

Geog1101: Introduction to Human Geography
Course 86453 | 102 MLC | 1:25-2:15 Mon./Wed./Fri. | Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Jerry Shannon
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Course schedule: <http://goo.gl/BDP5hp>

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Course overview

What is geography? For many, the answer to this question may bring to mind scattered issues of *National Geographic*, memorizing state capitals, or using Google Maps to find directions. However, these are only small parts of a broad subject, one that focuses on how space matters to human societies and to the planet that hosts us.

This course, as the title suggests, introduces you to the range of topics that geographers have studied, providing a kind of tasting menu for the discipline. Our topics include globalization, environmental justice, segregation, mapping, economic development, the green revolution, food security, and the growth of world “megacities.” By the end of the course, you may find it hard to answer the question of what *isn't* geography.

Class times will primarily be lecture based, but there will be other activities as well, including in-class discussions, films, student presentations, and activities. The goals are to keep things varied, to give you some sense of the way geographers look at the world, and a better grasp of the methods they use to do so.

Our course text

Our primary text for the course is *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context, 6th ed.* by Knox and Marston. It should be available at the University Book store. Online sites like Amazon and Half.com also offer textbooks for rent at reasonable prices. Previous editions of the book may work for reading quizzes and course exams, but I give no guarantee they are an adequate replacement.

Our eLearningCommons (ELC) site

The course ELC site does multiple things. It is a repository for course materials and class lectures. All assignments will be submitted through this system, and you will use it to take our scheduled exams and quizzes. You can also use the ELC site to keep track of your grades in the course. In short, it's an online home for the course and one you should take time to feel comfortable with. It's available at <http://elc.uga.edu>.

Class schedule and due dates

The schedule of class topics is online—see above or the link on the course site. This schedule is flexible and may change as we move through the course. It is your responsibility to regularly check this schedule to insure you are keeping up with assigned readings and are aware of course deadlines. That said, I will do my best to insure that the dates for exams and assignments do not change. As of now, those dates are as follows:

- Fieldwork assignments (you will sign up for ONE of the four dates): Monday, 9/15; Friday, 10/17; Monday, 11/17; Tuesday, 12/9.

- Reading quizzes (available 24 hours before these Wednesday classes): 8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19
- Major exams (timed and available online): Monday, Sept. 22; Wednesday, Oct. 29; Wednesday, Dec. 17

Grades

There are **380 points** possible for the course, distributed in this way:

- Mapping activity (bring to class, due March 3): **10 points**
- Online reading quizzes (eight, two lowest scores dropped): **10 points each, total of 60 possible points**
 - Reading quizzes are open book and will be available 24 hours before class on the Wednesdays listed above and must be completed by class time.
 - Five questions are on each quiz. You will have ten minutes to finish once you begin.
- Class participation (based on in class poll responses): **50 points**
 - There will be approximately 40-60 total polls during class times.
 - < 20% of all poll responses: 0 points
 - 20% - 59.9% of all poll responses: 25 points
 - 60% or more of all poll responses: 50 points
 - > 80% of all poll responses: 5 points extra credit
- Fieldwork paper: **50 points**
 - These papers will be submitted through the ELC dropbox and are due by 11:59 pm on the due date.
 - 5 points extra credit for participating in an in-class peer review session
 - 2 points extra credit for volunteering for a two minute presentation on your paper in class
- Online exams (three, each is non-cumulative): **70 points each, total of 210 points**
 - Exams will be open book and available on ELC in a nine hour window from 9 am to 6 pm on the day of the exam.
 - 35 questions are on each exam. You will have 50 minutes to finish once you begin.

Final point totals will be assigned grades using a standard scale, as follows:

A > 348 points	B 310-331	C 272-293	F < 225 points
A- 340-347	B- 302-309	C- 264-271	
B+ 332-339	C+ 294-301	D 226-263	

Fieldwork project

During the second week of class, you will sign up on ELC for one of four “fieldwork” assignments, where you will do a brief investigation of a topic related to our class discussion. The four options in this study each use varying research approaches, giving you a chance to try out the methods used by geographers. More information on these assignments is available on ELC, but they are each summarized below.

- 1. Mapping concentrated disadvantage (due Mon., 9/15):** Use the online mapping tool Social Explorer to map how differences in household income are related to other demographic factors in a city of your choice, including race, education, employment, and age.

2. **Placemaking at UGA (due Mon., 10/20):** Observe one significant site at UGA (or near campus) and describe what kind of place it is—who has created it, who uses it and how, and what things/people might be missing or excluded.
3. **Grocery audit (due Fri., 11/21):** Pick a supermarket somewhere close to campus and analyze the kinds of foods it features, who works there, its location, where that food comes from, and how people use it.
4. **The state of the cities (due Mon., 12/8):** Read a recent “state of the city” address from a major American city. Describe the main themes of this address and analyze what kind of future development it envisions, whose responsibility it is to carry out that development, and who is meant to benefit from it.

Contacting me

Email is the best way to contact me, as I check email regularly throughout the work week. You can also post a question in our Facebook group (see below) if it’s of general interest (e.g., questions on paper expectations). If you message me at night or on a weekend, don’t expect a quick reply. You can also try to reach me through my office phone or leave a message, but I may not respond as quickly. I have office hours Monday after class, but you are more than welcome to email me to set up a more convenient time. Cory, our teaching assistant, is also available to answer questions if needed.

Electronic Devices

Laptop use is not permitted during class time, unless you have a documentable need (e.g., as part of disability accommodations). If this is the case, let me know. Phones are acceptable, but you should avoid instant messaging, emailing, or posting on social media during lecture. Silence your phones, limit phone calls to emergencies/urgent situations, and don’t talk on phones in the classroom. In short, use common sense, and be respectful of myself and your classmates. I’ll ask you to leave the class if you’re using electronics for non-class purposes.

Late work and missed exams

Your fieldwork assignment will due by midnight on the date assigned. Late work will be penalized 5 points, and I will not accept any assignment that is more than one week late. Make ups for course exams are only allowed in cases of documented hardships (e.g., doctors’ note or something similar). All exams must be made up by one week after the exam date. There are no make-up exams for reading quizzes, as you are already allowed two dropped grades.

PollEverywhere and Class Participation

There is no formal attendance requirement for this class, as I want students in class only if they want to be. That said, your class participation in lecture times will be assessed through the polling software PollEverywhere (see the criteria above). Questions asked through PollEverywhere can be answered through the web (laptop, tablet, smartphone) or through text messages from your cell phone. You need to sign up for this service, which is free to you. Register at the following link (also available on the ELC site): <https://www.polleverywhere.com/register?p=2md2f-1q8k>. You can sign up using your name and email address. **Make sure to use your nine digit 810 number as your course identifier**, as this is how your responses will be linked to your grade in ELC. If you’ll be using texts to answer questions, you’ll also need to register your cell phone number to your account. If you don’t have access to a cell phone during class, let me know in the first two weeks of class and we’ll make alternative arrangements. A full guide to registering for PollEverywhere is on ELC.

Geog 1101 on Facebook

Join the class group on Facebook! I'll post announcements there as well as send them out via email, and it's an easy way to ask questions of me and your classmates. We'll also be using the group for informal activities throughout the semester. Here's the link (or also find one on ELC): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/761959433845237>. Just send a request to join.

Grade Disputes and Appeals

If you feel that an assignment or exam has not been graded fairly, contact me and Cory within a week of receiving that grade. Your appeal must be based on the expectations laid out in the assignment and/or grading rubric (in the case of your paper) or make a case from the material covered in class (for exams). We'll respond to these appeals promptly.

I also offer multiple extra credit opportunities throughout the course and so do not make a practice of adjusting grades at the end of the semester if you are on the borderline. You can contact me if you feel you have an exceptional circumstance, but know that I rarely grant these requests.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is a serious offense anywhere, but especially so in a university environment. Any assignment that uses another's work without proper acknowledgement will be penalized. Plagiarism that is clearly intentional and extensive will result in a failing grade for the course. For more information on academic honesty policies at UGA, see <http://honesty.uga.edu>.

Special Needs

Any student with a documented disability condition should contact me at the beginning of the semester to arrange accommodations. You may also contact the Office of Disability Services at 542-8719 and/or the Learning Disability Center at 542-4589.