



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Course Prefix, Number and Title: Geog 101, Human Geography

Course CRN # and Section : 20517, 1AS

Semester Taught (including year): Spring, 2019

Professor: Dr. Shimantini Shome

Credit Hours: 3

Office Location: Admin 122

Prerequisites: None

Office Hours: MW: 11 – 1, R: 1 – 2

Course Time (if applicable): NA

Email: sshome@concord.edu

Building and Room Number (if applicable): Online

Phone: #6025

Office Fax: #6091

College/Department Website: <http://www.concord.edu/social-sciences/node/1>

Course Description/Rationale: This course aims at understanding the dynamic between the natural features of the earth's surface and humans. In this course, students will examine the spatial relationships between human societies and cultures, the natural environment, and historical changes that shape the contemporary world around us. Major themes include historical and cultural settlement processes, the connection between history and geography, urbanization, ethnic conflict and nation building, globalization of economy and culture, political and international conflict, cultural diversity, migration, religion, and global environmental concerns. Relevant timely issues and events in the news will be tied into the overall framework of the course. This would promote a deeper understanding of current events that affect people and places, from a historical and geographical perspective.

Course Management System (Blackboard/Moodle or other systems): Blackboard

Hardware/Software Needed: (include privacy policies, if applicable): NA

Text requirements:

Contemporary Human Geography

Authors: James M. Rubenstein

Publisher: Pearson

Concord University Educational Goal(s): This should address at least one of the areas (skills, knowledge, or attitude) for each course. Similar courses with different sections should have the same goal(s).

Skills #1 and #2

Knowledge #1 and #3

Attitudes #1 and #3

Concord University Educational Goals can be found here:
<http://catalog.concord.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=83>

National Standards (if applicable) For example, NCTM, IRA, CAEP, etc.

All Geography courses rely on the “Geography for Life” standards put forward by the American Association of Geographers, the National Geographic Society and the National Council for Geographic Education.

Specific Learning Outcomes

1. Students will understand the relationship between people and the environment.
2. Students will learn to think in spatial terms.
3. Students will learn the methodological basis of the class.
4. Students will learn how data is arrived at and how generalizations are made.
5. Students will appreciate the role of diversity and assimilation in culture change.
6. Students will analyze the role of maps in communicating information about culture.
7. Students will understand the differences between 1st and 3rd world cultures.
8. Students will understand the role of migration in changing culture.
9. Students will analyze the importance of connections between places.
10. Students will discuss culture through the use of video.
11. Students will write papers on various aspects of culture.
12. Students will understand the importance of human/environment interaction.

Course Requirements

I expect you to keep up with the readings/presentations/assignments in this class.

Email etiquette: If your emails do not have a subject line, aren't addressed properly to me, or do not have your name at the bottom, I will not respond to them.

Please understand that I will not tolerate any kind of racist, homophobic, sexist, Islamophobic, anti-semitic or any other kind of disrespectful conduct in class. That is against both Concord as well as Federal rules/laws. Disrespectful/aggressive conduct in class might land you in the Dean's office or get you dropped from the class altogether.

Grading Policy and Scale, Make-up Policy, Late Work

Your grade for this course will be based on exam scores, country assignments, class assignments, news blogs and reaction papers. Three exams will be given throughout the semester and **there are NO dropped exams**. All other assignments will be explained on Blackboard as the semester progresses.

I will not be accepting any late assignments, unless there is proper documentation for turning in your work late.

Your grade for this course will be based on the percentages:

Exam 1: 10%

Exam 2: 15%

Exam 3: 15%

Assignments: 15%

Will be mostly from your textbook or readings that I assign to you and the due dates will be announced well ahead on Blackboard.

Country assignments blog: 15%

To be turned in every Monday on Blackboard except during exam weeks. Further instructions to follow.

Three reaction papers: 15% (or 5% each)

These will be three film analysis assignments. This will entail watching a film in class/at home and subsequently writing a reaction paper on the film. You have a choice of choosing three films out of those that will be shown in class for your reaction papers. You have to turn in your reaction within a week of the film being shown. After that, it is on to the next film. Reaction papers are your take on the films shown in class and not a summary of the films. They should be 1-2 pages long in a standard font size(12) and 1.5 spaced.

Weekly News: 15%

You will blog about current events every Friday. Detailed instructions will be available on Blackboard.

Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

Note: This timeline may be subject to change

Week 1 (starting January 14): Syllabus, Thinking Geographically

Week 2 (starting Jan 21): MLK Jr. Day, Globalization

Week 3 (starting Jan 28): Population and Migration

Week 4 (starting Feb 4): Colonization

Week 5 (starting Feb 11): Review, EXAM 1

Week 6 (starting Feb 18): Cultural Geographies

Week 7 (starting Feb 25): Cultural Geographies contd.

Week 8 (starting Mar 4): Political Geography

SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (starting Mar 18): Development

Week 10 (starting Mar 25): Review, EXAM 2

Week 11 (starting Apr 1): Agriculture

Week 12 (starting Apr 8): Industry

Week 13 (starting Apr 15): Urban Geography

Week 14 (starting Apr 22): Resource Issues

Week 15 (starting Apr 29): Review, EXAM 3

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:
<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can

receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."

Miscellaneous (for example):

Sources of Help

Glossary of Terms

Related Research/Professional Organizations