

Geography and Regional Planning: DGCE Spring 2017

GARP0210-501 *Cultural Geography Online*

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

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Online OFFICE HOURS: Plato Virtual Office by Appointment. Voice/Text/Email 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 may be a prerequisite to participation in the global community. We will also use many global maps, so students will gain an understanding of map reading, interpretation, and comparison; and using maps, data graphics, and photos in assignments.

There are three Theme Assignments, all using the same format, and a Final Report built upon the research completed in the Theme Assignments. For each Theme there is also a Discussion Forum, in which students may comment on propositions I post related to the Theme. Video 'lectures' are also available for additional guidance; an introductory overview, and one video for each Theme. There are also several 5-minute procedural videos that support the use of web tools. However, the primary source material for Theme Assignments is the textbook, and the supporting Plato materials provided for the Topics in each Theme and links in the Theme Assignment itself. Each Theme covers four related Topics or Chapters in the textbook. Students select a 'Research Country' of interest at the start of the semester to be used in assignments as examples in questions, and in short essays; material which, as noted, provides the basis for the 'Final Report' or Country Cultural and Geographic Profile.

The Announcements page on PLATO, updated weekly, initially suggests a model time-management framework that has worked for most students over the years. In brief, there are 3 Theme Assignments. You would do one Theme Assignment every month. There is a Final (Research Country) Report, based upon the Themes, which you might draft *while* you do each related Theme Assignment, and finish-up the last week of the semester. You *must* read and use the textbook chapters. It is *strongly suggested* you browse and use as appropriate the supporting Reviews and Notes, Videos, and Documents and links on Plato. Nearly every student using this *guided-initiative* approach has successfully completed the course.

Text: Rubenstein, J.M., 2016. Contemporary Human Geography. 3rd ed. Pearson.

- You can affordably purchase the textbook USED at any online vendor
- You may find used copies available at the WSU Bookstore
- The Textbook **must be the 3rd EDITION.**

Format: Online course progresses through the text with Theme assignments, each covering four Topics-Chapters, and ends with a final report. In the spirit and reality of online learning Theme assignment due-dates are suggested. Students may work on their own schedule; with all work due at the end of the semester.

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

400 total points in three Themes and a 4-5 page final report.

A = 360+ points

B = 319-359 points

C = 278-318 points

D = 237-277 points

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