

Elements of Cultural Geography

Geography 020
Fall 2009

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Steven Schnell Office Phone: 610-683-1595
Office: 103 Graduate Center email: schnell@kutztown.edu
Office Hours: M, W, F 12-12:30
MF 3-3:50
W 3-4:20
And by appointment

The Course: The purpose of this course is to introduce you to “thinking geographically” about culture. This involves considering how people's actions through social, economic, and political processes create and transform places. Most of us, in the course of our day-to-day existence, are not aware of the webs of culture we are enmeshed in, at global, national, regional, and local scales. In turn, each of these scales influences the other. This semester, you will study how peoples' culture affects the world around them, and in turn, how it is affected by the cultures and environments that surround it. The course will follow a lecture and discussion format, with occasional videos and guest speakers.

Texts:

James M. Rubenstein. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography (Ninth edition)*. Prentice-Hall, 2008
Atlas of World Geography (or another decent atlas)
E-reserves – instructions found at <http://www.kutztown.edu/library/services/ereserves.asp> -- password is “kup”

Grading Information:

Map Quizzes – 3 @ 40 pts. each	120
Exams – 3 @ 200 points each	600
Assignments – 3 @ 60 points each	180
Participation	100

TOTAL	1000 points

This class will have three exams, which will cover material from both the reading assignments and the lecture material. Active attendance (that is, listening, thinking, taking notes, and asking questions) is vital to your doing well in the course, since the majority of test questions will come from lecture. Be forewarned: I don't lecture straight “from the book”, so if you miss class, you're missing new material. Attendance will be checked periodically during the semester on unannounced days. Your participation portion of the grade will be calculated, in part, based on the percentage of check-days you were present. For example, if I check attendance 10 times, and you were there for 7 of those days, you'll get 70 of the 100 possible participation points. You will also have four assignments during the course of the semester that will make up a portion of your grade. Letter grades for the course will be assigned on a standard 90% = A, 80% = B, etc. scale

Exam Make-Up Policies:

Make-up exams and quizzes will be given only in the case of a genuine, documented emergency or illness, or a University-excused absence (for a class field trip, for example). Note that a case of the sniffles does not count as an emergency, nor does staying out too late the night before at the Kutztown Pub. Makeups must be arranged with me **BEFORE** the time of the test, except in emergencies. NO late exercises will be accepted. No makeup exams or quizzes will be given once the tests have been returned to the class, regardless of circumstances.

Cellular Phones: If you want to get on my bad side, a very good way to do it is to let your phone ring in class. Turn them off before entering my (or any) class.

Academic Honesty: I have NO tolerance for plagiarism or cheating. If you cheat, or attempt to pass of work that is not yours as your own, you will AUTOMATICALLY fail the course and your name will be forwarded to the appropriate disciplinary authorities for the Geography Department and the University. This can result in permanent expulsion from the University. Refer to the student handbook for specific guidelines concerning academic dishonesty.

Tentative Schedule		readings/assignments/quizzes
September 2	Introduction	-----
September 4	Thinking Geographically	Chapter 1 & e-reserves
September 8	TUESDAY Thinking Geographically	-----
September 9	Thinking Geographically	Chapter 2 & e-reserves
September 11	Population	Map Quiz 1
September 14	Population	-----
September 16	Population	-----
September 18	Population	Assign. 1 Due/Ch. 3 & e-reserves
September 21	Migration	Chapter 3 & e-reserves
September 23	Migration	Map quiz 2
September 25	Folk and Popular Culture	Chapter 4 & e-reserves
September 28	Folk and Popular Culture	-----
September 30	Folk and Popular Culture	-----
October 2	EXAM 1	
October 5	Language	Chapter 5 & e-reserves
October 7	Language	Map Quiz 3
October 9	Language	-----
October 12	COLUMBUS DAY - NO CLASSES	-----
October 14	Language	-----
October 16	Religion	Chapter 6 and e-reserves
October 19	Religion	-----
October 21	Religion	-----
October 23	Religion	-----
October 26	Religion	-----
October 28	Religion	Chapter 7 and e-reserves
October 30	Ethnicity	-----
November 2	Ethnicity	-----
November 4	Ethnicity	-----
November 6	EXAM 2	-----
November 9	Ethnicity	-----
November 11	Ethnicity	-----
November 13	Political Geography	Chapter 8 and e-reserves
November 16	Political Geography	Chapter 9 & e-reserves
November 18	Political Geography	-----
November 20	Political Geography	-----
November 23	Development	Assignment 2 Due
November 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASSES	-----
November 27	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASSES	-----
November 30	Development	Chapter 10 section on diffusion only
December 2	Development	The Potato pt. 1 and 2, e-reserve
December 4	Agriculture	Assignment 3 Due
December 7	Agriculture	-----
December 9	Urban Geography	Chapter 13 & e-reserves
December 11	Urban Geography	-----
EXAM 3	11:00 Section -- Wednesday, December 16 - 11am-1pm	
	1:00 Section -- Wednesday, December 16 - 8am-10am	