

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

GEOG 105

Name of Course:

Cultural Geography

Catalog Description:

This course is a survey of themes, questions, and issues discussed by cultural geographers. It introduces the student to the concept of culture in spatial terms and defines theories of culture emergence, how culture diffuses, and the relationship of humans and their impact on the environment. Topics considered within the course include environmentalism, the evolution of culture, population, migration, communications, economic and urban landscapes, gender, religion, agriculture, and contemporary social culture.

Credit Hours:

5

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Prerequisites:

None

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand life on our planet, place and space, “man-land relationships” and the diversity of human patterns around the world.
- Comprehend many of the terms and ideas central to academic human geography
- Comprehend key world issues – climate change; energy efficiency; poverty; AIDS in Africa; burgeoning populations in Asia and Africa; preserving our Earth and its resources; immigration and American security
- Understand and assess how cultural geography affects your life, profession and public choices and issues.

Course Requirements:

- You need to attend class regularly. Throughout the semester there will be at least 9 in-class, graded assignments during the week. Dates of these assignments are not announced. There will be 4 random, unannounced reading checks that will be graded
- You’ll have assignments to complete: one paper, one presentation and weekly Cultural Geography event logs.
- You will have in-class exams – one mid-term and one final exam.

Grading Policies:

Your course grade will depend on the overall average received on exams, quizzes and assignments. Letter grades will be assigned:

Letter Grade:	Percentage:
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	86-89%
B	83-85%
B-	80-82%
C+	76-79%
C	73-75%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Activity	Total Points
Mid-term	100
Final	125
Project paper	125
Project paper draft	10
Presentation	40
Weekly Cultural Geography log (6 @ 5 points each)	30
Cultural Geography event analysis (2 @ 20pts each)	40
In-class assignments (at least 9 @ 10 points each)	90
In-class reading events (4 @ 5 points each)	20
Guns, Germs & Steel analysis/reflection	20
Total	600

Means of Assessment:

There will be two exams (GE: 1-3; CO: 1-4); 3 quizzes (GE: 1; CO: 1-3); one group paper (GE: 1-3; CO: 2-4); one group presentation (GE:3; CO: 2-4); one reflection/discussion assignment (GE: 3; CO: 3-4); in-class learning activities & assignments (GE:1-3; CO:1-4); and weekly logs on current cultural geography events (GE: 2-3; CO: 3-4).

- Exams: Mid-term, Final
 - There will be two exams.
 - The mid-term exam covers material from the first 5 weeks.
 - The final will mostly contain material from after the first exam. There will be a couple questions that will be comprehensive to cover content and critical thinking knowledge from material covered for the first exam. Besides the text and lecture material, videos, in class activities, and presentations are fair game on exams.

- Written Assignments:
 - Group project - TBD; details will follow later
 - Current event Assignments: One of your activities over the term will be to find current news, articles, media and information (“current events”) about various dimensions of Cultural Geography and share them with the class weekly.
 - Current event logs
 - Adopt a Country
 - Weekly logs due in class on Monday of weeks 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 &9
 - Each student will adopt a country at the beginning of the course and track that country during the course, following text topics chapter by chapter.
 - World Regions will be chosen by each student and the event must have occurred within the week.
 - For the log you must include
 - City & Country
 - Map of location
 - Source of news
 - Tie-in to Cultural Geography
 - Current event Paper analysis
 - A longer analysis of Cultural Geography news & articles will be due in class on Monday of weeks 4 & 7
 - Topic must be something that has been covered in the previous weeks since the last Current event analysis
 - Guns, Germs & Steel assignment
- In-class Reading checks & Activities:
 - There will be random, graded, in-class reading checks. There will be no make-ups.
 - There will be at least 9, graded, in-class activities. These activities will be graded as complete or incomplete; a completed activity earns you 10 points.
 - These graded activities will occur randomly. If you miss class on the day of the assignment, you cannot make up the activity and you will not earn points.
 - Activities may be completed in-class, or require work after class. The in-class assignments will be due as announced by the instructor when they are assigned, and I will remind you during class. Late submissions earn no points.

Brief Outline of Course:

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments	Exams
1	Intro to Geography	Chapter 1; assigned readings	N/A	N/A
2	Population & Health	Chapter 2; assigned readings	Current event (CE) log	N/A
3	Migration	Chapter 3; assigned readings	CE log	N/A

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments	Exams
4	Religion	Chapter 6; assigned readings	CE paper analysis	N/A
5	Ethnicities	Chapter 7; assigned readings	CE log	Mid-term
6	Development	Chapter 9; assigned readings	CE log	N/A
7	Food & Ag	Chapter 10; assigned readings	CE paper analysis	N/A
8	Industry/Manufacturing & Services/Settlements	Chapter 11 & 12; assigned readings	CE log	N/A
9	Guns, Germs & Steel		Group paper; CE log	N/A
10	Urban Patterns	Chapter 13; assigned readings	Guns, Germs & Steel paper; Group presentations	N/A

General Education Category and Outcomes:

The gen-ed curriculum is designed to expose students to a variety of disciplines and ways of thinking and knowing about the world. Successful completion of this course will enhance your:

- Content knowledge (increased vocabulary, content, and conceptual knowledge in sociology)
- Critical thinking (identify and explain issues, recognize contexts and assumptions, acknowledge multiple perspectives, evaluate evidence to reach conclusions)
- Cultural and behavioral knowledge (demonstrate reflective knowledge and analytical judgments about the self, other cultures, and human behavior).

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

[Insert text here if UWR]

Writing Center Statement:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Classroom Decorum:

[Insert text here]

Academic Misconduct Policy:

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to

cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.