

GEOG& 100: Introduction to Geography

Bellevue College, Fall 2019 (Item 5152)

COURSE DETAILS

Class Sessions: MTWTh 12:30PM - 1:20PM
Room: D273
Instructor: David Spataro, PhD
E-mail: david.spataro@bellevuecollege.edu
Phone: (425) 564-3161
Office Location: D200E
Office Hours: Tu: 1:30PM – 3:00PM
W: 9:30AM – 12:00PM
Th: 1:30PM – 2:30PM
Final Exam: Friday, December 6th at 11:30am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course surveys the concepts and methods of geography by examining humankind's influence on the environment and the environment's impact on humankind. Topics include patterns and processes of world climates, culture, population, urbanization, economic activities, and resources.

COURSE OUTCOMES

[The complete list of course outcomes is available on BC's website.](#) The following is a shortened list of outcomes:

- Recognize and explain in written form the essential components inherent within geographic enquiry.
- Recognize and identify through written work the structure of the Earth and the relevance of rock materials and tectonic forces within the Earth's crust and the myriad of landforms and landform processes that shape the surface of the planet.
- Explain in short in-class tests and through the interpretation of weather maps the dynamic nature of the atmosphere.
- Recognize through written work and map study the spatial distribution of humankind.
- Accurately and informatively explain in written essays the dynamics of urban environments.
- Explain in written form a critical appreciation of the importance of the economic component within regions and its role in determining potential values, perceptions and decision-making processes in a society.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Introduction to Geography - This is only available online. Please use the link below to purchase. You can also find the link on the home page of the Canvas site. The book is essential reading for both the course materials as well as the Chapter Quizzes that will be taken using this ebook assessment system.

https://www.itsmorethanatextbook.com/admin/add_student.php?book_id=79&course_id=383

If you have problems, please watch this short video which helps to explain how to purchase the online book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z-uH7oyLYo>

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Graded Assessments	Points	Percentage
Chapter Quizzes (10)	100	20%
Map Exercises (5)	100	20%
Discussion Topics (5)	100	20%
Midterm	100	20%
Final Exam	100	20%
Total		100%

Course Chapters and Chapter Quizzes: Each of the chapters in the class covers one key theme of geographic inquiry. The 'Introduction to Geography' ebook contains the 10 chapters that we will read and the ebook assessment system will be used to take these weekly chapter quizzes. At the end of each chapter you will find 15 review questions. Although you do not turn these in, some of these questions will show up on the chapter quiz. You should create a study guide that highlights key points and material from the chapter.

Each chapter quiz has an open book/open note format with multiple-choice questions and is taken online using the ebook assessment system. There will be 10 questions in each chapter quiz. 5 will be selected from the 15 review questions and there will be an additional 5 questions selected from material in the relevant chapter. The chapter quizzes are due on Mondays at 11:59PM and they cover the chapter from the previous week.

Map Exercises: There are 5 map exercises to take and each one is worth 20 points. The map exercises are timed quizzes on Canvas (not the ebook assessment page), and are all due by the end of the quarter. The details on how to prepare for these map exercises are found when you go to the Home Page on the Canvas site, under "Map Exercises". You will need access to an atlas. Many of you will be tempted to use maps from Google or elsewhere online. I would highly recommend attaining an actual atlas as it will be easier to locate world regions and specific areas compared to relying on Google. You should be able to find an atlas at the library or for a reasonable price on amazon.com or ebay.com.

Discussion Topics: The discussion topics are opportunities to discuss important concepts and topics using the analytical tools from the course material. There will be 5 discussion topics throughout the quarter for a total of 100 points. Some discussions will be submitted using the Discussion Tool on the class Canvas website. Some discussions will take place during class.

Midterm and Final Exam: The midterm and final will each be worth 100 points. The midterm includes multiple choice questions from topics covered in chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. In addition, there will be a selection of 6 images and each will require a written response from you. Each image will require you to identify it and to write about the image with as much information as you can. The final exam will be the same format as the midterm and cover chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Both the mid-term and final exams will contain questions from the chapter review questions.

A	93-100%	465-500
A-	90-92%	450-464
B+	88-89%	440-449
B	83-87%	415-439
B-	80-82%	400-414
C+	78-79%	390-399
C	73-77%	365-389
C-	70-72%	350-364
D+	68-69%	340-349
D	63-67%	315-339
D-	60-62%	300-314
F	0-59%	001-299

LATE WORK AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

*These policies may apply differently to students with DRC accommodations. I will be working with all students individually to meet their accommodations.

- **Canvas:** Students are required to use Canvas during this class. We will be using it in very specific ways. Important documents such as the syllabus and map exercises will be posted on Canvas. Additionally, I will communicate to the class using Canvas's "Announcements" function. It is imperative that students edit Canvas notifications to ensure that my announcements in Canvas end up in their preferred location (email or text). I will use Canvas announcements for unexpected issues such as being out sick or school closures.

- **Attendance:** I will be taking attendance in this class, but students are not graded on attendance or participation. It is important that students attend class everyday and arrive on time.
- **Late work:** The chapter quizzes and discussion topics can be turned in by the end of the quarter for 75% of the grade. The midterm and final exam must be taken on the day(s) given, unless there is a documented emergency.

If you are falling behind due to emergency/unforeseen circumstances, you can work with me to create an individualized plan.

- **If English is not your first language:** Please check in with me about the quizzes and exams to discuss how I can best support you.
- **Electronic devices:** I prohibit the use of laptops in the classroom during lectures and most activities. During certain group activities associated with the watchdog report, I will make an announcement that students can bring/use their laptops. I also do not allow students to record audio or video during the class. I do not consent to being recorded in any way during class, office hours or appointments. We will occasionally use smart phones for in-class polling apps such as Kahoot!. Otherwise, I require that cell phones be put away.
- **Plagiarism/Cheating:** Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses that violate BC's student code of conduct. Students who violate the school's policies are required to meet with me for a one-on-one meeting. I will report violations to BC's CARE Team. Please be in touch with me if you are unsure of what constitutes this type of violation.
- **Appointments, Email and Canvas Inbox:** The best way to communicate with me is in-person during office hours and in appointments. I will also allot some class time for individual questions. Students can also contact me through my BC phone, my BC email, or the Canvas mail function (inbox). I may check these at odd hours, such as at night or over the weekend. But I will not reply outside of regular business hours. On my end I will be answering your messages swiftly during business hours. However, if I do not answer your inquiry in about a day, you should feel comfortable to follow up. Don't be shy if I haven't followed up. It is likely due to other tasks taking priority.

Please use Outlook to schedule appointments with me. This is a simple technique that will eliminate back and forth emails. I have created a tutorial video on the Canvas homepage to show you how to do this.

CLASSROOM LEARNING ATMOSPHERE

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. ([Affirmation of Inclusion](#))

Reasons of Faith and Conscience

Reasonable Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience: Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. See Bellevue College [Policy 2950](#). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscience, you may refer to the procedures outlined in the college's [Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy 1440P](#).

Annual Notice Non-Discrimination

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; creed; color; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates. Bellevue College is prohibited from discriminating in such a manner by college policy and by state and federal law. All college personnel and persons, vendors, and organizations with whom the college does business are required to comply with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations designed to promote affirmative action and equal opportunity.

Reports of gender and sex-based discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation by a student should be raised with the Title IX office. In cases where the impacted party is a student and the responding party is a college employee, the Title IX coordinator will direct the matter to the Office of Human Resources (HR). All other reports, including all reports where the impacted party is an employee, should be raised with the HR. If a report is against personnel in the Title IX office or HR, it should be submitted to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee. ([Equal Opportunity](#))

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. relationship violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or

that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2641 and more information can be found at [Title IX](#). If you have any concerns, you may report to: [Report Concerns](#).

IMPORTANT RESOURCES/SERVICES

Disability Resource Center – B132

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC as soon as possible. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#). Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call the reception desk at (425) 564.2498. Deaf students can reach the DRC by Skype: the address is **DRCatBC** (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually **DRCatBC**). Please visit the website at [Disability Resource Center](#) for application information and other helpful links.

Multicultural Services – 2nd Floor of B building (above the bookstore)

Multicultural Services (MCS) is a student-centered service program on campus that is designed to support all students in general, and diverse student populations in particular. MCS is a broad program that can assist students with tutoring in Math and English as well as help students locate community resources such as food and housing assistance. Please familiarize yourself with MCS by stopping by or visiting: bellevuecollege.edu/mcs/

Counseling Center – 2nd Floor of B building (above the bookstore)

The Counseling Center provides personal, career, and academic counseling for all registered BC students. The Counseling Center can be a helpful place for locating community resources (referrals) as well as free counseling appointments with the center's staff of licensed mental health counselors. Please familiarize yourself with the services offered by the counseling center by stopping by or visiting: bellevuecollege.edu/counseling/

COURSE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE (UP-TO-DATE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS):

Week 1 - Chapter 1: Physical Geography & the Surface of the Earth

- Monday 9/16: Syllabus and introductions
- Tuesday 9/17: read chapter 1
- Wednesday 9/18: read chapter 1
- Thursday 9/19: read chapter 1

Week 2 - Chapter 2: Weather and Climate

- Monday 9/23: read chapter 2
 - **Chapter 1 quiz due**
- Tuesday 9/24: read chapter 2
- Wednesday 9/25: read chapter 2
- Thursday 9/26: read chapter 2
- Friday 9/27: No class
 - **Discussion Topic #1 due**

Week 3 - Chapter 3: Maps and Mapmakers

- Monday 9/30: read chapter 3
 - **Chapter 2 quiz due**
- Tuesday 10/1: read chapter 3
- Wednesday 10/2: NO CLASS (Professional Development day)
- Thursday 10/3: read chapter 3

Week 4 - Chapter 4: Population and Demography

- Monday 10/7: read chapter 4
 - **Chapter 3 quiz due**
- Tuesday 10/8: read chapter 4
- Wednesday 10/9: read chapter 4
- Thursday 10/10: read chapter 4
- Friday 10/11: No class
 - **Discussion Topic #2 due**

Week 5 - Chapter 5: Population Distribution and the Economic Resource Base

- Monday 10/14: read chapter 5
 - **Chapter 4 quiz due**
- Tuesday 10/15: read chapter 5
- Wednesday 10/16: read chapter 5
- Thursday 10/17: read chapter 5

Week 6 – Midterm Week

- Monday 10/21: review
 - **Chapter 5 quiz due**
- Tuesday 10/22: No class (College Issues Day)
- Wednesday 10/23: **midterm**
- Thursday 10/24: **midterm**