

EAS 192
Cultures, Landscapes & Geographic Space

Winter 2009

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CLASSES

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays **12:00 – 12:50 p.m.**
Location: Tory B 95

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Introduction to geographical techniques and the spatial organization of human landscapes and significance of the distribution of human activity. Not open to students with credit in EAS 190 or 191. [Faculty of Arts] *University of Alberta Calendar*.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

EAS 192 introduces students to the main concept of human geography and encourages students to “think spatially” about their world. Human geography examines the spatial organization of human activities and the meanings attached to the places where activities take place.

By the end of this course students will have:

- familiarity with many geographical concepts such as location, space and place, distance decay, cultural landscapes, sustainable development, etc.
- familiarity with elements of urban structure, national and international regions, migration and other examples explored in the course,
- an awareness of the implications of an increasingly globalized economy.
- the ability to apply basic concept of human geography to diverse topics and issues.

LECTURE STRUCTURE

This is a large lecture class (with about 100 students) and will primarily follow the ‘traditional’ lecture format, though some classes will involve class discussion and smaller group discussions. Throughout the course various video clips and other forms of media will be employed where possible. There may be one or two classes where videos are shown and at least two classes where human geography faculty can come in and give guest lectures.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The following is a basic breakdown of the course topics. A more detailed schedule will be made available to students on-line.

Part 1: Introduction to the Discipline of Geography

- Human Geography in the Social Sciences
- Classifications systems for Human Geography
- The Uniqueness of Places
- Relevance of Geography today
- *Key Concepts in Human Geography*
- Introduction to Geographical Concepts and Tools

Part 2: Spatial Distribution of Human Activity

- The Changing Global Context and the Changing Nature of Space
- The Examination of special Distribution Across Space
- Geographies of Population
- Nature, Society and Technology

Part 3: Cultural Geography

- Culture Regions at Different Scales
- Mapping Cultural Identities
- Cultural Landscapes (sense of place, community, religious and linguistic regions, etc)
- Interpreting Places and Landscapes

Part 4: The Geography of Socio-Economic Development

- Globalization and Local Economic Development
- The Politics of Territory and Space

Part 5: Urbanization

- Urban Geography
- City Spaces: Urban Structure

Special Topics and Cases

Various topics of interest may be explored throughout the course depending upon class interest, guest speaker availability and course timing. These may include urban planning, health geography, disaster risk and response, and various other topics.

GRADING

Student grades will be determined using the following breakdown:

1. Reading Quizzes (3 @ 5% each).....	15%
2. Written Assignment (Due March 27 th)	20%
3. Mid-Term Exam (February 11 th)	25%
4. Final Examination (See University Exam Schedule).....	40%

Required Reading

The textbook for EAS 192 is **Knox, Paul, Marson, Sallie, A., Nash Alan E., Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context. 2nd Canadian Edition. Pearson, Prentice Hall. 2007.**

Reading Quizzes (15%)

The reading quizzes consist of five quizzes that are given randomly throughout the course. The students quiz mark will be made up of their top three marks on these five quizzes. This means that the lowest two marks that the student receives on a quiz will be discarded. There will be no make up quizzes. I employ this approach because it encourages and rewards students to keep up with the readings throughout the lecture schedule.

Mid-Term Exam (25%)

The mid-term exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The midterm exam will focus upon the material covered in lectures. Questions will not be drawn from the readings unless the topics were discussed in the lectures. The mid-term exam will be held in class on February 11, 2009. The mid-term exam must be taken on this day. No excuses for absence from the mid-term exam or the final exam will be accepted other than those specified in Section 23.5.6 of the *University of Alberta Calendar*.

Written Assignment (20%)

A separate statement will be provided in February outlining the requirements for the assignment, which will be worth 20% of the final grade. Several options will be offered for students. The assignment is due at the start of class **on March 27th**. Students who submit their assignment by this time will receive them back with comments on April 6th. Students who fail to submit their assignments by this time will be given an automatic extension.

Students who submit assignments after March 27th but before the start of class on April 6th will receive no penalty to their grade, but they will not receive their paper until the final exam and it will not have any written comments. *No* assignments will be accepted after 1:00 PM on April 8th. Students are encouraged to print their papers early and to arrive at school early on the due dates to avoid penalties due to a last minute issue (malfunction, **traffic jam**, etc).

Final Exam (40%)

The date and location of the final exam has yet to be determined. The final exam will cover material from the course as a whole, though it will focus more on the second half of the course. This will be discussed in class in detail. The deferred exam for those students who are given permission for a deferred exam by the University (see the calendar for information on deferred exams) will be held in Spring 2009 (TBA).

EVALUATION

Evaluation will be completed and expressed in raw marks throughout the course. Grades (A, B, C, D) will be assigned only to the final distribution of marks for the course. Such assignment will be based on a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in this class and remains unofficial until approved by Faculty Council or its designate.

LEGALITIES

Academic Integrity

Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar. The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the university in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct Behaviour <online at:

http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/gfcpolicymanual/content.cfm?ID_page=37633>

and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in such offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the university.

Missed Exams

The instructor must be notified within 48 hours of a missed exam (midterm or final). Students missing the midterm due to illness must provide a University of Alberta Medical Statement for *signed by the treating physician* within 48 hours of the exam (copies of the form are available at <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/files/Medical.pdf>). In other case, including domestic affliction or religious conviction, adequate documentation must be presented to the instructor. In such cases, the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam. In the case of a missed final exam students must follow university regulations, which include contact the student's own faculty office.

Students with Special Needs

Specialized Support and Disability Services (SSDS) provides assistance to students who require accommodation due to a disability affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, or mental or physical health. Students accessing SSDS services and/or needing accommodation are encouraged to discuss their needs with the instructor.

Access to Previous Exams

Students will have access to previous examination materials as well as sample examination questions via the course website. Sample materials will also be made available during class time prior to the midterm and final.