**Geography 107D Introduction to Cultural Geography**

*Spring 2018*

Instructor: Michael S. McGlade, Ph.D. Class Meets: TR 12:00-1:50

Class Location: HSS 205 Office: HSS 211

Office Phone: 503-838-8381 Office Hrs: M 9-10, T 12-1, TR 9-12

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Course Overview: Description and explanation of geographic patterns in the human mosaic of culture are the primary foci of this course. Topics include cultural change and diffusion, immigration, diets from hunter-gatherers to the present, with critical focus on the present.

Readings:

-Jared Diamond (1999). *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. New York, New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

-other readings are listed on reverse side; most will be available electronically.

Some of the other assigned readings for this class are available electronically. Please see reverse side for details, and consult the online syllabus at [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm) every week or so for updates.

Course Requirements: Three examinations (300 pts.) and some writing assignments (up to 40 pts.) will be the primary means of evaluation. Your highest test score will be weighted as 1.2 times your actual score, and the lowest test weighted as 0.8 times your actual score. This differential weighting will mitigate the effects of a low score. The assigned readings will generally complement classroom lectures and activities, although some will go beyond what is covered in the classroom.

There will also be announced or unannounced quizzes. As the primary goals of giving quizzes are to encourage attendance and reading, no make up quizzes will be given.

Skills that will be encouraged include independent reading, comprehension, and synthesis of somewhat challenging material. For selected readings you will be provided with study questions, some of which will be covered or reviewed in class, others not. You are strongly encouraged to form study groups in which you discuss: 1) your impressions and understanding of the readings, and 2) your written responses to the study questions. These study questions will form the basis for a significant number of exam questions. Do not procrastinate on the reading until just prior to the exam.

All material covered in class as well as that in the readings will be the basis for the examinations. No make up examinations will be given except in the most unusual of circumstances, and should be arranged prior to the exam being missed. Every attempt will be made to stick to the exam schedule dates found on the reverse side of this page. The final exam will not be comprehensive.

For summary of course goals, learning outcomes, and program outcomes, see page 3 of this syllabus.

Grading

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percent |  |
|  A | 90-100 |  Minus and plus grades will be assessed for the upper and  |
| B | 80-89.9 |  lower two percentage points in each grade range. For |
| C | 70-79.9 |  example, 89% is a B+, while 71% is a C-. |
| D | 60-69.9 |  |
| F | <60 |  |

Any student needing an accommodation for any type of disability should talk me during office hours or after class the first week of the course and should contact the Office of Disability Services (838-8250v/tty).

By continuing in this class, all students agree to be bound by the Academic Dishonesty Policy of the Social Science Division as posted in the folder for this class at [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm).

**Tentative Readings & Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Days | Topics | Readings\* |
| April 3 - 12 | Introduction, Geographic Concepts | Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* pp. 13-27 (Yali’s Question); 53-66 (A Natural Experiment of History); 85-92 (Farmer Power);131-156 (Apples or Indians)Reading questions at [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm) |
| April 17-19 | Peoples, Environment, Culture | Continue above, Diamond 195-214 (Lethal Gift of Livestock); Diamond, 354-375 (Hemispheres Colliding). |
| **April 24** | **Exam #1** |  |
| April 26, May 1 | US ImmigrationCauses of Migration: Concepts & Theory | Roberto Suro: From One Man a Channel; Martin & Widgren (2002); other TBA (article PDFs and study questions at [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm)); See class folder at above for other required notes and reading materials. |
| May 3, 8, 10 | Global Refugee Crisis | to be announced |
| **May 15** | **Exam #2** |  |
| May 15, 17, 22 | Human Diets through Time | View in class “Debunking the Paleo Diet” TED series, (Warinner);Read “How to Really Eat Like a Hunter-Gatherer”, Scientific American, (Fabr);View: Secrets of Sugar <http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/episodes/2013-2014/the-secrets-of-sugar> |
| May 24, 31 | Diets in Modern Societies | View in class “Food Inc.”;Read Introduction to Michael Pollan (2006): *Omnivores Dilemma*, Penguin Press, New York. Reading questions & PDF are in the unit 3 human diet folder of this class at [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm) (note that PDF includes Ch 1, not required) |
| June 5, 7 | Diets in Modern Societies | View “Food Rules for a Healthy People and Planet” (Pollan) <https://www.thersa.org/discover/videos/event-videos/2010/06/food-rules-for-healthy-people-and-planet/>Globesity documentary (see folder for class at [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm))Other tba |
| **Tuesday, June 12th, 12-1:50** | Exam #3 | everything after Exam #2 |

**\***Reading list is subject to change. Other materials in online folder for the class are also required, unless otherwise noted.

Course Goals:

1. basic concepts and processes of cultural evolution and diffusion
2. the roles that physical and biological environments play in societal development
3. the geographic and temporal dimensions of dietary change
4. associations between dietary transitions and human health

Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn basic concepts and processes of cultural evolution and diffusion (Program Outcome #2 below). Students will be required to understand the roles that different physical and biological environments have played in societal development (#2 & #3 below). Students will gain understanding of the geographic and temporal dimensions of dietary change, along the continuum of Paleolithic peoples, the rise of plant and animal domestication and their increasingly complex societies, to contemporary industrialized food systems (#2 & #3). Finally, students must be able to describe and explain changes in population level health that are associated with these dietary transitions (#2).

Program Outcomes:

The outcomes above align with two of the three program outcomes for the Department of Geography. (#2 and #3 below)

1. Explain important elements of geographic thought and practice
2. Interpret the interrelationships between people, space and place
3. Analyze human-environment relations