Geography 102: People, Places, and Environments
Fall 2015 – T Th 11:00 to 12:15
Class # 21573 – Storm Hall 105

Professor Lydia Wood
Office: Storm Hall 311D
Office hours: Tuesdays 2-3pm, or by appointment
Course Email: sdsugeography102@gmail.com (preferred contact)
Secondary Email: lwood@rohan.sdsu.edu

Catalog Description:
An introduction to Human Geography. Understanding the regional distribution of language, religion, population, migration and settlement patterns, political organization, technology, methods of livelihood over the earth.

Course Description:
Human systems have an inherent geography or spatiality: human activity happens in particular places and across particular spaces. Additionally, geographers employ certain methods and concepts to study human activities. This is an exciting course! We will examine a broad range of topics including globalization, population trends and migration, nature and society, agriculture, cultural geography and landscape interpretation, language and religion, economic development, geopolitics, urbanization, and sustainability. In an increasingly globalized world, these issues have impacts upon all of our lives, whether we live in San Diego, Mumbai, or Tokyo. By exploring these topics through the lens of human geography, we will uncover how spatial interconnections and geographical interdependence shape the world around us, and how local actions can have social, cultural, and environmental impacts on people and places around the world.

Course Objectives:
This course will provide an introduction to key local and global issues as understood through a geographic perspective. You will learn about some of the important ways in which our world is interconnected and how our actions shape the world around us, and in turn how we are influenced by the places around us.
At the end of this course you will:
• Use geographic principles and methods to understand current world issues.
• Understand the connections between local actions and global processes.
• Think geographically about various political, economic, demographic, cultural, and social aspects of human activity.
• Recognize sociocultural processes and outcomes in the landscape.
• Interpret maps and other geographic representations.
**Required Materials:**
James Rubenstein: Contemporary Human Geography, 3rd or 2nd edition

In addition there will be a free course reader accessible through Blackboard. The articles, videos, and websites included in the course reader will help ground course concepts in current events and real world geographies.

**Requirements:**
1. Reading of assigned textbook and uploaded articles on blackboard.
2. Attendance, punctuality, and participation.
3. Completion of 4 exams.
4. Completion of 1 term paper.
5. Completion of a final project.

**Attendance, Punctuality, and Participation:**
I will periodically take attendance for a predetermined number of points. If you are present, you will not lose any points. If you are not present when I take attendance, you will lose those points.

I will periodically request your participation in one or more ways, including (but not limited to) in-class and take-home activities. These activities are designed to supplement lecture-based learning. All take-home activities are due on specific deadlines indicated in the course schedule, and late activities will not be accepted. In-class participation assignments cannot be made up. On take-home participation activity submission deadlines, you will only submit the assignments that you have chosen to complete.

There will be 10 possible take home participation activities: 9 “regular” take-home participation activities and one mandatory take-home participation activity. **You will complete a total of 4 of these 10 take-home participation activities – you will choose 3 of the 9 optional take-home participation activities, and Activity 10 is mandatory.**

If you complete more than 4 of the 9 optional take home participation activities I will calculate your grade using the highest four activities. 20% of your grade (120 points) is based upon attendance, punctuality, and participation.

**Term Paper / Writing Assignments:**
You will write 1 term paper by completing a number of writing activities over the course of the semester. **I will provide you with 4 possible topics, and you will choose and write about one of these topics.** Paper prompts with detailed information, instructions, resources, and grading criteria will be provided through Blackboard. The term paper is worth 120 points (20% of your grade).
Exams:
You will complete 4 in-class, closed-book exams. Exams will cover material from lectures, guest lectures, the textbook, external readings, and handouts. There will also be a separate map identification section. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice, definitions, short answer, and guided essay questions. Missed exams cannot be made up. I will drop your lowest exam score, so only three of your exam scores will be considered when calculating your final course grade. Each exam is worth 80 points, for a total of 240 points (40% of your grade).

Final Project:
Your final project will consist of a photojournalistic essay that explores how the topics discussed in this class are reflected in the local landscape. In addition to the photo essay, you will make a short presentation of your results to the rest of the class. Assignment prompts with detailed information, instructions, resources, and grading criteria will be provided on Blackboard. Taken together, the photo essay and presentation are worth 120 points (20% of your grade).

Grading:
Grades will be updated regularly on Blackboard so you can track your own score.

Note: Because of the way that this course is designed, the percentages displayed on the Blackboard gradebook will not be accurate. The total number of points earned is the most important factor to consider when assessing your performance in the class. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the Blackboard gradebook.

The tables below summarize the point and percentage breakdowns for this course. If you feel that you are struggling at any point, please feel free to visit during office hours or schedule an appointment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Total Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>120</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Plus/minus grading will be used. The grading scale for this course is based on the number of points accumulated through your performance on assignments and exams. The percentage scale for points earned is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% -- 100%</td>
<td>558-600 points</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% -- 92.9%</td>
<td>540-557 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73% -- 76.9%</td>
<td>438-461 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70% -- 72.9%</td>
<td>420-437 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B+ 87% -- 89.9%  522-539 points
B  83% -- 86.9%  498-521 points
B- 80% -- 82.9%  480-497 points
C+ 77% -- 79.9%  462-479 points

D+ 67% -- 69.9%  402-419 points
D  63% -- 66.9%  378-401 points
D- 60% -- 62.9%  360-377 points
F  59.9% or below 359 points or below

This percentage scale will remain constant. I will inform you if there are any changes to the point scale.

**Extra Credit:**
Extra credit opportunities will arise over the course of the semester. The maximum number of extra credit points that can be earned over the entire semester is 25. I'll inform you of any extra credit opportunities in class and on Blackboard.

**Course Schedule:**
Although schedules are subject to change as needed, this is the planned course schedule:

Section 1 - Starts 24 August, ends 18 September
Lecture Topics*: Introductions / What is Human Geography? (Read Chapter 1), Population (Read Chapter 2), Migration (Read Chapter 3), Race/Ethnicity/Identity (Read Chapter 7).
Important Dates: Participation Activities 1, 2, or 3 are due by 11:55pm on Friday, 11 September
Assessment: Material on Section 1 will be covered on Exam 1, Tuesday, 22 September

Section 2 - Starts 21 September, ends October 23
Lecture Topics*: Cultural Landscapes (Read Chapter 4), Development and Economic Geography (Read Chapter 9), Food and Agriculture (Read Chapter 10).
On your own: Language (Read Chapter 5)
Important Dates:
Writing Activity 1 for Paper Options 1, 2, or 3 is due by 11:55pm on Friday, 25 September
Participation Activities 4, 5, or 6 are due by 11:55pm on Friday, 9 October
Decide on a lecture topic for Paper Option 4 by Thursday, 9 October
Writing Activity 2 for Paper Options 1, 2, or 3 is due by 11:55pm on Friday, 23 October
Assessment: Material on Section 2 will be covered on Exam 2, Tuesday, 20 October

Section 3 - Starts October 26, ends 20 November
Lecture Topics*: Nature and Society (Read Chapter 14), Urbanization I (Read Chapter 12), Urbanization II (Read Chapter 13)
On your own: Industry (Read Chapter 11)
Important Dates:
Participation Activities 7 and 8 are due by 11:55pm on Friday, 30 October
Writing Activity 1 for Paper Option 4 is due by 11:55pm on Friday, 30 October
Writing Activity 3 for Paper Options 1, 2, or 3 is due by 11:55pm on Friday, 13 November

Assessment: Material on Section 3 will be covered on Exam 3, Thursday, 19 November

Section 4 - Starts 23 November, ends 15 December

Lecture Topics*: Religion (Read Chapter 6), Future Geographies (Reading TBA)

On your own: Political Geography (Read Chapter 8)

Important Dates:

No class: 26 November (Thanksgiving Break)

Participation Activities 9 and 10 are due by 11:55pm on Friday, 4 December

Final project photo submissions are due by 11:55pm on Monday, 7 December

The final project is due at the start of class on Tuesday, 8 December

Final project presentations will be held on Tuesday, 8 December and Thursday, 10 December

Writing Activity 2 for Topic 4 is due the day of our final exam by 11:55pm on Tuesday, 15 December

Assessment: Material on Section 4 will be covered on Exam 4, Tuesday, 15 December from 10:30 to 12:30 pm

* Additional readings and course materials (e.g. videotaped lectures) may be added to Blackboard and will be announced in class throughout the semester.

Class Policies and Information:

In Class:
- No food or drink in the classroom.
- I recommend checking your university email address regularly as this is the only way I have to communicate with you outside of class.
- I expect that you will skim the assigned text before the lecture in which the material is discussed and read the assigned text after the lecture in which the material is discussed.
- Participate in discussion; participation will be considered in your final evaluations.
- Do not disrupt your fellow classmates’ learning experience: No texting / reading texts, checking, beeping, buzzing, vibrating, lighting-up cell phones in the classroom.
- You can use computers in class provided you do not surf the web, check email, Facebook, Twitter, look at pictures of your friends, check sports scores, etc. If use of a computer distracts me or your classmates, appropriate action will be taken, which may include asking students with laptops to sit in specific seats or to email their notes to me immediately after class.
- Do not distract others with your private conversations. Do ask geography questions.
- Being tardy or leaving early can also be disruptive. Students who engage in any of these behaviors without notifying me in advance will receive negative points against their grade and may be dismissed from the class at my discretion. This is your warning.
- In the event that a student misses an exam, there will not be a makeup exam.
- We may discuss contentious issues that deal with broader issues of justice, discrimination, and power that are inherently political. Please maintain tolerance and respect for divergent views among classmates (and me!) Listen, think, and consider multiple perspectives -- these are good life skills and also are a great way to learn about how places work.

Assignments:
- Students are expected to write at the college level using appropriate organization, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Unless otherwise indicated, all take-home assignments must be typed, double spaced, in 12 point font, with 1 inch margins. **Hand-written assignments will be returned with a zero score.**
- Points will be deducted for failure to follow the directions in the assignment handout.
- Take-home assignments will only be accepted if they are submitted by the deadline indicated in the assignment handout and should be submitted by email or through Blackboard. Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Students are encouraged to turn in assignments early. Remember, the due date is the last possible day something may be turned in; you can always turn your work in early.

Additional:
- It is solely the students’ obligation to take the appropriate steps to **add or drop the course**. You will not be dropped if you stop attending class. Pay close attention to the appropriate deadlines.
- I strongly encourage you to come to my **office hours**. As the course instructor, my main goal is to help you learn, so if you have any questions about the material, or the class in general, you are more than welcome to come speak with me during my office hours. If you are not available during my office hours, email me to set up an appointment. When class does not meet (e.g. during Spring Break), there will be no office hours.
- **Cheating and plagiarism** violate academic standards of intellectual honesty and go against the ideal of personal growth. Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form and will be dealt with to the full extent allowed by the university. The minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a zero score on plagiarized assignments; penalties can range up to removal from the class and possibly other disciplinary actions including expulsion, suspension, or probation. Plagiarism is particularly problematic with regard to written papers and assignments (for more information, see SDSU’s policy on Cheating and Plagiarism: [http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/SRR/cheating-plagiarism.html](http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/SRR/cheating-plagiarism.html))
- For resources on how to appropriately **cite sources** in a college paper see the following websites: [http://www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) and [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/)
- If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from
Student Disability Services. Students who need accommodation of their **disabilities** should contact me privately during the first 2 weeks of class, to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. All conversations are strictly confidential.

- Similarly, if you will require accommodation due to a religious holiday or other documented reason, please let me know within the first two weeks.
- **Attendance** at lectures is expected. Students are responsible to catch up on missed work (e.g. get notes from a classmate).
- We will cover a considerable range of topics in this course. Because both the scope and the topics of this course are rigorous, it is important that you **regularly review text and lecture material** in order to be prepared. Remember that the suggested amount of study time for a college course is 2 hours per week per unit outside of class time. (3 unit class) x (2 hours per week) = 6 hours per week.
- **Procrastinator alert**: If you need to pass this class or maintain your GPA, start planning for this now, not the week before finals.

- This class is full of interesting information that will help you to better appreciate the world around you and understand the complexity and interconnectedness of human systems. The topics discussed in human geography affect all of our lives in countless ways and will help you to better understand the world around you.

  I plan on having fun in this class and I hope that you do too!