
Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Introduction to Geography  
Credits: 3  
Format: online  
Prerequisites: none  
Professor: Fabian Terbeck, PhD candidate

Email: fabian.terbeck@uconn.edu  
Other: you can also contact me by using the messenger included in huskyCT  
Availability: Business Days: 6 AM – 4 PM (EST); Weekends/Holidays: I’ll check my emails at least once a day.

Course Materials

Required course materials should be obtained before the first day of class.

Texts are available through a local or online bookstore of your choice. The UConn Bookstore carries the required text(s), which can be shipped (fees apply).

Required Materials:  

Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources

Course Description

The world of the 21st century is a globalized and highly interconnected place. Distant regions are now intertwined in global networks of people, capital, goods, and information and the wealth and prosperity as well as conflicts and disasters in one region are directly or indirectly linked to the dynamics in other regions. As a consequence, geographic literacy and the knowledge about the processes and conditions that are shaping the world have become necessities for us. This course provides an overview about fundamental contemporary spatial phenomena, how they are interrelated with each other, and how we can understand and interpret them. The course pursues a comprehensive approach, combining physical geography and human geography. After an introduction about geography as an academic subject and fundamental concepts of geography, part 1 of the course focuses on environmental aspects. In part 2 of the course, we will examine how culture and human activities are shaping our planet. In part 3, we will take a look at the development of modern societies and how humans organize themselves and the space they use.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will have a basic understanding of the physical processes that shape places and regions and determine the spatial distribution of ecosystems and biomes; the characteristics of human populations and the factors that determine their spatial distribution; the patterns and networks of human activity; the functions and patterns of human settlements and the underlying processes that created them; the human
activities that alter the physical environment; the ways people divide space, delineate regions, and the conflicts that arise from this process; and are capable of interpreting geographic phenomena for various purposes. In addition, students will also improve their spatial comprehension and learn to connect a variety of spatial information through Google Earth assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
<th>DISCUSSIONS/ QUIZZES/ ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>DUE DATE*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
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</table>
| Module 1 | Introduction to Geography                 | Syllabus; Chapter 1, pages 1-22; Module 1 Lecture Notes | • Discussion 1: Students’ Introductions  
• Quiz 1                                     | 12/30/2018 |
| Module 2 | Geographic Techniques                     | Chapter 1, pages 22-45; Module 2 Lecture Notes | • Discussion 2: Using GIS  
• Quiz 2  
• Assignment 1: Introduction to Google Earth | 12/30/2018 |
| ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES |                                           |                                               |                                                                       |            |
| Module 3 | The Earth’s Atmospheric System             | Chapter 2, pages 48-72; Module 3 Lecture Notes | • Discussion 3: Impacts on Your Weather  
• Quiz 3                                     | 1/4/2019   |
| Module 4 | Climate                                   | Chapter 2, pages 72-101; Module 4 Lecture Notes | • Discussion 4: Global Warming  
• Quiz 4                                     | 1/4/2019   |
| Module 5 | Landforms                                 | Chapter 3; Module 5 Lecture Notes             | • Discussion 5: Emergency Planning  
• Quiz 5  
• Assignment 2: To Be Announced               | 1/4/2019   |
| Module 6 | Biosphere                                 | Chapter 4; Module 6 Lecture Notes             | • Discussion 6: Climate and Vegetation  
• Quiz 6                                     | 1/4/2019   |
| Module 7 | Earth’s Resources and Environment Protection | Chapter 5; Module 7 Lecture Notes              | • Discussion 7: Shale Gas  
• Quiz 7                                     | 1/11/2019  |
| PEOPLE AND CULTURES |                                           |                                               |                                                                       |            |
| Module 8 | Population and Migration                  | Chapter 6; Module 8 Lecture Notes             | • Discussion 8: International Migration  
• Quiz 8  
• Assignment 3: To Be Announced               | 1/11/2019  |
| Module 9 | Cultural Geography                        | Chapter 7; Module 9 Lecture Notes             | • Discussion 9: Cultural Imperialism  
• Quiz 9                                     | 1/11/2019  |
| Module 10| Languages and Religions                   | Chapter 8; Module 10 Lecture Notes            | • Discussion 10: Official Languages  
• Quiz 10                                     | 1/11/2019  |
| Module 11| Food and Agriculture                      | Chapter 9; Module 11 Lecture Notes            | • Discussion 11: Agricultural Subsidies  
• Quiz 11                                     | 1/18/2019  |
| DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN SOCIETY |                                           |                                               |                                                                       |            |
| Module 12| Cities and Urbanization                   | Chapter 10; Module 12 Lecture Notes           | • Discussion 12: Protests and Cities  
• Quiz 12                                     | 1/18/2019  |
| Module 13| A World of States                         | Chapter 11; Module 13 Lecture Notes           | • Discussion 13: U.S. Border Security  
• Quiz 13  
• Assignment 4: To Be                          | 1/18/2019  |
Announced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 14</th>
<th>Economy and Development</th>
<th>Chapter 12; Module 14 Lecture Notes</th>
<th>Announced</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>• Discussion 14: Privatizing National Parks</td>
<td>1/18/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>• Quiz 14</td>
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* All deadlines end at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Components</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9x Quizzes</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9x Online Group Discussions</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3x Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Module Quizzes

You will have to complete one online quiz for each of the 12 modules. Each quiz is based on the lecture slides for each module and comprises of questions in a multiple choice format. The quiz must be completed in the first attempt and within 50 minutes, that is: once you start a quiz you must complete it before stopping. If you have any technical issues while taking a quiz, you are in trouble. Make sure everything is working properly before starting because I cannot reset a quiz. However, I'll drop up to 3 quiz scores, so if you have a technical problem with a quiz, this is not going to hurt your overall course grade. Try not to have more than 3 technical problems. Once you miss more than 3 quizzes you must contact me immediately.

Online Group Discussions

For each module, we will have an online group discussion where you will be asked to develop an opinion on a contemporary or general issue based on the readings in the textbook. Contributions in these discussions will be graded based on their quality, relevance and contribution to the discussion. A strong opinion is based on facts from reliable and verifiable sources (such as our textbook).

Assignments

Each assignment is worth 10 points. Further instructions for each assignment can be found on huskyCT > Assignments

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>GPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Due Dates and Late Policy**

All course due dates are identified on the syllabus and in the course calendar on huskyCT. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. *I reserve the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated on huskyCT and email.*

Please be aware that you cannot make-up a discussions due to the nature of a discussion, because there would be no one with whom to discuss as the class would have moved on to the next topic. However, I will drop the lowest three grades you received for a discussions. Assignments 1, 2 and 3 can be turned in late, but there is a one point deduction for each calendar day it is late. Assignment 4 cannot be turned in late and all assignments must be turned in by January 18; otherwise they are worth zero points.

**Feedback and Grades**

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in within 2-3 business days after the due date. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to “My Grades” in HuskyCT.

### Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important standards, policies and resources, which include:

- The Student Code
  - Academic Integrity
  - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

### Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from Blackboard's website)

### Software Requirements

The technical requirements for this course include:

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Reliable internet access
- Google Earth
**Help**

*Technical and Academic Help* provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, *HuskyCT*. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the *Help Center*. You also have *24x7 Course Support* including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

**Minimum Technical Skills**

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Take screenshots of your computer desktop.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.
- Use Google Earth and open KMZ and KML files in Google Earth.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the *Computer Technology Competencies* page for more information.

**Evaluation of the Course**

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the *Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness* (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.