

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND URBAN SCIENCE

COURSE SYLLABUS
WINTER SESSION 2020

COURSE TITLE: Cultural Geography

COURSE NUMBER: GEO 3200-80 – ONLINE
(12/26/2019 – 1/14/2020)

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OFFICE HOURS: Best way to reach me is by email.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Cultural geography is a subfield within human geography that deals with the study of cultural products and norms and their variations across and relations to spaces, places, and regions. It looks at the characteristics of people in a location with respect to their language, religion, ethnicity, architecture, foods, clothing, and how these affect the environment. The course will discuss the nature and spatial distribution of major cultural features including population, migration, language, religion, ethnicity and political systems utilizing examples from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The problems resulting from the depletion, destruction, and inefficient use of resources such as energy, water, air, mineral, forests, and soils in developing countries will also be addressed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will:

1. Discuss global issues, processes, and trends including the growth and distribution of the world's population, global migration patterns, world religions, and the distribution of cultural groups.
2. Analyze diverse cultures in terms of their cultural traits, environments, and economy through cross-cultural perspectives.
3. Analyze the distribution of different cultural traits and beliefs as well as the problems that result from those spatial patterns.
4. Examine similarities and differences in the cultural features at different places, the reasons for their distribution, and the importance of these differences.
5. Discuss cultural problems that result from the depletion, destruction, and inefficient use of the world's natural resources.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand global issues, processes, trends, and systems in Cultural geography including arts, beliefs, cultures, customs, politics, religions, and environmental change.
2. Analyze diverse cultures, regions, and environments with respect to cultural features including diversity of religions, languages, ethnicity, and political systems through cross-cultural perspectives.
3. Employ diverse frames of reference, including different theoretical, methodological, conceptual, ideological frameworks, approaches, and themes to expand critical thinking about issues relevant to cultural geography.
4. Identify similarities and difference in cultural traits, values, and traditions at various local, regional, and global scales.
5. Use knowledge of processes, trends, issues, and problems associated with cultural features across different regions to extend access to information, experience, and understanding.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to keep up with the reading assignments. Assessments will include three online exams and reactions to assigned videos.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography by James Rubenstein, 12th Edition, Prentice Hall Publisher.

ISBN: 13:9780134206233

COURSE EVALUATION

Three on-line Exams (multiple choice)

- Exam 1 = 20%
- Exam 2 = 25%
- Exam 3 = 25%
- Blackboard Assignments = 30%

Grading System: 94 – 100 = A, 90 – 93 = A-, 87 – 89 = B+, 84 – 86 = B, 80 – 83 = B-, 77 – 79 = C+, 74 – 76 = C, 70 – 73 = C-, 67 – 69 = D+, 64 – 66 = D, 60 – 63 = D-, 59 and below = F

Reading Assignment 12/26/2019 – 1/2/2020

Chapter 1 – This is Geography

Chapter 2 – Population and Health

Chapter 3 – Migration

Video Reaction Assignment: *Harlem Mart 125* due on 12/30/2019 before 11:59PM

Exam 1 – 1/2/2020 8:00AM – 11:59PM

Reading Assignment 1/3/2020 – 1/8/2020

Chapter 4 – Folk and Popular Culture

Chapter 5 - Languages

Chapter 6 – Religions

Chapter 7 – Ethnicities

Video Reaction Assignment: *White Like Me* due 1/6/2020 before 11:59PM

Exam 2 – 1/8/2020 8:00AM – 11:59PM

Reading Assignment 1/9/2020 – 1/14/2020

Chapter 9 – Food and Agriculture

Chapter 10 – Development

Chapter 11 – Industry and Energy

Chapter 13 – Urban Patterns

Video Reaction Assignment: *Spanish Lake* due on 1/12/2020 before 11:59PM

Exam 3 – 1/13/2020 8:00AM **through** 1/14/2020 11:59PM