

Geography and Regional Planning: DGCE Intercession 2015 1/5 - 1/16

GARP0210-550 (10003) *Cultural Geography Online*

Three (3) credit hours. **Common Core: Global Diversity (GDIV)**

INSTRUCTOR: [Sean M. Fitzgerald](mailto:sfitzgerald@westfield.ma.edu) **E-MAIL:** sfitzgerald@westfield.ma.edu

Alternate email: smfgeo@live.com TEXT AT: 413 626-3713

Online OFFICE HOURS: Live Office by Appointment. Email TEXT anytime.

Cultural Geography is an interdisciplinary, systematic, and geographic survey of world culture; enhancing our understanding of the human mosaic that is our global cultural diversity. The three cultural themes include population, social systems, and economies, and we explore the geographic distribution patterns and relationships of and between the three themes. Our objective is to enhance our cultural and geographic literacy, and question our understandings of why culture is where it is; with a focus on characteristics which give unique identity to our diverse cultural landscapes. In application, cultural and geographic intelligence, supported with the latest online information technologies can enhance academic and professional activities and is a prerequisite to participation in the global community.

This semester, I will be researching at the University of the Philippines, Mindanao for a good part of our sessions, and teaching the course from there; including photos, videos, and interviews covering our cultural topics with SE Asia Philippines geography as a real-time exemplar! I am trying to arrange a forum of UPM and WSU students (you) to discuss the issues and gain perspective! Generally this issue will have no effect on our course.

The Announcements page on PLATO, when active, suggests a model time-management framework for compressed courses that works for most students over the years. In brief, there are 3 Theme Assignments. You would do one Theme Assignment every three days. There is a Final (Country) Report, based upon the Themes, which you would draft *while* you do each related Theme Assignment, and finish-up the last two days.. You *must* read and use the textbook chapters; most assignment questions are at the end of each chapter. It is *strongly suggested* you browse and use as appropriate the supporting Reviews and Notes, Videos, and Documents and links. Nearly every student using this *guided-initiative* approach has completed successfully the intercession and summer shorter course venues. All work in this intercession 2015 is due **1/20/15**.

Text: Rubenstein, J.M., 2013. Contemporary Human Geography. 2nd ed. Prentice Hall.

- Purchase cost-effective loose-leaf 3-hole punched format at [WSU BOOKSTORE](#)
- eTextbook Available from [myPEARSONstore](#)
- A textbook website access code IS NOT REQUIRED in whatever format you purchase the book, but it **must be the 2nd EDITION**.

Format: Online course progresses through the text with Topic/Chapter assignments, and ends with a final report. All Assignments follow the same format. Study partners are encouraged, but it's your own work in your own words. Topic video tutorials cover chapter material and occasionally current-events; view on your own schedule or as needed. I will keep a daily Blog, encouraging comment, and Live Office with Audio and Graphical interface each evening and as noted.

For Information on Global Culture from the UN: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/>

1300 total points in three Themes and a 4-page final report.

A = 1170+ points

B = 1040-1169 points

C = 910-1139 points

D = 780-909 points

Plus and Minus Letter Grades are calculated at the end of the semester.