

# CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

## GPY 220, Sec. 02

### Fall 2009

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**Instructor:** *Kin M. Ma*

**Office Hours:** Tues. and Thurs. 10:00–11:30am, and by appt.

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Days	Meeting Times	Classroom
M, W	3:00-4:15 PM	B-1120 Mackinac (MAK-B)

**Required Text:** Rubenstein, James M. (2008). *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, Ninth Edition, Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.  
ISBN: 978-0-13-243573-4

#### **Social Sciences Foundation Course**

**This course is a Foundation Course and have the following general objectives**

##### **Content Objectives**

- 1) The introduction of the social sciences as a "way of knowing"; an examination of principles and questions that define the field;
- 2) An understanding of how knowledge in the social sciences is created;
- 3) A introduction to the contemporary status of a social science field of study;
- 4) The major approaches, methods, theories, and substantive findings of the field;
- 5) The concepts and information necessary for an educated layperson to understand and formulate opinions on contemporary social issues;
- 6) Examples of some of the ways that knowledge developed in the field finds application;
- 7) A critical stance that will allow students to begin to understand how to weigh ideas and claims within the field's domain.

##### **Skills Objectives**

All courses in the Social Sciences Category use teaching methods that help students become more proficient in the following skills:

- 1) To engage in articulate expression through effective speaking or writing; (participation/reflection paper)
- 2) To think critically and creatively;
- 3) To locate, evaluate, and use information effectively (food/culture experience).

In this class, we will discuss concepts geographers use to describe the distribution of people and activities across the Earth, to explain reasons for the observed distribution, and to understand the significance of the arrangements (Chapter 1).

We will learn where people are located in the world, understand the distribution and growth of the world's population, the movement of people from one place to another, and why some places on Earth contain large numbers of people or attract newcomers while other places are sparsely inhabited (Chapters 2 and 3).

In Chapters 4 through 8 we will analyze the distribution of different cultures, and associated problems. Chapter 4 deals with the differences between folk and popular cultures through food, clothing, and shelter, while chapters 5 through 7 focuses on cultural identity: language, religion, and ethnicity. Chapter 8 briefly reviews world politics and cultural diversity.

As we follow chapters 9 through 12, we will look at the ways people earn their living in different parts of the world through agriculture, manufacturing, and services. We will be raising questions such as: Do people produce their food directly from the land, or do they purchase foodstuffs?

Chapter 13 discusses cities as centers for economic and cultural activities.

Chapter 14 looks at the Earth's natural resources—energy, pollution, and food supply. Geographers recognize that cultural problems result from the depletion, destruction, and inefficient use of the world's natural resources. At this point, you should be well prepared to take and pass the final.

### Important Dates

Quiz 1	Sept. 21
Quiz 2	Oct. 5
Midterm-Exam	Oct. 19
Reflection Paper	Oct. 28
<b>Drop Deadline, 5:00PM</b>	Oct. 30
Food and Culture Day	Nov. 2
Quiz 3	Nov. 16
Quiz 4	Nov. 30
Classes End	Dec. 12
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Dec. 17, 2:00-3:50PM</b>

### **Course Grade Format**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Points</b>
Quizzes (4) at 30pts each	30%	120
Mid-term Exam	25%	100
Food and Culture Day	12.5%	50
Attendance	7.5%	30
Final exam	25%	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>400</b>

#### **Exams, Quizzes, Participation:**

##### **Exam Structure:**

Midterm Exam and Final Exam (100 points each)	<u>Mid-Exam</u>	<u>Final Exam</u>
Multiple Choice / Fill in/ True/False Questions (2 pts. each)	70 points	70 points
1 -2 Essay Questions	<u>30 points</u>	<u>30 points</u>
	100 points	100 points

##### **Quizzes** (30 points each)

There will be four (4) quizzes in multiple choice, fill-in, and true/false type of questions. Review Guides will be provided. The lowest quiz grade will be DROPPED. There will be **NO** make-up quizzes.

*Requests for exams or quizzes at times **other** than regularly scheduled are **strongly discouraged** and will be granted only for extreme emergencies (with proof required). Please contact me EARLY before a potential time conflict so that we can make the proper arrangements, and CALL to leave a message.*

### **Food and Culture Experience Day**

This exercise is intended to help you understand the connection of agriculture to culture and place. There will be two options and see separate sheet for more details (50 points). The paper and/or food will be due on **Nov. 2, 2009**.

**Learning Reflection Paper:** There will be one 1-2 page learning reflectance paper after the mid-term exam. You will reflect on how you are learning the material in the class. The paper will be worth 10 points and due **10/28/09**. More details will follow.

### **Late Papers Policy**

The price of a late paper is **20% per day late, and AFTER 2 days late, the paper will NOT be accepted**. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please come and discuss it with me or e-mail me at [makin@gvsu.edu](mailto:makin@gvsu.edu) or call me, 616-331-3351, **BEFORE** the deadline; the earlier the better.

**Participation and Attendance:** I believe in your commitment to the learning we share through dialogue with each other. Attending class is essential to mastering and understanding the material in class. Class Participation will be evaluated by in-class participation and/or also "significant dialogue" over e-mail. If you are **unable** to attend class for an extended period, please notify me via e-mail or phone **BEFORE** the time you will miss class.

### **Email**

E-mail will be periodically sent to the entire class regarding items or class Powerpoint presentations that I have posted to the Blackboard website. It is important that you are checking your GVSU Google e-mail address you have been assigned REGULARLY. E-mail messages are sent to the CLASS and NOT to individuals. I am NOT responsible if your e-mail account reaches the disk space limit and the messages I send bounces. I **CANNOT** keep up with over 150 students and the potential bounce back of messages because of specific problems. It is **YOUR** responsibility to manage your email account and allow enough space for additional messages.

### **\*\*Sending Email\*\***

When writing email to the instructor, for easy identification of your name and your class section, in the Subject Line of the messages, include the Class and Section Number. e.g., "**Gpy220\_02, 'Your topic.'**" Always sign your **FULL** name at the end of your e-mail, since I do **NOT** know who "CuteLittleMissMuffet" or "HeMan#1" people are.

### **Technology Use**

Laptop Computers can be utilized for notetaking ONLY. If I find that you are using it for other purposes, laptop computers will be banned from classroom use.

**Cell Phones:** Please turn **OFF** cell phones during class! During classtime, we will focus on the content and the learning that is happening within the classroom, without interruptions.

## Course Grade Distribution

<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
94-100	90-93.9	87-89.9	84-86.9	80-83.9	77-79.9	74-76.9	70-73.9	66-69.9	60-65.9	<60

Note: There are NO 'A+' NOR 'D-' grades.

**Special Learning Challenges:** Each student learns in his or her own way. If you have a disability that will require special accommodations in this course, please contact the **Disability Support Office (DSS) in 200 Student Services (STU), 616-331-2490**. The DSS will assist me in providing the necessary accommodations in order to enhance the learning environment for you. If you have already done so, DSS will provide you with a letter that describes your specific needs and the necessary accommodations. Please bring that letter to my attention AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and **PRIOR** to the due date of the first course requirement, e.g., the quiz.

Student Code and Plagiarism: According to GVSU's General Academic Policies, here are the stated policies:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment;
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person;
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person;
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own;
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

## Tentative Course Outline

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Other/Assignment due</b>
1	Aug. 31	Introduction to Cultural Geography		
1	Sep. 2	Thinking Geographically	Chap. 1	<b>9/4,5pm,Add Deadline</b>
2	Sep. 7	<b>Labor Day (NO CLASSES)</b>		
2	Sep. 9	Population	Chap. 2	Video
3	Sep. 14	Population and Migration	Chap. 3	
3	Sep. 16	Migration	Chap. 3	
<b>4</b>	<b>Sep. 21</b>	Folk and Popular Culture	Chap. 4	<b>Quiz #1 (Chaps. 1-3)</b>
4	Sep. 23	Folk and Popular Culture	Chap. 4	Video
5	Sep. 28	Language	Chap. 5	
5	Sep. 30	Language	Chap. 5	
<b>6</b>	<b>Oct. 5</b>	Religion	Chap. 6	<b>Quiz #2 (Chaps. 4-5)</b>
6	Oct. 7	Religion	Chap. 6	Video
7	Oct. 12	Ethnicity	Chap. 7	
7	Oct. 14	Ethnicity, Review	Chap. 7	
<b>8</b>	<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Midterm-Exam</b>		<b>Chaps. 1 to 7</b>
8	Oct. 21	Political Geography	Chap. 8	
9	Oct. 26	Political Geography	Chap. 8	
9	Oct. 28	Agriculture	Chap. 10	<b>Reflection Paper</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Oct. 30*</b>	<b>Drop Deadline to get a 'W'</b>		<b>10/30, 5:00P, Deadline</b>
10	Nov. 2	Agriculture	Chap. 10	<b>Food/Culture Experience</b>
10	Nov. 4	Development	Chap. 9	
11	Nov. 9	Development	Chap. 9	
11	Nov. 11	Industry	Chap. 11	
12	Nov. 16	Industry	Chap. 11	<b>Quiz #3 (Chaps. 8-10)</b>
12	Nov. 18	Services	Chap. 12	
13	Nov. 23	Services	Chap. 12	Video
13	Nov. 25	<b>Thanksgiving (NO CLASSES)</b>	**Turkey**	
14	Nov. 30	Urban Patterns	Chap. 13	<b>Quiz #4 (Chaps. 11-12)</b>
14	Dec. 2	Urban Patterns	Chap. 13	Video
15	Dec. 7	Resource Problems	Chap. 14	
15	Dec. 9	Resource Problems	Chap. 14	
<b>16</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM, B-1120 MAK</b>	<b>2:00-3:50PM</b>	<b>Chaps. 8 to 14</b>

**As of Aug. 22, 2009**