

**GEOG 1400G**  
**HOW HUMANS INTERACT WITH THE WORLD**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Winter Term 2015**

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**Instructor:** Dr Godwin Arku

**Office:** SSC 2427

**Office Hours:** Mondays 1:30pm-3:30pm or by appointment

**Email:** within OWL

	<b>Days</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
Lectures	Mondays	10:30 – 12:30	UCC 146
Lab Section 2	Tuesdays	12:30 – 2:30	SSC 1059
Lab Section 3	Tuesdays	2:30 – 4:30	SSC 1059
Lab Section 4	Wednesdays	8:30-10:30	SSC 1059
Lab Section 5	Wednesdays	10:30 – 12:30	SSC 1059
Lab Section 6	Mondays	12:30 – 2:30	SSC 1059
Lab Section 7	Wednesdays	4:30 – 6:30	SSC 1059
Lab Section 8	Thursdays	3:30 – 5:30	SSC 1059

<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	<b>Office #</b>	<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Lab</b>
Doug Rivet	SSC 3116	Wednesdays 1-3pm	drivet2@uwo.ca	4 & 5
James Kennedy	SSC 2306	Mondays 3-5pm	jkenne67@uwo.ca	6 & 7
Mark McGregor	SSC 1411	Tuesdays 10am-12pm	mmcgre27@uwo.ca	2 & 3

**Description:** A systematic study of the patterns and places produced by human activity. The course examines the spatial dynamics of social, cultural, economic and historical processes and describes their impact on the natural and built environments and how they create diverse human landscapes.

**Anti-requisite(s):** Geography 021 or the former Geography 020E.  
 2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory hours, 0.5 course.

**INTRODUCTION**

The major purpose of this course is to introduce students to the nature of human geography as an academic discipline and as a body of useful knowledge through a survey of some of the field's central problems, concepts, methods and applications. Human geography enables us to reflect upon some of the most important issues of contemporary society including: cultural diversity, environmental degradation, ethnic conflicts, globalization, poverty, racism, religious differences, overpopulation, transportation ills and urban sprawl. Doing so provides a critical interpretation of the human inhabitation of the earth and the differences between, and the similarities amongst, people and the places and landscapes they create. By examining the cultural, economic, historical and social processes that create the spatial patterns and spatial relationships that modify the natural and built environments, both a foundation for subsequent human geography courses will be laid, and an ability to inspect more critically the student's own place in the world.

## COURSE MATERIALS

- 1) Textbook: William Norton (2013) Human Geography. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. (ISBN # 978-0-19-544855-9) (Available for purchase at Western's book store in UCC)
- 2) Labs and other relevant reading materials will be posted on the course website in OWL.

## EVALUATION METHODS

You will complete five (5) lab exercises in this course. Additionally there is one mid-term and a final examination. The mid-term will assess the knowledge gained from all lectures and tutorial works in the first half of the course. The final examination will assess material from the primarily the second half of the course but may include material from the entire course. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Study guides will be distributed prior to the exam to help you focus on specific areas of study. The breakdown of marks is as follows:

5 Lab Assignments:	30%
Mid-Term Examination:	25%
Tutorial/Lab Participation:	15%
Final Examination:	30%

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance of the lectures and tutorials is not optional. Your participation mark of 15% is based on regular attendance and contributions in tutorials. As a result, students are expected to attend all labs/tutorials and are strongly encouraged to read relevant chapters in the required text before coming to these classes. The tutorial instructors will keep track of attendance at all tutorials and labs. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf) Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

## COURSE WEBSITE (OWL)

During the term, information pertaining to lectures, examination, labs and other course-related matters will be posted on the course's website. Please note that copies of the lecture overheads/ppt presentations will also be posted on Sunday evenings. Students are encouraged to print out the lecture overheads before coming to class. Note that lecture overheads are for review purposes only. The overheads provide only a very condensed overview of the material covered in class. They do not constitute adequate notes by themselves, and are **no substitute for regular attendance of lectures**.

## PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

*"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotations marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)." Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Website:*

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## LECTURE SCHEDULE AND TEXTBOOK READING ASSIGNMENT

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
January 5	Introduction to the course; What is Geography? What is Human Geography? Why Human Geography? Themes in Human Geography	Introductory Chapter & Chapter 1
January 12	Studying Human Geography - Using Maps; Philosophical Options; Geographic Concepts <b>Guest Lecture-</b> Dr. Richard Sadler	Chapter 2
January 19	Geographies of Globalization	Chapter 3
January 26	Human Impacts on Natural Environment	Chapters 4
February 2	Geography of Population and inequalities: population dynamics, migration, and inequalities	Chapters 5 & 6
February 9	<b>MID-TERM EXAMINATION – In Class</b>	
February 16	<b>NO CLASS – FAMILY DAY/READING WEEK</b>	
February 23	Cultures, Landscapes, Identities & Places – <b>Guest Lecture-</b> Dr. Jeff Hopkins	Chapters 7 & 8
March 2	Politics and Space	Chapter 9
March 9	Landscapes of Primary Activities – Agriculture	Chapter 10
March 16	Settlement Geographies- settlements patterns; Origins and Growth of Cities; Urban problems.	Chapters 11 & 13
March 23	Landscapes of Secondary Activities – Industrial Revolution; Industrial Location	Chapter 14
March 30	The Geography of Development	Lecture Slides and OWL Readings
April 6	Conclusion – where next? - Course Review and Exam Matters	Concluding Chapter

### Tutorials and Labs

Each student will meet weekly as a participant in a smaller group led by a tutorial instructor. The group meetings will serve three major purposes:

1. They provide students the opportunity to explore issues and discuss material in greater depth than was covered during the weekly lecture;
2. They provide students with some hands-on exposure to research techniques in human geography;
3. They provide an opportunity for you to beginning writing on topics in geography

### TUTORIAL/LAB SCHEDULE

Week of	Topic	Readings and Resources
January 12	Tutorial 1: The Nature of Geography	Cutter et al. 2002
January 19	Lab 1: The Supermarket Tour (due week of January 26 <sup>th</sup> )	CBC Video: <i>Product of Canada, EH? Misleading Food Labels</i>
January 26	Lab 2: Human impacts on the Natural Environment	Camera + pictures
February 2	Tutorial 2: The Population Debate	Video – <i>How many people can live on Planet Earth?</i>
February 9	<b>MID-TERM EXAMINATION – No Tutorials</b>	
February 16	<b>NO CLASS: FAMILY DAY/READING WEEK</b>	
February 23	Lab 3: Cultural issues	TBD
March 2	Tutorial 3: Does Geography Still Matter?	Series of short feature articles
March 9	Lab 4: Agriculture in Canada (due week of March 16 <sup>th</sup> )	CBC Video – <i>Broken Harvest</i>
March 16	Tutorial 4: Urban problems	Video – <i>Unheard Voices</i>
March 23	Lab 5: Geography of Industry (due week of March 30 <sup>th</sup> )	Fort McMurray Docu-Game
March 30	Tutorial 5: Development issues	TBD
April 6	<b>NO LABS/TUTORIAL</b> <b>***TAs Available to Help***</b>	

#### **Tutorial Information**

Some labs/tutorials will be completed in class. If you miss a lab/tutorial due to illness, please attend another lab/tutorial section that week. If you cannot attend any lab/tutorial during a week, please submit appropriate documentation to your TA, in advance of the dates to be missed. If you are unable to submit a lab and have appropriate documentation, this portion of the mark will be transferred to the final examination. Participation is based on attendance and contributions to discussions in the labs. This will include participation in lab debates and in-class field exercises

#### **Prerequisite Checking: The student's responsibility**

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

#### **Use of Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

## **Support Services**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

Registrar Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

## **Mutual Expectations**

Students can expect the professor to come prepared for, and attend, all lectures regularly and punctually. I will provide a collegial atmosphere of mutual respect conducive to the exchange of ideas and the process of learning. My demands are the same from you. Reading newspapers during a lecture, disturbing your classmates, littering the classroom and the use of entertainment electronics are unacceptable. By abiding to this code of mutual civility and respect, we set the stage for a safe, healthy and stimulating intellectual forum. Thank you for your co-operation.

Finally, if you have problems with the course, please seek assistance from your peers, your tutorial instructors, and me during my office hours. We are all approachable and welcome your questions. We do hope that you enjoy the course!

### **PLEASE NOTE**

*Course content and order of presentations may deviate from this general outline due to unforeseen circumstances.*