Course Description

Surveys current issues and developing trends in social and cultural structures and regions across the globe. Explores social phenomena in geographical settings to cultivate an understanding of the interdependence of places, regions, and cultures in a globalizing world.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain why geography matters.
2. Compare geographic expansion, integration, and change.
3. Critically analyze industrialization and geographic change.
4. Discuss population distribution and structure.
5. Analyze current population policies and debates.
6. Assess recent environmental change through human action.
7. Appraise the cultural systems of religion and language as they are related to geography.
8. Describe the relationship between globalization and cultural change.
9. Evaluate the effects of globalization on place-making.
10. Explain why economic development is uneven in various parts of the world.
11. Describe the relationship between the environment and agricultural industrialization.
12. Critically analyze geopolitics and the world order.
13. Explain current urban systems, looking at regional trends and projections.
15. Estimate future resources, technology, and spatial change.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Objectives:** Each unit contains Unit Learning Objectives that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Written Lectures:** Each unit contains a Written Lecture, which discusses lesson material.
3. **Reading Assignments:** Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook.
4. **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** These non-graded Learning Activities are provided in Units I-VIII to aid students in their course of study.
5. **Key Terms:** Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.
6. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains four Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of Units I, V, VI, and VII. Assessments are composed of written response questions.
7. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units I-VII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below.
8. **Research Paper**: Students are required to submit for grading a Research Paper in Unit VIII. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. A grading rubric is included with the Unit VIII Research Paper. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.

9. **Ask the Professor**: This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

10. **Student Break Room**: This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

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**Unit Assignments**

**Unit I Scholarly Activity**

**Traveler’s Guide**

For this assignment, you are going to take the role of a journalist exploring places of interest and describing your experiences. Choose three different places of interest. Compare and contrast them, and compose a minimum 200 word response for each, outlining the following areas:

1. A brief summarization of the area you chose (e.g. Tuscany, Cabo, Ireland etc). It can be a city, area, or nation. Include the primarily language.
2. Ethnicity of the people
3. Description of the culture
4. The importance of geography in the place of interest
5. Any other notable items of interest

You should use travel websites, related magazines (e.g. national geographic), or your own experience to complete this assignment. Your total response should be at least 600 words (roughly 1.5 pages), comprised of the three different places of interest. Make sure you use appropriate APA style writing to complete your assignment.

**Unit II Scholarly Activity**

**Video Critique**

For this assignment, you will perform a “Video Critique” (similar to an Article Critique) in which you must find at least one video related to the concepts within this unit and discuss it. Good topics of interest may include overpopulation, population sizes of cities, types of culture, culture conflicts (e.g. Coptic Christians and Muslims in Egypt), regionalism, nationalism, etc. The topic does not have to be one of the aforementioned subject areas; these are only a few to get you thinking.

Perform a little exploration as you think about the topic you would like to research, as you may change your mind. There are a few websites which are excellent sources of information:

- [http://www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org) (Frontline)
- [http://www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) (Ted Talks)
- [http://www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Make sure it is legitimate. The Vanguard series by Current TV is an example of a good source).
- [http://www.ustream.tv](http://www.ustream.tv)

After reviewing the video(s) and making any necessary notes, address the following areas:

- Summary of the video
- Argument/Main Points of the author
- How it relates to the unit, any ONE of the following topics covered in this unit:
  - The core and the periphery
  - The pre-modern world
  - Globalization
- Conclusion/Reflection by you

There is no specific requirement as to the length of the video, but it should be long enough that you can write at least 1-2 pages of material. If you want, you can review more than one video. You should use appropriate APA style writing and cite your sources, times new roman 12 pt font, and be double spaced.
Unit II Research Topic

Within Unit VIII you are going to submit a research paper based upon a topic related urbanization and the urban structure from Chapters 10-11. The research paper will need to be at least 6-8 pages long with at least 4 scholarly references to support your argument surrounding your topic, answer your research question, or support your points about the need for further research on this topic.

The research paper will be submitted in parts throughout Units II, IV, and VIII (the final product), to provide appropriate feedback and ensure you are on track with your progress. Should you have any questions regarding your topic, please consult your professor.

For your first submission, you need to choose a topic related to this course, and more specifically, urbanization and the urban structure. However, you need to choose topic(s) (one or more) from the previous chapters that you can tie into the concepts of urbanization and urban structure. With this submission you need to provide your topic, your plans for researching your topic, some basic information on your chosen topic, and how it relates to urbanization and the urban structure. This is a good opportunity for you to provide some more interesting facts about your topic to provide your professor with some brief insight into your research. Some relatable topics may include:

1. Population Geography
2. Cultural Geography
3. People and Nature
4. Places and Landscapes
5. Geographies of Economic Development
6. Food and Agriculture
7. Political Geographies

Your topic submission should be at least one to two paragraphs with appropriate APA style writing and citations.

Unit III Scholarly Activity

Case Report

For this assignment you are going to perform research on a topic and present a “Case Report” with your findings. How you approach your research is up to you. You can choose to read peer-review journal articles, review a video from a credited or verified website, perform research through magazines or contemporary news articles, or use appropriate references at your discretion. However, you must fulfill the following requirements:

1. A description of the topic;
2. A summary of the document(s) that you used to conduct your research (not every document you read, just the document(s) that you will use for this assignment);
3. Analysis of the relationship to concepts in the textbook and contemporary issues – This should include three objectives; and
4. Your concluding thoughts on the matter.

The case report must have the following headings:

1. Description of the Topic
2. Summary
3. Analysis
4. Conclusion

Here is a list of topics that you may find interesting:

1. Endangered Animals
2. Companies for animals
3. Nature programs
4. Nature reserves
5. National park programs
6. Interaction with Nature
7. Global Warming
8. Oil Drilling
9. Endangered languages
10. Colonization
These topics are not set in stone; you may choose a topic that is relevant to the concepts provided in the textbook. Also, you do not have to review only one resource; if you want to watch a few resources that are relevant and tie into each other, then feel free to do so!

The Case Report must be at least two pages, double spaced, with appropriate APA style writing.

**Unit IV Scholarly Activity**

**Travel Brochure**

There are a couple options you can do for this assignment.

First, you can act as a travel guide for a specific city, region, or country, and create a brochure outlining various places, spaces, monuments, landscapes, or images that are impacting or insightful into the area’s history and culture. You should provide an image or picture of each item of interest and create a description of the image with the following components:

1. The meaning of the item of interest. Is it a landmark, coded space, sacred space, etc.?
2. The influence upon its surrounding environment.
3. How the culture of the surrounding population affected its creation or perspective.
4. Any other notes related to the item of interest.

You should include a minimum of three items of interest (places, spaces, monuments, landscapes, images, etc.) within the brochure and include the country of origin and when it was created (if it was man made). This brochure should compile at least one entire page of information using either a bi-fold or tri-fold system.

Second, you can create a brochure with various places, spaces, monuments, landscapes, or images that are personally impactful or have had an influence upon your life. For example, you recount a trip you took to the Grand Canyon with your family when you were younger. You should provide an image or picture of each item of interest and create a description of the image with the following components:

1. The personal meaning of the item of interest, and how it impacted you.
2. The influence upon its surrounding environment.
3. How the culture of the surrounding population affected its creation or perspective.
4. Any other notes related to the item of interest.

You should include a minimum of three items of interest (places, spaces, monuments, landscapes, images, etc.) within the brochure and include the country of origin and when it was created (if it was man made). The brochure does not have to be a bi-fold or even a tri-fold brochure as you may sometimes see in travel agencies. Your product may also take the form of a news article. The aesthetics of your project is up to you. However, it must be appropriately cited using APA style writing.

**Unit IV Research Draft**

Submit the draft of your research paper that you have completed thus far (remember, the final research paper is due in Unit VIII). This draft must show how your topic relates to urbanization and the urban structure, as well as include a description of how the concepts relate to one another. The Unit IV Research Draft should be 2-3 pages and include a separate reference page with all the sources you are using (in APA format). If you need assistance, consult your professors to find out what may be a good direction.

**Unit V Scholarly Activity**

**Compare and Contrast**

For this assignment you are going to conduct a comparison of various regions or nations which lack crucial resources such as energy, arable land, minerals, fossil fuels, etc. Choose two or more nations/regions to compare and address the following areas:

1. Briefly describe the nation/region(s) you chose. Include various demographics such as the mortality/morbidity rate, number of people at the working age, how this affects the success/failure of its economy, and whether these areas fall in the core or periphery. Paint a verbal picture of the area.
2. Discuss how the lack of resources has impacted the economic development of the region/nation.
3. What steps can these region/nation(s) take to achieve sustainability? What resources do these places have to offer?
4. Finally, compare these places to a nation/region which has considerable resources at its disposal. How do these places interact?
5. Conclude with your own thoughts on what can be done to assist places of poor economic development.

This assignment should be at least one page long, double spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font. The assignment should also use APA style writing with appropriate citations.

Unit VI Scholarly Activity

Supermarket Sweep

For this assignment you should perform some research into genetically modified foods. Go to the local supermarket or the local health foods store and find foods that are genetically modified. Is it clearly marked? How do you know, as a consumer, if you are eating engineered foods? Does it matter? Why is there a debate over these foods? Are there laws governing the production and labeling?

While you are at the local supermarkets, choose four food items commonly consumed in the local area and find them in the store. Identify each food and where the items are produced – locally, regionally, or globally. How might this impact the local economy?

Since this is more of an investigative report, your response should be at least one page, double spaced, with appropriate APA style writing and Times New Roman 12 pt. font. If you choose to write more, you will NOT be penalized.

Unit VII Scholarly Activity

Organizational Research

For this assignment you will need to perform a little research into the various international and supranational organizations that permeate the political and governing atmosphere of various nations/states. Here are a few topics that you can use to get you started:

1. European Union
2. United Nations
3. North American Free Trade Agreement
4. Association of Southeast Asian Nations
5. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
6. World Trade Organization
7. Human Rights Organizations
8. Children’s Rights Organizations

After you perform some research into your topic of choice, you should craft a minimum one page response, double spaced, with appropriate APA style writing and Times New Roman 12 pt. font. This response should include your topic(s) of choice, the purpose of the international/supranational organization, observations of various affects the organization has had upon associated governing bodies (e.g. how NAFTA has affected Mexico, U.S., and Canada), and what recent actions the organization has taken. If you have areas of interest that you would like to explore, make sure you clearly delineate it within your response. For example, if you want to explore the influx of American companies into Mexico as a result of the NAFTA, then make sure you use the introduction, body, conclusion writing style to appropriately communicate your intent.

Research Paper

For this assignment, you are going to write a research paper surrounding the concepts of urbanization and the urban structure. However, you need to choose topic(s) (one or more) from the previous chapters that you can tie into the concepts of urbanization and urban structure. These topics may include:

1. Population Geography
2. Cultural Geography
3. People and Nature
4. Places and Landscapes
5. Geographies of Economic Development
6. Food and Agriculture
7. Political Geographies

For this paper, you need to tie the other topic(s) into urbanization and urban structure and describe how the concepts relate to one another. For example, you could talk about how economic development is contingent upon the urban structure of a city. If you want assistance, consult with your professor to find out what may be a good direction.

Your research paper should be at least six pages long, 2000 word minimum, with appropriate APA style writing and citation.

**APA Guidelines**

CSU requires that students use the APA style for papers and projects. Therefore, the APA rules for formatting, quoting, paraphrasing, citing, and listing of sources are to be followed. A document titled “APA Guidelines Summary” is available for you to download from the APA Guide Link, found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal. It may also be accessed from the Student Resources link on the Course Menu. This document provides links to several internet sites that provide comprehensive information on APA formatting, including examples and sample papers.

**Blackboard Grading Rubrics**

**Assignment Rubrics**

One or more assignments in this course utilizes a Blackboard Grading Rubric. A rubric is a tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of an assignment. Your professor will use the Blackboard Grading Rubric to assign points and provide feedback for the assignment.

You are encouraged to view the assignment rubric before submitting your work. This will allow you to review the evaluation criteria as you prepare your assignments. You may access the rubric in “My Grades” through the “Tools” button in your course menu. Click the “View Rubric” link to see the evaluation criteria for the assignment. Upon receiving your assignment grade, you may view your grade breakdown and feedback in the rubric.

**CSU Grading Rubric for Papers/Projects**

The course papers will be graded based on the CSU Grading Rubric for all types of papers. In addition, all papers will be submitted for electronic evaluation to rule out plagiarism. Course projects will contain project specific grading criteria defined in the project directions. To view the rubric, click the Academic Policies link on the Course Menu, or by accessing the CSU Grading Rubric link, found in the Learning Resources area of the myCSU Student Portal.

**Communication Forums**

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

**Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive e-mail updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.**

Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.

**Ask the Professor**

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-
public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

**Student Break Room**

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

**Grading**

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**Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)**

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
**Unit I**  
**Geography Matters and the Changing Global Context**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 1: Geography Matters
- Chapter 2: The Changing Global Context

**Submit:**
- Assessment
- Scholarly Activity

Notes/Goals:

**Unit II**  
**Population and Culture: Converging Geographies**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 3: Population Geography
- Chapter 5: Cultural Geographies

**Submit:**
- Scholarly Activity
- Research Topic

Notes/Goals:

**Unit III**  
**People and Nature**

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 4: People and Nature

**Submit:**
- Scholarly Activity

Notes/Goals:
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<th>Unit IV</th>
<th>Interpreting Places and Landscapes</th>
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| Review: | □ Unit Study Guide  
□ **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide |
| Read: | □ **Chapter 6:** Interpreting Places and Landscapes |
| Submit: | □ Scholarly Activity  
□ Research Draft |

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| Review: | □ Unit Study Guide  
□ **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide |
| Read: | □ **Chapter 7:** Geographies of Economic Development |
| Submit: | □ Assessment  
□ Scholarly Activity |

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| Review: | □ Unit Study Guide  
□ **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide |
| Read: | □ **Chapter 8:** Food and Agriculture |
| Submit: | □ Assessment  
□ Scholarly Activity |

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<td>Chapter 11: City Spaces: Urban Structure</td>
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