

Human Geography

GEG 300

Instructor: Dr. Diana K. Ter-Ghazaryan

Office hours: By appointment via Blackboard Collaborate, or via Skype (dianaktg5)

Office: 1300 Campo Sano, 115F

Email: terghazar@miami.edu

Course Description: This course provides an in-depth exploration of human geography by focusing on pressing global issues including population growth, migration, economic crises, environmental decline, food security, identity politics, war and urbanization. In an increasingly globalized world, these issues have impacts upon all of our lives, whether we live in Miami, Buenos Aires, Beijing or Moscow. By exploring these topics through the lens of cultural geography, we will uncover how spatial interconnections and geographical interdependence shape the world as we know it. We will further understand how individual actions at the local scale have social, cultural and environmental impacts around the world.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate a foundational knowledge of the world's human and physical geographic features, institutions, and processes (such as trade, religion, environmental degradation, migration and others) and how they relate to one another.

Students will be able to identify, differentiate between and apply multiple geographic perspectives to critically examine key geographic issues.

Students will be able to analyze complex social, cultural and environmental issues using a geographic lens.

Students will express informed and well-reasoned opinions on geographic issues that affect our everyday lives.

Students will gain the knowledge on how to engage in actions that impact local and global processes, by coming to understand their connections to these processes.

Required Readings:

1. Domosh, Neumann and Price. 2015. Contemporary Human Geography: Culture, Globalization, Landscape. 1st ed. WH Freeman and Company: New York. ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-3344-2. This textbook is available at the UM Bookstore, as well as online in various formats. Feel free to explore <http://www.macmillanhighered.com/Catalog/product/contemporaryhumangeography-firstedition-domosh> and purchase the option that suits you best.
2. In addition to the textbook, various reading materials will be assigned throughout the semester. They will be made available in .pdf format, or a link to a UM Libraries-owned book will be provided in Blackboard.

GRADING: This course has a letter grade (A-F). Your letter grade will be calculated from a 1-100 scale based on the University's standard conversion chart.

Assessment:

Module Grade (8 Modules, 8% each)	64 %
Midterm Exam	18 %
Final Exam	18 %
TOTAL	100 %

Course Modules:

The content for this course is broken down into 8 modules, with each covering important topics in Human Geography. Each module will contain reading and video/audio assignments, one or more discussion assignment, one or more quiz, and one or more web research/mapping assignment, and your grade for each module will be based on points you earn for those assignments and assessments.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an intensive summer course, so please be prepared to spend several hours each week on assignments and assessments in each module. Week 2 and Week 5 will be especially busy, since each of those will cover two modules.

Discussion Assignments:

There will be at least one discussion assignment per course module. These class discussions are important for developing an interactive learning community and a successful online course.

The instructor will post discussion topics/assignments and monitor the discussion forums and post replies, when appropriate. These discussion posts are graded, your final grade will be determined by the quantity and quality (critical thinking, understanding of material, thoughtful reflection) of your posts.

Each discussion posting is expected to be respectful and professional, clear and pertinent to the initial discussion question.

Of course, be polite to your peers. Failing that, the instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are aggressive or offensive, and dock participation points from the offender.

Web Research/Mapping Assignments:

There will be at least one web research or mapping assignment per course module. These assignments will allow you to carry out web research or complete a mapping assignment on a topic that pertains to the course module. These assignments are graded.

Exams:

At the completion of modules 1-4 you will take the Midterm Exam. At the completion of modules 5-8 you will take the Final Exam. The Final Exam is not cumulative. Each exam will be worth 18% of your final grade.

Semester Schedule

Class/week	Date	Topic	Assignments/Assessments
Week 1: Module 1	June 27—July 3 Module closes at	Introduction to Human Geography: How do Geographers Look at	1. Reading/video assignment (s) 2. Discussion

	11:59 pm on July 3	the World?	assignment(s) 3. Web research/mapping assignment(s)
Week 2: Modules 2 and 3	July 4—July 10 Modules close at 11:59 pm on July 10	Module 2: Population Geography: People and the Environment in a Changing World Module 3: Geographies of Difference: Language and Religion	1. Reading/video assignment (s) 2. Discussion assignment(s) 3. Web research/mapping assignment(s)
Week 3: Module 4	July 11—July 17 Module closes at 11:59 pm on July 17	Geographies of Difference: Race, Ethnicity, Gender	1. Reading/video assignment (s) 2. Discussion assignment(s) 3. Web research/mapping assignment(s) 4. MIDTERM EXAM
Week 4: Module 5	July 18—July 24 Module closes at 11:59 pm on July 24	Political Geography: Nations and Borders	1. Reading/video assignment (s) 2. Discussion assignment(s) 3. Web research/mapping assignment(s)
Week 5: Modules 6 and 7	July 25—July 31 Modules close at 11:59 pm on July 31	Module 6: Economic Geography: Industries, Services and Development Module 7: An Urbanizing World: Cities and Governance	1. Reading/video assignment (s) 2. Discussion assignment(s) 3. Web research/mapping assignment(s)
Week 6: Module 8	Aug 1—Aug 5 Modules close at 11:59 pm on Aug 5	A Globalizing World: Where Do We Go from Here?	1. Reading/video assignment 2. Discussion assignment 3. Web research/mapping assignment 4. FINAL EXAM