Syllabus for Geography 320-001: Cultural Geography (Spring 2014)

Time: 11:00am-12:15pm Tu/Th Classroom: Clark C251 Section: 001 CRN: 14757
Credits: 3 Class Hours: 2.5 hrs/wk Homework: 5 hrs/wk
Instructor: Dr. John Lindenbaum
Instructor Office: Clark B 225
Office Hours: 2pm-3pm Tu/Th (or 10am-10:45am Tu/Th by e-mail appointment)
Instructor’s e-mail: John.Lindenbaum@colostate.edu

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to theories, terms, and contemporary topics in human geography, the academic study of the spatial aspects of human existence. We will explore the complex relationships between people and the worlds they inhabit by examining human migration patterns, population growth trends, economic development strategies, political conflicts, cultural landscapes, and interactions with the environment. This course will also introduce students to various academic subfields of human geography, including political, population, urban, economic, and cultural geography. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the world’s places, processes, and cultures with a geographical perspective
2. Read the newspaper, vote, and discuss local and world affairs with a greater understanding and sophistication
3. Comprehend many of the terms and ideas central to academic human geography

Readings:

You will need to download weekly readings from RamCT Blackboard at https://ramct.colostate.edu/. Once you log into RamCT and select this course, click on Course Content and then Course Readings. The readings will be in .pdf format in the folder for the appropriate week. There is no assigned textbook for this class.

Course Requirements:

1. Each week, you will be responsible for reading between one and three chapters or articles. You should take reading notes and try to establish the main arguments of each piece. Some of these chapters and articles are quite difficult and will require multiple readings. We will discuss confusing or problematic sections from the readings in class, but I will not review all of the material in lecture form. Therefore, it is essential that you complete each reading on your own. Be sure to come to class with at least one question or comment about the week’s assigned readings.

2. Each class, we will discuss and apply challenging concepts in human geography. You should take notes in lecture because many of these concepts do not appear in the readings. In class, you should ask questions, provide examples, and critique ideas from
the readings or lectures. If you do not feel comfortable speaking in lecture, you should come to office hours or schedule other appointments with me to satisfy the participation portion of your grade. I will take attendance in each class.

3. Each student must give one 5-7 minute in-class presentation based on an independent research project in human geography. Students will sign up for presentations in the first class. The presentation should not summarize the readings or general subject matter of the lecture, but rather should focus on a more specific issue or place that is somehow related to the topic of that lecture.

Each student should meet with me in office hours to discuss the subject of his or her presentation and sources before the first exam (2/27/14). Students presenting before the first exam must meet with me or email me at least two weeks before the presentation. If a student has not decided on a subject with me ahead of time, he or she will not be allowed to present. Please do not use internet video clips in your presentation, since these have caused technical problems in the past.

Students should employ 10-20 sources beyond the course readings. These sources can include academic articles, books, interviews, films, magazine articles, and newspaper articles, but NOT readings from this class, lectures, wikipedia, about.com, websites for University courses, essay writing services, online content libraries, editorial opinion pieces, non-government webpages, online encyclopedias, term definitions, or blogs. Do not list google images or your other image sources in your bibliography. You must list at least one academic journal article or book from a university press as a source; this can be used for background information or theoretical context if it is not does not directly address your topic. I highly recommend expanding your search for sources beyond merely using Google Scholar or Academic Search Premier. Not all of your sources need to be cited in the presentation itself.

Students must email me a list of sources (and optional Powerpoint or Prezi slideshow) by 10pm the night before the presentation. The bibliography can be in any commonly accepted academic format, but must include author, title, date, publisher, etc. rather than just weblinks. Prezi presentations must be emailed as a Portable Prezi that will work offline; if the file is too big to email, send me a link to Google Drive or an equivalent storage site. Because I do not have a Mac, Keynote presentations must be saved as Powerpoint files before being sent to me.

4. There will be three closed-book closed-note exams; one in class on Thursday, February 27th, one in class on Thursday, April 10th, and a final exam in the regular classroom from 9:40am-11:40am on Wednesday, May 14th. Each exam will include a combination of short (1-2 paragraph answer) questions and longer (3-6 paragraph answer) questions. Each exam will cover material from the entire course. Bring pencils or pens and a bluebook to the exams. A student who misses any of the three exams will not receive a passing grade in the class. Exams cannot be taken at a different time unless they will be missed for a University-sponsored activity.
Grading:

20% attendance
5% participation
10% in-class presentation
20% first exam
20% second exam
25% final exam

Final grades will be A, B, C, D, or F (no +/- grades).

Attendance/Punctuality/Behavior:

Attendance in Geography 320 is mandatory. If you miss class due to a family or medical emergency, be sure to get notes from a classmate, examine the lecture slides on RamCT, and come to office hours to ask any questions you might have. If you already know you will be missing classes due to your work schedule, planned vacations, or other academic obligations, this is not the class for you.

If you must miss a class for a medical or family emergency or for a school-sponsored event (sports team, marching band, debate team, etc.), email me BEFORE the class you will miss. In the case of classes missed for emergencies or school-sponsored events, students who contact me beforehand can get credit for the missed class by emailing me a paragraph-length response to one of that day’s readings. This response paragraph should include your own questions, comments, or complaints about the readings, NOT a summary of the reading. This response paragraph does not need to reach me before the missed class, but should be sent within the week.

Please do not arrive to class late or leave early. If you have special circumstances that necessitate late arrival or early departure, please speak to me in advance.

Please address your fellow students and the instructor in a respectful manner. This includes not interrupting, not insulting the ideas or abilities of others, not talking to each other without addressing the whole class, and paying attention when someone else is speaking. Feel free to raise your hand and ask a question at any time during the class.

Please turn off all cell phones, laptops, blackberries, pagers, iPods, and other gadgets before class begins. If you absolutely need your laptop to take notes, you must discuss this with me in person.

If you text in class, you will be asked to leave. This also applies during films. If you need to check the time during the class, please bring a watch rather than checking your cell phone.
Academic Misconduct:

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code, as explained on Page 7 of the university’s General Catalog (www.catalog.colostate.edu). During the exams, do not look at answers on your neighbor’s exam, do not refer to your readings or notes, and do not talk or text. Facilitation of any act of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, and/or falsification of documents also constitutes violation of Colorado State University’s academic integrity.

Extra Credit:

No extra credit assignments will be offered.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student requesting disability accommodation for this class, please inform me after the first class. Students are encouraged to contact Resources for Disabled Students at (970) 491-6385 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

COURSE OUTLINE

Complete the assigned readings BEFORE the week’s lectures.

Week One


Lecture 1 (Tuesday, 1/21/14): Introduction to Human Geography
Lecture 2 (Thursday, 1/23/14): Nature and Culture

Week Two


Lecture 3 (Tuesday, 1/28/14): The Social Production of “Natural” Disasters
Lecture 4 (Thursday, 1/30/14): Agriculture and the World Food System
Week Three
Lecture 5 (Tuesday, 2/04/14): The World Food Crisis
Lecture 6 (Thursday, 2/06/14): Human Population Trends

Week Four
Lecture 7 (Tuesday, 2/11/14): Malthusian Arguments
Lecture 8 (Thursday, 2/13/14): Migration

Week Five
Lecture 9 (Tuesday, 2/18/14): Cities and the Urban Form
Lecture 10 (Thursday, 2/20/14): Suburbanization and Gentrification

Week Six
Lecture 11 (Tuesday, 2/25/14): Slums
First Exam (Thursday, 2/27/14)
Week Seven


Lecture 12 (Tuesday, 3/04/14): Capitalism

Lecture 13 (Thursday, 3/06/14): Industrial Geography

Week Eight


Lecture 14 (Tuesday, 3/11/14): Economic Globalization

Lecture 15 (Thursday, 3/13/14): Development Theories

NO CLASS Tuesday 3/18 and Thursday 3/20 (Spring Break)

Week Nine


Lecture 16 (Tuesday, 3/25/13): International Debt I

Lecture 17 (Thursday, 3/27/13): International Debt II

Week Ten

Rian Malan, “Introduction” and “Part One,” In the Jungle ColdType Modern Classics, September 2003, pp. 1-17.


Lecture 18 (Tuesday, 4/01/14): Cultural Diffusion

NO CLASS Thursday, 4/03/13
Week Eleven

Lecture 19 (Tuesday, 4/08/14): The Cultural Landscape
Second Exam (Thursday, 4/10/14)

Week Twelve


Lecture 20 (Tuesday, 4/15/14): The Social Construction of Race
Lecture 21 (Thursday, 4/17/14): Racialized Spaces

Week Thirteen


Lecture 22 (Tuesday, 4/22/14): States and Nations
Lecture 23 (Thursday, 4/24/14): The Pentagon’s New Map and the Rise of China
Week Fourteen


**Lecture 24** (Tuesday, 4/29/14): The Clash of Civilizations?

**Lecture 25** (Thursday, 5/01/14): Mexico I - Trade and Migration

Week Fifteen


**Lecture 26** (Tuesday, 5/06/14): Mexico II - The Drug War

**Lecture 27** (Thursday, 5/08/14): Review

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 14, 9:40-11:40am