a total of 500 marks each of the total mark.

5 Discussion Topics will be worth a maximum of 150 marks of the total mark.

The Grading Scale is:

A 4.0 600+

A- 3.7 570-599

B+ 3.3 535-569

B 3.0 500-534

B- 2.7 465-499

C+ 2.3 430-464

C 2.0 395-429

C- 1.7 360-394

D+ 1.3 325-359

D 1.0 290-324

F 289 and less

Required Text:

There is no set text for this class.

Participation:

You are responsible for:

- the technical aspects of your personal computer. Please look at the BC Distance Education website for the Vista Tutorial and for hardware requirements.
- reading the appropriate material as specified.
- taking part in email discussions - please use the Course Email to contact me – and remember that fellow students can be a helpful resource for those ‘difficult questions’.
- keeping comprehensive personal notes; journals; diagrams; maps that are relevant to the material studied.
- timely completion of coursework - please note that there are no make-up exams available - you should not leave tests to the last minute in case you have a technical problem - this is a very important consideration and you should have a back-up plan should your system ‘crash’ at the wrong time.
- please review the Bellevue College academic calendar posted at <http://distance-ed.bcc.ctc.edu> for all details regarding registration and withdrawal policy and procedures and distribution of final grades: you should be familiar with the Social Science Division policy for cheating and plagiarism. If you require special student services please contact Disability Support Services at 425-564-2498 or call in on campus.
- again please remember that there are no make-up opportunities; it is important to make a commitment to this online class in just the same way as you would a on-campus classroom based class.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

FALL 2011

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation.

The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter.

Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways

ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.