Human Geography
Fall 2012

Montana State University
Department of Earth Sciences

GPHY 121D  Instructor: Andrew Epple
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Course Description:

GPHY 121D is a topical introduction to the field of Human Geography. We assess major geographical concepts that help us understand global patterns of population, culture, economy, and politics. Numerous regional case studies are used to explore these concepts. As a Core Diversity course, Human Geography stresses multicultural and global perspectives which transcend the boundaries of the United States. The course reveals how human geographers contribute to theoretical approaches within the social sciences and use such insights to gain a better understanding of many contemporary global and regional problems. Students will also learn about “a sense of place” and the increasing tension in the world created by two cultural phenomena trending in different directions: globalization and local diversity.

Objectives:

Students who successfully complete GPHY 121D will:
- better understand human behavior from a spatial perspective;
- develop map reading and interpretation skills at a variety of scales;
- be familiar with the full range of subfields within human geography;
- understand issues related to world population growth and demographics;
- be able to better analyze the causes behind world political events and conflicts;
- recognize relationships between human experiences and the environments in which we live.

Texts and Other Reading Assignments:


Additional reading assignments may be placed on the course Desire2Learn (D2L) site.

**Desire2Learn:**

We will utilize D2L in this course, saving reams of paper by doing so. Grades will be posted to D2L, as well as this Course Syllabus, Course Schedule, all project assignments, study guides, and additional reading materials. Lecture notes will be posted on D2L as long as in-class attendance remains high.

However, don’t use D2L email to communicate with me, as I won’t be checking that regularly. Use the email address or phone number listed above if you need to get in touch with me outside of class or regular office hours.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Come to class. If you are unable to attend class, get notes from another student.
2. Do the reading. The text, atlas, and support readings are designed to supplement and reinforce class lectures and discussions. Have the readings completed by the dates indicated on the class schedule.
3. Complete one place name quiz, two class research/writing projects, at least five (out of six) pop quizzes, and three in-class exams (two midterms and a final). The final exam will be cumulative, with an emphasis on material covered over the last third of the course. Test make-ups will only be given under exceptional circumstances, and contact must be made with me before the exam to arrange a make-up. Make-ups will not be given for pop quizzes.

**Course Grade:**

Grading is based on the successful, effective, and timely completion of all assignments, quizzes, and examinations. The course grade is based on the following totals:

- Midterm #1 100 points
- Midterm #2 100
- Final Exam 150
- Place Name Quiz 25
- 6 Pop Quizzes (top 5 count) 25
- Project #1 50
- Project #2 50

**Total: 500 points**

The full MSU grade distribution (A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.) will be used to assign final grades, with 90% of total possible points (450 out of 500) being the approximate cut-off for an A-, 80% for a B-, 70% for a C-, and 60% for a D-. However, a curve will be employed for final grading to insure that approximately 15% of total class enrollment receives a grade in the A range; 35% receives a grade in the B range, and 35% in the C range. Approximately 15% of you are likely to
receive a grade in the D or F range if you don’t come to class regularly or do assignments in a thorough and timely manner.

Please note that pop quizzes may be given during any week that does not have scheduled exams. These will typically be short answer-type quizzes. Content on these quizzes will be graded, and they will also provide me with a snapshot indication of your attendance record.

**Disability Accommodations:**

MSU and the Department of Earth Sciences are committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical or learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of each semester to discuss appropriate accommodation to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments.

**Course Policies:**

All course policies regarding In-Class Expectations, Absences, Assignment Due Dates, and Academic Dishonesty (including plagiarism) are found at www2.montana.edu/policy/ and are applicable to GPHY 121D.