



Bowie State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History and Government



Course Title: Elements of Geography
(Online)

Course #: GEOG 101.555

Credits: 3

Semester: Fall 2021

Hours: No specific hours

Location: Online Course

Instructor: Dr. Sumanth Reddy

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

and/or virtual by appointment

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- I. Course Prerequisites:** None
- II. Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce students to the field of geography, including tools and techniques used by geographers to study the Earth and the discipline's traditional interests in location, space, spatial interactions, regions, and humans' relationship with the environment.
- III. Required Text:** Gettis, Arthur; Mark Bjelland; Victoria Getis. Introduction to Geography (15th edition). McGraw Hill Publishers, 2018. It can be purchased/rented from the BSU bookstore or online. Earlier editions will not work. You must have the 15th edition as there are specific readings assigned for each chapter.
- IV. The Five General Education Competencies and Expected Learning Outcomes:**
1. Written and Oral Communication: Competency in written and oral communication includes the ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written language, the ability to use a variety of modern information resources and supporting technologies, the ability to differentiate content from style of presentation, and the ability to suit content and style to the purpose of communication.
 - a. Analyze and discuss critical issues and recurring themes in the discipline.
 - b. Make personal judgments and respond to literature by drawing conclusion and stating opinions.
 - c. Make interpretations and present those ideas in writing.
 - d. Employ appropriate word choices and diction in oral and written communication.
 - e. Use suitable current technologies to demonstrate knowledge of concepts.
 - f. Conduct research and evaluate information using the appropriate methods of the discipline.
 - g. Critically evaluate his or her own work and conduct peer reviews of other classmate's work.

2. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning: Competency in scientific and quantitative reasoning includes the ability to locate, identify, collect, organize, analyze and interpret data, and the ability to use mathematics and the scientific method of inquiry to make decision, where appropriate.
 - a. Analyze and understand the physical and biological world.
 - b. Solve scientific problems and synthesize scientific information.
 - c. Apply scientific methods of inquiry during investigation.

3. Critical Analysis and Reasoning: Competency in critical analysis and reasoning includes the ability to arrive at reasoned and supportable conclusion using sound research techniques, including inference, analysis and interpretation.
 - a. Systematically evaluate facts, opinions, assumptions and theories from the discipline.
 - b. Apply skills in analysis, synthesis and problem solving.
 - c. Apply logical reasoning in the examination and resolution of tasks.

4. Technological Competency: Technological competency includes the ability to use computer technology and appropriate software application to produce documentation, quantitative data presentations and functional graphical presentation appropriate to various academic and professional settings.
 - a. Create a document using word processing software.
 - b. Produce a quantitative visual representation of data using mathematical computation software.
 - c. Construct a presentation using presentation software.
 - d. Manipulate large amounts of data using a database management system

5. Information Literacy: Information literacy includes the ability to identify, locate, and effectively use information from various print and electronic sources.
 - a. Identification of key concepts and terms that describe the information needed.
 - b. Selection of the most appropriate investigative methods for accessing needed information.
 - c. Recognition of the cultural, physical, or other context within which the information was created and understanding the impact of context on interpreting the information.
 - d. Understanding of the ethical, legal and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology.

V. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, among other things, students will be able to:

1. Define with examples the five themes in geography; describe what geography is and how it impacts us every day; and analyze and explain why geography matters. These objectives address general education competencies 1acef, 2a, 3ac, 4a, 5ac.

2. Define geospatial technology and analysis and cite several examples of how geospatial technologies can be used to help people. These objectives address general education competencies 1acde, 2ab, 3a, 4a, 5cd.
3. Label the various types of resources and analyze what the future might hold for human beings. These objectives address general education competencies 1abcdg, 2a, 3ab, 4a, 5ac.
4. Identify and characterize the major population clusters of the world and summarize the demographic transition model. These objectives address general education competencies 1abcdg, 2abc, 3ac, 4a, 5cd.
5. Differentiate between popular and folk culture and discover how cultures, customs, and traditions vary around the world. These objectives address general education competencies 1abcd, 2ac, 3ac, 4a, 5c.

VI. Emerging Issue

This class will address the emerging issue requirement through a term paper on climate change and its impacts on humanity and the future. There will also be several short assignments throughout the semester that tie in climate change and its impact on livelihoods. More details of these assignments will be provided in class.

VII. Modes of Instruction: PowerPoint lectures, discussions, short videos, textbook and short article readings, written papers, and library and internet research.

VIII. Evaluation and Assessment: This class will be made up of a total of 400 points. Your instructor reserves the right to add a few additional points (10-50) if other assignments/activities are deemed timely and necessary.

Class Total = 400 Points

• Exam # 1 = 100 points
• Exam # 2 = 100 points
• Paper = 50 points
• Assignments/activities = 150 points

90% or greater = A, 80% - 89.9% = B, 70% - 79.9% = C, 60% - 69.9% = D, 59.9% and below = F

- We will cover 6-8 modules/chapters during the semester. Each module will be covered over 2 weeks in most cases. Every module will have a power point presentation along with assignments/quizzes. All assignments/quizzes pertaining to that chapter will be due by 11:59 PM on the last day of that chapter (generally a Sunday). **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Each

chapter also has specific readings that you must read as you will be tested on the exam. These page numbers are listed in parentheses and are generally in colored boxes in each chapter.

- All assignment instructions will be clearly laid out in detail within each module.
- There will be two exams, each worth 100 points. Exam # 1 will cover modules 1, 2 & 3. Exam # 2 will cover modules 1, 5, 6, & 7. Every exam/quiz will be open-book in the sense that you will have access to all your notes when you take the exams/quizzes. However, every exam/quiz will be timed. Most quizzes are generally 5-10 minutes long while exams are 35-45 minutes long. If you do not study for them prior to taking them, you will generally not perform well.
- There will be one 50-point term paper addressing the emerging issue of climate change. The details of the paper will be finalized after your midterm exam and you will have approximately one month to complete it.
- There will be multiple assignments and/or timed quizzes ranging between 5-30 points each for a total of 150 points.
- Although the class is worth 400 points, there is a possibility to add a few more assignments which might increase the point total to above 400 (generally by 10-25 points).

IX. Course Schedule: Although this schedule is tentative, we will try to maintain it as much as possible. Any changes will be announced to class.

DATE(S)		TOPIC(S)/EVENTS	Suggested Readings (required readings)
Week 1	8/30-9/3	Syllabus & Class Introductions MODULE 1 - Introduction to Geography (Ch. 1)	Class Introductions and Syllabus Quiz: Due by Midnight on Sunday (9/5) Pgs. 1-19 (6-7, 17)
Week 2	9/6-/10	Introduction to Geography (Ch. 1)	Module 1: Due by Midnight Sunday (9/12)
Week 3	9/13-9/17	MODULE 2 - Maps (Ch. 2)	Pgs. 20-45 (32, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42)
Week 4	9/20-9/24	Maps (Ch. 2)	Module 2: Due by Midnight Sunday (9/26)

Week 5	9/27-10/1	MODULE 3 - The Geography of Natural Resources (Ch. 12)	Pgs. 334-373 (338, 343-344, 353-354, 364, 371)
Week 6	10/4-10/8	The Geography of Natural Resources (Ch. 12)	Module 3: Due by Midnight Sunday (10/10)
Week 7	10/11-10/15	Exam # 1 (Midterm Exam) MODULE 4 - Term Paper Instructions Posted	Midterm Exam: Due by Midnight, Sunday (10/17)
Week 8	10/18-10/22	MODULE 5 - Population Geography (Ch. 5)	Pgs. 110-140 (115, 119, 120, 123, 128, 129)
Week 9	10/25-10/29	Population Geography (Ch. 5)	Module 5: Due by Midnight Sunday (10/31)
Week 10	11/1-11/5	MODULE 6 - Cultural Geography (Ch. 6)	Pgs. 141-184 (145, 153, 157, 163, 166, 168, 172, 179, 182)
Week 11	11/8-11/12	Cultural Geography (Ch. 6)	Module 6: Due by Midnight Sunday (11/14)
Week 12	11/15-11/19	MODULE 4: Term Paper	(Module 4) Term Paper: Due by Midnight Sunday (11/21)
Week 13	11/22-11/26	MODULE 7 - Political Geography (Ch. 9) Thanksgiving (25 th & 26 th)	Pgs. 214-246 (221, 233, 234) Nothing due this week
Week 14	11/29-12/3	Political Geography	Module 7: Due by Midnight Sunday (12/5)
Week 15	12/6-12/10	Exam # 2 (Final Exam) Review	Study for your final exam
Week 16	12/13-12/17	Exam Week	Exam # 2 (Final Exam): Due by Midnight Wednesday (12/15)

X. Policies on Plagiarism, Attendance, Deadlines, and Conduct:

1. Plagiarism: It will be taken for granted that any work, oral or written, that a student does for any course is his/her original work. Any violation of this rule constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism includes any form of cheating on examinations, tests, quizzes and any unacknowledged and/or undocumented use of another's writing or ideas published or unpublished, including copying or rewording information found on the

internet. A student who plagiarizes will receive a failing grade for the particular assignment. Students should consult the 2010-2011 Bowie State University Undergraduate Catalog (page 102) for more details. A copy of the university plagiarism policy will be available to all students within the course shell.

2. Attendance: Since this is an online course, there is no daily attendance taken. However, there will be assignments due for every module. Not submitting your assignments, and on time, could have a significant negative impact on your overall grade.
3. Deadlines: All assignments/quizzes are to be turned in by the due date and time. **Late work will not be accepted.** On the rare occasion that you are not able to submit an assignment on time due to an emergency, please contact your instructor immediately. Makeups may only be allowed with a **written verification** that must be provided to the instructor immediately the day after a due date. However, it is completely up to the discretion of the instructor to determine if the reason is an emergency. An emergency is generally considered an ER visit (not a regular doctor's visit), death in the family, etc. Work and personal issues are not considered emergencies. Since this is an online class and we do not meet in a classroom, and the fact that most assignments have several days to be completed, exceptions are rarely made. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that they have a proper internet connection. Non-submissions due to internet issues is not a valid reason. I strongly advise that you turn in all assignments several days prior to their due dates rather than waiting till the last day.

XI. Special Accommodations: Bowie State University supports all students in their academic endeavors. Should you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please contact BSU's Disability Support Services Program (DSSP) Coordinator - Dr. Michael Hughes, to register for reasonable accommodations. Dr. Hughes is located in the Thurgood Marshall Library, Lower Level, Suite 082, Room 8212. He can be reached at (301) 860 - 4067 and/or mhughes@bowiestate.edu. Please go to the following website for more information: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/support-services/disability-support-services/> If already registered with this program, please provide the DSSP accommodation forms to the professor immediately to describe what accommodations you are requesting. **It is the student's responsibility to contact your instructor at the beginning and again throughout the semester in order for the instructor to make appropriate accommodations.** Bowie State University maintains a policy of equal opportunity for all persons. No person shall be subject to discrimination under any program or activity of the university on the basis of gender, sexual preference, race, age, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

- **BSU Counseling Services** is an additional but vital resource students can use for support. All information regarding their office can be found on their website <https://www.bowiestate.edu/campus-life/health-and-wellness/counseling-services/>

- Bowie State University shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or veteran status.
- Please refer to the BSU Academic Calendar for important dates <https://bowiestate.edu/about/administration-and-governance/division-of-enrollment-management/registrars-office/2021-2022-academic-calendar.pdf>

XII. Bibliography and Glossary: The assigned text contains excellent bibliographies, organized by subject matter, which hereby are incorporated into this course as requisite reference material for students. In addition, below is Dr. Reddy's Top 10 list of suggested readings that will be useful in understanding geography and its importance in our everyday lives.

- Alvarez, K, et al. 2005. *Why Geography is Important*.
<http://geography.vt.edu/Why%20is%20Geography%20Important.pdf>
- Canadian Council for Geographic Education. 2017. *Top 10 Reasons to Study Geography*.
http://www.cangeoeducation.ca/programs/geoliteracy/docs/GeoLiteracy_letter.pdf
- de Blij, H. 2008. *The Power of Place*. Oxford University Press.
- de Blij, H. 2012. *Why Geography Matters: More Than Ever*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press.
- Diamond, JM. 1999. *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Friedman, TL. 2006. *The World is Flat: The Globalized World in the Twenty-First Century*. Penguin. London.
- Globalisation. <https://globaldimension.org.uk/articles/globalisation/>
- McDougall, W. 2003. *Why Geography Matters...But So Little is Learned*. *Orbis* 47(2):217-233.
http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0030438703000061/1-s2.0-S0030438703000061-main.pdf?_tid=15205184-e329-11e6-a658-00000aab0f27&acdnat=1485367807_bb018b1e1f70c740821db17381e61e73
- Monmoier, M. 1996. *How to Lie with Maps*. 2nd ed. University of Chicago Press.
- Thompson, PJ. 2017. Place Matters, and So Does Race. *Urban Affairs Review* 53(1):210-218.