

Geography 102-1 (10545)
Fall 2013
James L Sell Ph.D.

COURSE SYLLABUS
Cultural Geography
1:30-2:55pm Monday/Wednesday
Building 200 Room 212

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the cultures of the world. Emphasis is on the world's contemporary regional demographic, linguistic, religious, and social/economic characteristics.

Student Learning Outcomes: GEOG 102 investigates the societal dimensions of human geography. During this course you will develop a geographic understanding of the Earth's human occupation and to describe Earth's human spatial patterns. After successfully completing the course you will understand:

1. The Five Themes of Geography and their role in the discipline
2. Demographic patterns and principles
3. Migration push and pull factors
4. The cultural elements of language, religion, and ethnicity, and their locations
5. The general concepts of regional economic and political organization
6. The why and wherefore of agricultural activities and industrial locations
7. What landscape components comprise the built environment
8. Some of the ramifications of human impact on the environment
9. Settlement forms and urban development
10. How to read the changing cultural landscape

INSTRUCTOR:

James L. Sell, Ph.D. University of Arizona.

Instructor's Office: 1604A

Office Phone: 760-355-6537

Email: jim.sell@imperial.edu

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10-11 am
 Tuesday/Thursday 12-1 pm
 Or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Rubenstein, James M. 2013 *Contemporary Human Geography*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson

NOTE: The list price for a new hard copy of this textbook is \$123. The bookstore also has this available for rent at a reduced price. If you access the CourseSmart.com webpage, you can rent a digital (online) copy of this text for 180 days for \$45. If you do not have any interest in keeping a copy of this beyond the ending of the class, you might want to rent a digital copy.

It is also recommended that you have a good atlas. The atlas should have a "gazetteer" that is, an index of all the places shown on the maps with their latitude and longitude. *Goode's World Atlas* or the National Geographic Society atlas both have it.

CLASS STRUCTURE

This is a lecture class, which meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:30-2:55pm, in Room 212, Building 200. Lectures/class discussions are the primary sources of information. Additional detail is supplied by the text, videos, and hand-outs. To do well you must attend class, read the assigned chapters in the physical geography text, complete in and out of class activities, and turn in all assigned work. Exams will be based on lecture/discussion material, readings, hand-outs, lab activities, and videos. Some of the readings are not directly covered in class, and some of the lecture materials are not found in the text, but BOTH sources will be on the tests. If you miss class you should check with other students for notes.

The lecture power points will be posted on **Blackboard**. Keep in mind that the power points are only an outline. More details will be presented in the lectures and **you will be tested on all materials**

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken at the start of each class. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE IN CLASS ON TIME.** Students arriving late or leaving class during class time disrupt the educational process and learning process: arrive on time. Students who miss more than 3 total class hours as per the college catalog can be dropped from this course.

GRADING

Student Grades will be primarily based upon the examinations, as well as written exercises for the labs. Quizzes and short written assignments may be assigned for the lecture segment. The proportion planned is as follows:

3 Regular Exams:	100 points*
Final Exam	50 points**
Novel Assignment	80 points
Quizzes and Assignments	c.70 points
TOTAL	300 points

* The exam with the lowest score will be dropped from the total; two will be retained.

** The final exam must be taken to complete the course; it cannot be dropped.

The examinations may include multiple choice, map location, fill-in, term definition, short answer and essay questions. The regular semester exams will cover the materials from the previous lectures, textbook readings or assignments. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Quizzes will be given at random through the course. They will be five points total. The purposes of the quizzes are to 1) provide an attendance check, and 2) to provide feedback about

the course material. They may be given at any time during the class. The lowest quiz score will be dropped from the total.

Other assignments will be given a various times during the course. These will be essays (essentially take home exam questions). Assignment points will vary.

Make-up examinations will not be given. One missed exam score will be automatically dropped as the lowest score. Those people who miss more than one exam will receive a 0 for the second missed exam.

Late Policy. Assignments turned in after 6:30pm on the due date will lose 10% of their total possible points. Assignments turned in one week after the due date will not be accepted

Grades will be assigned on the basis of a percentage scale adjusted for difficulty of the material. The highest total score in the class will be scored as 100%, and the grade percentages will be derived from that highest score.

A	93-100%
B	80-92%
C	65-79%
D	50-64%
F	below 50%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to be honest in their work for this course. In general the instructor expects you to do your own work for this class only. Formal definitions of violation follow:

1. Plagiarism. Copying work done by someone else and turning it in as your own, or failing to cite references for ideas from another source.

2. Self-Plagiarism. Copying your own work and turning it in for the present class. The instructor expects that all work turned in will be done only for this class.

3. Cheating on Examinations or Quizzes. While taking an exam, you are expected to talk to no one. Copying answers, use of crib sheets, codes, or simply replying to a student request for answers will result in punitive action. While taking an exam, you are expected to talk to no one except the instructor or teaching assistant. Even responding to a request for an eraser or a spare pencil will cast suspicion on you. Cheating on exams or quizzes will usually result in a zero score for that test. Repeat offenses will be cause for administrative action.

DECORUM

As students in this class you are representatives of the college. Whether in the classroom or in the field, you are expected to act with a reasonable level of decorum. Failure to do so may not only lead to a failing grade, but to disciplinary action.

It is expected that **cell phones will be turned off, and there will be no text messaging or game playing during class.** Such actions, or any others that disturb other members of class are not acceptable.

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S, Room 2117, Health Sciences Building, (760) 355-6312.

Tentative Course Outline (Subject to modification during the semester)

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Geography and its Five Themes	1
2	The Roots and Meaning of Culture	
3	Population Patterns and Trends	2
4	Population Stress and Migration	2,3
5	Culture and Population	
Examination 1 (September 18)		
6	Subsistence and Agriculture	10
7	Modern Agriculture and the Green Revolution	10, McKibben
8	Linguistic Systems	5
9	Religion and Language	5,6
10	Religion and Belief Systems	6
Examination 2 (October 23)		
11	Ethnic Geography	7
12	Folk and Popular Culture	4
13,14	Culture and Landscape	
Examination 3 (November 20)		
15	Economy, Ecology, Sustainability	9,14
16	Course Wrap-up	

Final Exam Wednesday, December 4 at the regular meeting time