



Learning Enabler: Ismaila Odogba, PhD **Office:** Science D337 **Phone:** 715-346-4451
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Office hours: There are no formal office hours. However, I am readily available via email or email to enquire when I will be available to take phone calls.

Course Description:

This course examines the components and spatial aspects of contemporary culture including the patterns and problems of population, migration, language, religion, settlements, and political and economic development. It introduces students to several traditional subfields of human geography as well as fundamental geographic concepts.

U.S. National Geography Standards emphasized in the course:

- The physical and human characteristics of places.
- The changes that occur in meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources
- The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlements
- The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

Enduring Understandings of the Course:

- A spatial perspective of the social world is of crucial importance in the generation of a broad and informed understanding of the world
- The world is an interdependent system of settlements within which people live their lives as part of a continual process of struggle and transformation.

Course Attributes:

- GDR: Non-Western Culture (NW) and Social Sciences 1 (SS1)
- GEP: Global Awareness (GA), and Social Sciences (SS).

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, successful students will possess the knowledge necessary:

1. To describe the major concepts in human geography (including place, space, scale, and landscape)
2. To recognize and assess the diversity of cultural backgrounds and personal experiences that influence people and how they perceive places
3. To demonstrate a geography perspective in understanding and solving problems
4. To illustrate the interrelationships between people and places in the developed and less developed world

General Education Program (GEP):

This course fulfills the Cultural and Environmental Awareness, and Investigation requirement of the GEP. Geography tends to examine, from a spatial perspective the diversity and range of the physical and human systems across the planet. Consequently, it complements and aligns with the learning outcomes in these categories.



Format:

This is a **100% distance-learning (completely online) course and time will go by quickly, so try not to get behind.** Distance learning uses technology to facilitate learning without the limitations of time or place. We shall not meet in the traditional face-to-face environment. An on-line environment is not for everyone. Visit <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/overview/> for a brief overview. Also, peruse the *Distance Education Student Primer* under “Starter Documents” on the Home Page of Canvas.

Tech Skills:

Students should be competent in the use of computers, the World Wide Web, and commonly used software programs such as Microsoft Office Suite applications. In this course, we will be using the university’s management system, **Canvas**. Students without experience using Canvas can contact the Student Help Desk at (715) 346.HELP (4357) or 1.877.832.8977 to arrange instruction.

In order to enhance learning, **try to complete course tasks in their appropriate sequence** and by the suggested due date (the course calendar provides dates). You must complete all assignments and take exams within the scheduled timeframe (refer to the **Assignment Page**).

Grading:

This course is worth 135 points. Your grade will be based on performance on three exams, ten activities, and a film connection assignment. The point values assigned to each are as follows:

	Points Each	Points Possible
Exams (3)	20 points	60
Activities (10 of 11)	5 points	50
Film Connections (Human Flow) (1)	25 points	25

Percentage ranges for letter grades

93-100% = **A**; 90-92% = **A-**; 87-89% = **B+**; 83-86% = **B**; 80-82% = **B-**; 77-79% = **C+**; 73-76% = **C**; 70-72% = **C-**; 67-69% = **D+**; 60-66% = **D**; Below 60% = **F**

University policy does not recognize A+ or D- grades. An incomplete is not an option in this course. I will only honor a request for an incomplete under the most extraordinary, and documented circumstance (such as an illness documented with a doctor’s written excuse) which hinders the completion of course requirements. Students must arrange for an incomplete before the final day of the course. **Extra Credit ...** there is none. Please do not ask.

Lecture (Readings)

- In lieu of formal lectures, students will complete assigned readings, i.e., the corresponding chapters for activities from the textbook and from various online sources.
- Topical Lecture Outlines/PowerPoints Slides are provided to guide students in learning the most salient points from their readings.

- Expect to spend *at least* three hours each day reading the text chapter and reviewing lecture material.

Activities

- Activities are embedded into the Outlines/PowerPoints files and are highlighted in **RED TEXT**
- Each course topic (will have a corresponding **(activity or set of activities)**).
- You will upload each activity to Canvas. All papers submitted to Canvas should have your "Last Name" and the activity "Title" as part of the **file name** (i.e., smith_final_paper.doc - not smith.doc or paper.doc).
- Each activity is worth 5 points. **They are not corrected, but simply checked for completeness.** I will make comments as necessary.
- Your lowest activity grade will be dropped. If you forget to do an activity, this will count as your dropped assignment.
- The activities account for approximately 37% of your grade.

Film Connections Assignment (Already posted on Canvas)

- You are expected to view a film for the course.
- The film is available on the Canvas Home page under “eReserve Films”
- These writing piece should use geographic terms and concepts. You should connect topics described and presented in the book/outlines/PowerPoints with ideas presented in the film. You should describe what, where, and why: what is the issue or concern, where is this happening, and why is it happening at that location? Think Geographically!
- The film connection assignment accounts for approximately 19% of your grade.

Exams

The three exams open-book online exam comprise of multiple-choice questions relating to previously assigned readings from the textbook. You will have three attempts for each exam and the highest scores will be taken. **For those that like working ahead, the exams and other course tasks are available from the first day of class.**

- There will be three (3) open-book, online exams. Exams are multiple-choice format and cover material from both the online lectures and activities.
- Exams are not cumulative and can be accessed via the Assignments page.
- Exams account for approximately 44% of your grade.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

UWSP prohibits academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to understand the issues concerning academic standards, disciplinary procedures, and students' rights and responsibilities at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

Special Accommodations:

I will only honor recommended accommodations from Disability and Assistive Technology Center at 715-346-3365. Please, do visit this office (room 609 in the Learning Resource Center) if you have any condition such as physical or learning disability that make it difficult to carry out the work as



outlined or will require academic accommodations. In addition, I will accommodate religious belief according to UWSP 22.03.

Course Materials:

Rubenstein, James. 2013. *Contemporary Human Geography*, (2nd Edition). New York: Pearson.

The course text is required and can be rented. Please contact the bookstore immediately if you need a textbook shipped to you. See **Text Rental Information for Online Students** on the Canvas Home page under “Starter Documents”. I have uploaded relevant pages from the course text (i.e., chapters 1 & 2) to help you get started just in case your rental text does not arrive in due time. Other materials for the course are available on Canvas.

Tentative Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus and schedule when necessary to meet learning needs or due to unforeseeable reasons.

Suggested Due Dates for Tasks

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2 - 4	29	30	31	1	2 Thinking Geographically Activity	3 Population Activity	4 Migration Activity
January 6 - 11	5	6 Exam One	7 Folk & Popular Culture Activity	8 Ethnicity Activity	9 Development Activity	10 Political Geography Activity	11 “Human Flow” Film Connection
January 13 - 17	12	13 Exam Two	14 Industry Activity and Services Activity	15 Urban Patterns Activity	16 Resource Issues Activity	17 Exam Three	18

Please submit all materials to Canvas before 11:30 p.m. on Friday, January 17.

Students are strongly encouraged to check their UWSP email and the **Announcement Page** regularly for information pertaining to the course.