

Geography 310: Human Geography: Exploring Earth's Cultural Landscapes

American River College

Spring 2023

I'll do my best to be flexible this semester, because everything else is chaotic and horrible enough. If there's anything that you need, please let me know.

I'd go over this with you in class with you, but since we won't be in class together so I've put my notes in a **bold blue** font.

Here's how most of the semester will go:

- I'll drop new materials for the week every Sunday.
- You'll have assignments due Wednesday (short quiz and discussion posts) and Sunday (longer quiz, respond to others' discussion posts.)
- If you have questions on the materials or ANYTHING, you can come to the Zoom student lounge and ask me.

Who I am and how to get in touch with me.

Charles Thomsen

Pronouns: he/him

530 848-1244

thomsec@arc.losrios.edu

<https://sites.google.com/apps.losrios.edu/profcharlesthomsen/home>

Optional student lounge hours: 4-5:30 T, W and Th 12-1:30, F 10-11:30

We won't meet in person, and we won't have set class sessions that you have to attend with Zoom. We'll use Zoom for student lounge hours. Zoom times are not required, they're optional. You do not need to come.

If you need to get in touch with me, please text, call, or email. You should expect a response within 24 hours Monday morning through Thursday afternoon, and within 48 hours Thursday night to Monday morning.

Feel free to contact me. Don't worry about bugging me. Text or call or email me! I'll have student lounge hours scheduled each week for you to show up and ask questions via Zoom. If the scheduled times don't work for you, please let me know so we can set up a time that works for you.

If you're emailing me about a content or technology question, I'd ask that you include in your email what you've tried so far and what you think the best answer is.

Here's what the school says the class is about. This is a preview of what we'll cover. This is always just copied from the class catalog.

I. Catalog Description

3 units, UC and CSU transfer credit, AA/AS general education credit. This course investigates the diverse patterns of human settlement, development, and movement on earth, which evolved as a result of cultural and environmental factors. Emphasis is placed on understanding global population and migration patterns, language, religion, ethnicity, political and economic systems, development issues, agriculture, and urbanization.

These are the main ideas that you should know by the end of the semester.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- analyze humans' role in transforming Earth's surface into a series of distinctive cultural landscapes.
- evaluate explanations for the geographic origin and global diffusion of key aspects of culture (e.g. ethnocentrism, racism, language, religion, ethnicity, development, agriculture, urbanization).
- describe patterns of cultural diversity in California, the U.S., and the world.
- create maps from various types of socioeconomic data (e.g. ethnicity, religion, AIDS incidence, etc.).
- describe broad historical and modern global socioeconomic processes such as migration, colonization, and globalization.
- explain the spatial patterns of key geographic concepts, such as distribution of population, religion, and language.

Here's how the class will work, how most weeks will go, and what the attendance policy is.

III. Methods of Instruction

This class will be taught online asynchronously. That means we'll never meet in person, and there aren't class sessions that you have to attend.

You'll have a quiz every Sunday on the chapter for that week.

I'll post discussion questions once a week. For your discussion board assignments, I'll post background information on the topic, and links to a video or article or something on the web. You'll read the assignment, watch or read or whatever for the linked material, and then you'll post your response back to the discussion board. This will be supplemented by videos, slides, and readings.

Every Sunday I'll post a new module. Each module will have two quizzes, discussion posts, a link to lecture videos, and supplementary information.

You will learn to apply geographic themes, techniques, and conceptual skills to the material presented, and more importantly to your world.

You should plan on spending 8-12 hours a week in this class.

A. Class Participation: Class participation is an integral part of the learning process. I know we're online and participation will look different. **If you don't complete the first assignment by Wednesday the 18th I'll drop you. I'll track participation and attendance with your quizzes, discussion sections, and short papers. If you miss three assignments in a row without prior notice, and you do not respond to my emails, I'll drop you. I'll reach out to you if you're missing in action first, but you need to participate.** Finally, this is your class - you will get out of it what you put into it! Here are some of the ways we'll interact: text, email, discussion boards, zoom conferences.

B. Attendance: I'll keep track of attendance by your assignments.

C. DISABILITY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS: Please let me know if you require instructional, curricular, and/or test accommodations as early as possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate students in a timely and confidential manner. Individuals who request accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services and Programs for Students which authorizes

accommodations for students with disabilities. This course is intended to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, and/or are new to online learning. Please let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes we can make to the course so that it is more welcoming and accessible and usable by students who take this course in the future.

Here's what your grade is based on, as well as late work.

IV. Methods of Evaluation

This is a college transferable class and you should be prepared to study hard, take extensive notes, develop critical thinking skills, and convey your thoughts both orally and in writing. Grading is very important to both of us. I will give your work careful consideration.

A. Late Assignments

Here's the summary of participation and late assignments: you need to turn in your assignments every week.

You'll have assignments due every week, and you need to turn them in every week. If you don't turn in your assignments every week, you'll get dropped for nonparticipation. I don't take off late points until the midterm or final exam opens, but you need to do them every week. You can't wait and do everything the day of the midterm, you'll get dropped.

You've got two due dates for your assignments - the same dates as the midterm and final exam. Everything getting you ready for the first exam is due when the first exam opens. You can earn up to half credit for anything turned in after an exam has opened.

Assignment	Due date	Credit after due date
Module assignments (chapter quiz, map quiz, papers)	Midterm date for that material	50%
Your discussion post	Midterm date for that material	50%
Discussion response	Midterm date for that material	0%

Due dates are shown on the assignment. If you miss a midterm exam, and you haven't made previous arrangements with me, your make-up exam will be given during the last week of class. It is your responsibility to make arrangements to take the make-up exam. No assignments will be accepted after Sunday, May 14th.

B. Grading: over 90% is an A, 80-89% is a B, 70-79% is a C, 60-69% is a D, below 60% is an F.

Your grade will be based as follows:

Exams: 20% 2 exams - 1 midterm and 1 final exam.

Canvas Quizzes, Discussion Posts, and other assignments: 80%

Please check the calendar on Canvas for the dates of tests. Although the textbook readings are extremely useful, the exams will also focus on the lecture notes, video lectures, and other assigned materials!! The exam may include multiple choice, matching, short answers, short essays, and/or diagram identification.

You will have two quizzes due every week, one or two discussion posts every week, short papers on geography videos and articles, as well as longer pretest assignments.

Extra credit: up to 7% of total points

There are **three** things you can do for extra credit: sign up for the half-unit Science Success Center

course or sign up for Reading Across the Disciplines or Writing Across the Disciplines. [Science Success Center](#) [Reading Across the Disciplines \(RAD\)](#) [Writing Across the Curriculum \(WAC\)](#)

I also give 5 points extra credit to the first student to let me know about errors in my published material. Find bugs, earn points! I'm most concerned about things that would affect your grade or make you feel anxious, such as chapter modules that I forgot to publish so students can see it, wrong dates for assignments that I've assigned, confusing instructions or questions, and wrong answers on the answer key. If I haven't posted the assignment yet, you don't need to worry about the dates being wrong. You can worry about me posting wrong dates after I post the assignments.

C. Cheating and plagiarism: Any cheating or plagiarizing will result in the student receiving a failing grade on that assignment. **Examples of cheating and plagiarism include, but are not limited to:** copying someone else's homework, exams, or quizzes in class or out of class OR copying material from any source (newspapers, magazines, journals, books, textbooks, films, the Internet, etc.) without using quotation marks and without clearly citing (i.e. giving credit to) the source OR turning in work completed for another class (without pre-authorized by the instructor) OR passing off any work that is not your own as your own, including ai generated text.

The College may take additional disciplinary steps as well. Please read through the basics on plagiarism and cheating here:

<https://arc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/student-rights-and-responsibilities/plagiarism-and-cheating>

Here's the order that we'll cover material.

V. Course Content: (subject to change) All the textbook readings will come from the Graves text, except for the chapter on population.

1. What is Geography? - Its nature and perspectives
2. [Population and Migration](#)
3. Health and Disease
4. Culture and Cultural Patterns and Processes
4. Agriculture and Food Ways
5. Language and Dialect
6. Religion
7. Politics and Power
8. Crime and Punishment
9. Ethnicity
10. Gender and Sexual Identity
11. Urban Geography
12. Economic Geography

Test #2 (final exam)

Here's the list of what you'll need to succeed.

VI. Required Materials and Resources:

- **Textbook:** [Introduction to Human Geography](#) All the textbook readings will come from the Graves text, except for the chapter on population. If you're really motivated, and you want to read some other sources of human geography information here's links to more online textbooks: <https://humangeography.pressbooks.com/front-matter/introduction/> and [Human Geography](#)
- **Google Chrome browser for quizzes and exams.** Safari has issues showing images from Canvas, so you might not see the diagrams for test questions.

- **Access to Los Rios Canvas:** Go to <https://sso.losrios.edu/> to access your Los Rios Canvas account. You will need to be a fairly highly functional user of Canvas, the online platform where our class will take place. Our Canvas Homepage has links to guides, videos, and 24/7 tech support.
- **Access to Los Rios Gmail:** Go to <https://sso.losrios.edu/> to access your Los Rios Gmail account and for instructions on setting forwarding. You must read and check this at least once per day.
- **Access to Los Rios Google Drive and Google Docs:** Go to <https://sso.losrios.edu/> to access your Los Rios Google Drive. I strongly urge you to learn how to use Google Docs (simple documents which you can create and store in your Google Drive). Our Canvas Homepage has a link to a simple video tutorial.
- **Computer Hardware:** You'll need to use a desktop, laptop, or tablet style computer (ideally with a camera and microphone) to complete your work, as smart phones lack the size and tools you will need to be successful. Additionally, you may have to use Google Chrome internet browser for Google Earth, quizzes, and exams.

What to do if you have problems with Canvas.

VII. Canvas Help

If you have issues with Canvas itself, you will need to contact Canvas tech support. I can tell you all about geography, but probably not Canvas. Click on the big question mark icon on the left in Canvas and contact tech support.

- Call **Canvas 24/7 Support** at **(844) 589-3851** - dedicated line for American River College.
- Get help from the [ARC Student Tech Center](#)
- Review the [Canvas Student Overview](#)
- Find answers in the [Canvas Student Guide](#)
- Gain hands-on experience through [ARC's Canvas Free Sample Class](#)

We are on occupied land.

VIII. American River College Indigenous Land Statement

We acknowledge the land which we occupy today as the traditional home of the Maidu and Miwok tribal nations. These sovereign people have been the caretakers of this land since time immemorial. Despite centuries of genocide and occupation, the Maidu and Miwok continue as vibrant and resilient Federally recognized tribes and bands. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the generations that have gone before as well as the present-day Maidu and Miwok people. <https://native-land.ca/>

Plastic is awful.

IX. Other:

No single-use plastic water bottles are allowed in class.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBfNyq44hWM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AwoZIFldTw>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/11/912150085/waste-land>

Need a letter of recommendation?: I am always happy to help my students gain scholarships, employment, and/or advanced degrees by writing letters of recommendation. Even for those who earned a good grade, please be warned that I will review your work carefully for completion and punctuality. Students who meet with me to discuss their professional and academic futures and who

turn in work on time tend to get much more glowing recommendations! Your future starts now – I am here to help!