

The University of Texas at San Antonio  
Department of Political Science and Geography

## **Human Geography**

GRG 2623  
Monday and Wednesday 8:30-9:45  
HSS 3.03.14

### **Instructor**

Sharon W. Adams

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Office: MS 3.02.43      Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:00-7:00 and by appointment

\*\*Please see below for guidelines on contacting me.\*\*

### **The Most Current Version of this Document is Available on Blackboard!**

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic concepts of human geography, and to help you learn to think critically, to recognize the value of diversity, and to raise awareness of your surroundings. We will consider the complex relationship between the social and spatial aspects of human behavior. Topics will include stereotyping of people and places, human proxemics and territoriality, perception of places, environmental perception, spatial diffusion, and human migration.

You will be exposed to a variety of perspectives and ways of looking at the world in this class. Some of these ideas you will agree with, others you will not. It is not my role to tell you what to think, but instead to offer you guidance on how to approach and examine certain issues. Learning to think critically will require some effort on your part, including conscientious attendance, careful reading of the textbooks, and constructive participation in class exercises and discussions. Consistent attendance and participation in class is absolutely essential for success in this class. If you are having any problems with the material covered in class or in the text, please do not hesitate to meet with me during office hours.

### **Required Textbooks**

*The Human Mosaic: A Cultural Approach to Human Geography, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.* By Mona Domosh, Roderick P. Neumann, Patricia L. Price, Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov - W. H. Freeman (2009) - Paperback - ISBN 1429214260.

*Student Atlas of World Geography, 6th Edition.* By John L. Allen (2010) - Paperback – ISBN 9780073527604.

### **Course Expectations**

This course will include both lecture and discussion, and students are expected to be on time and to participate fully. This includes completing all readings, turning in all assignments on time, participating in discussions, and regular attendance. Missing class will have a negative impact on your grade.

**Grading**

This course is comprised of both “low stakes” and “high stakes” assignments that will assist you in taking a critical approach to theoretical and empirical content, as well as to learn express your ideas and perspectives more effectively through writing. The structure of this grading system is intended for you to have every opportunity possible to earn a grade that accurately reflects your commitment to this class and your ability to think critically about the materials we will cover.

**The class is worth 1000 points. Please see the distribution below.**

Participation (Attendance and Unannounced Quizzes)	100
Geography in the News	100
Reading Responses /Map Exercises	100
Leading In-Class Discussion	100
Mid Term Exam	200
Landscape Paper Proposal	25
Landscape Paper (5-6 pages)	100
In- Class Presentation (5 Minutes)	75
Final Exam	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

The following scale will be used to determine your final letter grade.

A	900-1000	(Unusual Excellence)
B	800-899	(Distinctly Above Average)
C	700-799	(Average)
D	600-699	(Below Average)
F	599 and below	

Pass/Fail Grades

60% and above- Pass

Mid-term Grades (if required by your program)

70% or below will receive warning

**Assignments**

Late assignments are not accepted. Extreme situations will be considered and should be raised immediately. More instructions will be given regarding each of these assignments in class.

1. Participation: **Class attendance and participation are mandatory.** There will occasionally be quizzes in class, which will briefly cover content from the readings of the week.

2. Geography in the News: Students are asked to bring in an average of **one article** from a major news source **each week** that connects to our weekly reading. Students should write a short summary of the article (1/2 to 1 page) and **connect these current events to larger issues discussed in class.** Students should share their articles in class every few weeks. Students should turn in **ten (10)** of these over the course of the semester (10 pts each). **These should be posted on Blackboard by the beginning of class!**

3. Reading Responses/Map Exercises: Students will be asked to write a **brief summary and critical response** to assigned course readings, or to complete assignments related to maps. These should be one full page in length. There will be **ten (10)** of these over the course of the semester, and are **due the week that the reading is discussed in class** (10 pts each). **These should be posted on Blackboard by the beginning of class!**

4. Leading In-Class Discussion: Each student will be assigned one class day where they will be responsible for **presenting a summary and critique** of the assigned reading. Students will also be responsible for generating a **list of discussion questions** and leading in-class discussion for the day.

6. Landscape Paper: The **final paper will be 5-6 double-spaced pages.** Instructions will be given in class. Students will turn in a brief (1/2 to 1 page) proposal on October 27. This paper must be submitted by class time December 1st. **No late papers accepted.**

7. Landscape Presentation: Students will present a **5 minute presentation** on their landscape project. These presentations should include the use of audio/visual aids or utilize other handouts to better engage the class with their project.

8. Exams: Two exams are scheduled during the semester—a mid term and a final exam. The final exam will be given during the final exam period. Exams will include multiple choice and matching questions, as well as map locations. The final exam is **not** cumulative. Each exam will be contribute 20% of your final grade. Should you have a legitimate problem, please see me a few days prior to an exam date to discuss possible options.

**Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a **documented disability** who requires academic accommodations (including extended test times, note takers, alternative print formats, etc.) should contact Disability Services at MS 2.03.18, 458-4157) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. **Qualified students must make an appointment to meet with me outside of class time to discuss these accommodations, so that I can do all I can to help. This appointment must be made within the first two weeks of class.** The responsibility of obtaining necessary documentation and informing the instructor through the proper channels rests entirely with the student.

### **Writing Center**

The Judith G. Gardner Center for Writing Excellence (<http://www.utsa.edu/twc>) provides individual, professional advice on all aspects of writing for students. You may also feel free to schedule an appointment to meet with the Instructor outside of class for additional guidance.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to adhere to the UTSA Code of Student Conduct (<https://www.utsa.edu/infoguide/appendices/b.html>). The UTSA Information Bulletin states “Academic or scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designated to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is addressed in Appendix B., Sec. 203 of this bulletin.” Every student should be aware of what constitutes plagiarism, and we will take the time to review this in class as well. Academic dishonesty will lead automatically to failing grade for the course, and the student can be subjected to further disciplinary actions in accordance with applicable provisions of the Student Code of Conduct and related University Regulations. You need to ensure that your work is your own.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty members have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

**Please TURN OFF your cell phones before the start of class.** If you are talking on your phone, texting, listening to your iPod, surfing the web, Facebooking, Tweeting, etc. during class you will not receive credit for attendance that day.

### **Contacting the Instructor**

**The best way to reach me is by email. Please give me 24 hours to respond to your emails (and 48 hours over the weekend,** as more often than not I am traveling Friday to Sunday.) My office is a shared office, and dialing 458-5882 will ring to the office, but instead of voicemail, it will forward to the front desk in the Department. This is not a good way to reach me except during office hours. Rather, if you have a pressing concern, please call me on my cell phone, 240-888-3821. Please remember that I reside in Austin, and the only days I will be on the UTSA campus are Monday and Wednesday.

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1: August 25**

**Introduction, Course Overview**

### **Week 2: August 30, September 1**

**Human Geography: An Introduction**

Readings: Chapter 1

Read Introduction to *Student Atlas*

### **Week 3: September 8 (No classes on the 6<sup>th</sup>)**

**Geographies of Cultural Difference**

Readings: Chapter 2

Map Assignment: Respond to maps 2.1, 2.15 in *Mosaic*

### **Week 4: September 13, 15**

**Population Geography**

Readings: Chapter 3

Map Assignment: TBA in class

### **Week 5: September 20, 22**

**The Geography of Language**

Readings: Chapter 4

Map Assignment TBA in class

### **Week 6: September 27, 29**

**Geographies of Race and Ethnicity**

Readings: Chapter 5

Map Assignment TBA in class

### **Week 7: October 4, 6**

EXAM REVIEW

Map Assignment TBA in class

**MID TERM EXAM October 6 (Chapters 1-5)**

### **Week 8: October 11, 13**

**Political Geography & The Geography of Religion**

Readings: Chapter 6, 7

Map Assignment TBA in class

### **Week 9: October 18, 20**

**Agriculture and Food Production**

Readings: Chapter 8

Map Assignment TBA in class

**Week 10: October 25, 27**

**Economic Geography**

Readings: Chapter 9

Map Assignment TBA in class

***Landscape Interpretation Proposal Due***

**Week 11: November 1, 3**

**NO CLASSES WILL MEET THIS WEEK.**

I will be in Washington, DC attending a conference. You can reach me by email this week if you have urgent questions or concerns.

**Please use this time for your landscape interpretation exercise and to read the final three chapters of the book in preparation for the Final Exam.**

**Week 12: November 8, 10**

**Urban Geographies; One World or Many?**

Readings: Chapter 10, 11 and 12

Map Assignment TBA in class

**Week 13: November 15, 17**

***November 15: Final Exam during regular class period (Chapters 7-12)***

***November 17: In Class Presentations start - Class attendance will be taken these days***

**Week 14: November 22 (Classes canceled Nov. 24—Have a Great Thanksgiving!)**

***In Class Presentations- Attendance will be taken these days***

**Week 15: November 29, December 1**

***In Class Presentations- Attendance will be taken these days***