**Geography 107D Introduction to Cultural Geography**

*Spring 2015*

Instructor: Michael S. McGlade, Ph.D. Class Meets: TR 14:00-15:50

Class Location: HSS 107 Office: HSS 211

Office Phone: 503-838-8381 Office Hrs: M 12-3, W 12-2

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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, language change and geography, diets from hunter-gatherers to the present.

Readings:

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

-Robert MacNeil & William Cran (2005). *Do You Speak American?* New York, New York: Harvest Books.

-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 one mini term paper (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. Other small writing projects or homework may be given at instructor’s discretion.

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.

The term paper will be assigned in May, and is expected to be approximately five pages in length (~1500 words). The instructions will be given and explained in class.

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.

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 |  |

**Tentative Readings & Schedule**

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| Days | Topics | Readings\* |
| March 31 – April 9 | 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 14, 16 | Peoples, Environment, Culture | Continue above, Diamond 195-214 (Lethal Gift of Livestock); Diamond, 354-375 (Hemispheres Colliding). |
| **April 21**(first hour is exam, then class) | **Exam #1** |  |
| April 21, 23, 28 | Geography of Language and Language Diffusion | MacNeil and Cran, pp. 1-48.Reading questions posted on [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm)Poss. quiz Intro., Chs. 1 & 2 at some point |
| April 30, May 5 | Geography of Language and Language Diffusion | MacNeil and Cran, pp. 89-149.Reading questions posted on [www.wou.edu/~mcgladm](http://www.wou.edu/~mcgladm)Other reading may be announced |
| **May 7** | **Exam #2** |  |
| May 12, 14 | Human Diets through Time | Video “Debunking the Paleo Diet” TED series, (Warinner);Read “How to Really Eat Like a Hunter-Gatherer”, Scientific American, (Fabr);Read “The Extraordinary Science of Addictive Junk Food” New York Times; (Moss) |
| May 19, 21, 26(no class May 28th, Academic Excellence Showcase) | Diets in Modern Societies | View in class “Food Inc.”;View Parts 1 & 2 of BBC documentary seriesThe Men Who Made Us Fat;Other TBA? |
| June 2**June 4** | Diets in Modern SocietiesPaper due in class, no electronic submissions | View “Food Rules for a Healthy People and Planet” (Pollan) click <https://www.thersa.org/discover/videos/event-videos/2010/06/food-rules-for-healthy-people-and-planet/>Other TBA? |
| **Tuesday, June 9th, noon** | 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.

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).