

GEOG 1400G – Introduction to the Human Environment Course Outline: Winter 2020

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

Lecture: Monday, 10:30 – 12:20, Room #141, Talbot College

Labs/Tutorials:

Lab Section 3: <i>Monday, 4:30-6:20pm</i>	Room # 1004, SSC
Lab Section 4: <i>Tuesday, 9:30-11:20pm</i>	Room # 1004, SSC
Lab Section 5: <i>Tuesday, 2:30-4:20pm</i>	Room # 1004, SSC
Lab Section 6: <i>Wednesday, 9:30-11:20pm</i>	Room # 1004, SSC
Lab Section 7: <i>Wednesday, 4:30-6:20pm</i>	Room # 1004, SSC
Lab Section 8: <i>Thursday, 9:30-11:20pm</i>	Room # 1004, SSC
Lab Section 9: <i>Thursday, 3:30-5:20pm</i>	Room # 1004, SSC

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Professor Jeff Hopkins
Email: jhopkins@uwo.ca
Office: #2423, Social Science Centre
Office Hours: Monday, 1:00 - 3:00
Phone: 519-661-2111 x85027

TAs: Zoe Askwith / zaskwith@uwo.ca
Haley Everitt / heveritt@uwo.ca
Tomi Ladele / oladele@uwo.ca
Alina Medeiros / amedei9@uwo.ca
Kamal Mohammed / kmoham27@uwo.ca
Sara Wilson / swils222@uwo.ca
TA Office: Room #2316 Social Science Centre
Office Hours: TBA

2. Calendar Description

2.1. Course Description

This course introduces students to the central problems, concepts, methods and applications of human geography. It pays particular attention to the ways humans interact with the world; for example, population growth, use of natural resources, culturally-based activities, urbanization and settlements, agricultural activities, and industrialization.

2 lecture hours, 2 laboratory/tutorial hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): Geography 1100

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

2.2. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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."

3. Textbook & Other Course Materials

William Norton and Michael Mercier (2019) *Human Geography*. 10th Edition. (ISBN # 9780199032938) (Available for purchase at Western's bookstore in UCC; available for two-hour loan in Heavy Reserves, Weldon Library). Please use the 10th edition and no other.

Labs/tutorials and other relevant reading materials will be posted on the course website in OWL. Skeletal versions of the lectures will also be posted: these will contain mostly images and figures used in the lectures and some minor text.

4. Course Objectives and Format

*Anyone who inspects the world around him [or her] is in some measure a geographer.*¹

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: cultural diversity, environmental degradation, ethnic conflicts, globalization, poverty, racism, religious differences, overpopulation, transportation ills and urban sprawl, to name but a few. Doing so provides a critical interpretation of the human inhabitation of the earth's environment and the differences between, and the similarities amongst, people, places, and the landscapes they create and occupy. By examining the cultural, economic, political and social processes that create the spatial patterns and spatial relationships that modify the natural (*physical*) and built (*human*) 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.

In keeping with the *Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations* of our programs, this course promotes several objectives to varying extents:

1. Develop knowledge and understanding of the fundamental characteristics, processes and temporal changes of human systems and their interactions
2. Demonstrate awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them spatially and over time
3. Combine breadth of knowledge of Geography with understanding of selected sub-fields.
4. Describe and explain the scope and nature of Geography as a discipline.
5. Synthesize and evaluate geographical information from diverse sources
6. Collect, analyze and interpret geographical data in relation to social systems
7. Describe and explain, analyze and interpret geographical phenomena outside the classroom by engagement with people, places and/or environments
8. Analyze real-world problems and policy applications using geographical concepts, skills and understanding.
9. Communicate geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically.

¹Lowenthal, David (1961) 'Geography, Experience and Imagination: Towards a Geographical Epistemology.' *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 51, p. 241

5. Learning Outcomes

Fulfilling these objectives will provide numerous '*learning outcomes*' that will enable you to:

1. Develop knowledge and understanding of the fundamental characteristics, processes and temporal changes of human systems and their interactions
2. Demonstrate awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them spatially and over time
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9. Communicate geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically.

6. Course Content

6.1 Lecture Topics & Schedule

You must attend all of the lectures, do the labs and assigned readings, and follow—if not actively participate in—the class discussions to successfully complete the written assignments, the final exam and, consequently, the course. Lectures will occasionally draw upon the textbook but will usually be new content on a chapter theme related topic.

#	Lecture Topics & Textbook Chapter Readings	Dates
1	Introducing Human Geography: Environment & Landscapes <i>Chapter #1: What Is Human Geography?</i>	Monday, Jan. 6
2	Human Populations: Ups, Downs, Movements <i>Chapter #2: Population and Health Geography</i>	Monday Jan. 13
3	Geographies of Global Inequalities <i>Chapters #3: Uneven Development & Global Inequalities</i>	Monday, Jan. 20
4	Human Environmental Impacts: Let's Get Sustainable <i>Chapter #12: Humans and the Environment</i>	Monday, Jan. 27
5	Cultures & Landscapes <i>Chapter #4: Geographies of Culture and Landscape</i>	Monday, Feb. 3
6	Identities & Places <i>Chapter #5: Geographies of Identities and Difference</i>	Monday, Feb. 10
	NO LECTURE OR LABS – READING WEEK	Feb. 17 - 21
	MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Room #141 Talbot College)	Monday, Feb. 24
7	Politics & Space <i>Chapter #6: Political Geography</i>	Monday, Mar. 2
8	Urban Systems & Structures	Monday, Mar. 9

#	Lecture Topics & Textbook Chapter Readings	Dates
	<i>Chapter #7: An Urban Word</i> <i>Chapter #8: Urban Form & Social Geography of the City</i>	
9	Agriculture & Food <i>Chapter # 9: Geographies of Food & Agriculture</i>	Monday, Mar. 16
10	Industrialization & Post-Industrialization <i>Chapter #10: Geographies of Energy, Industry & Service</i>	Monday, Mar. 23
11	Geographies of Globalization <i>Chapter #11: Geographies of Globalization</i>	Monday, Mar. 30

6.2 Lectures Notes

Note taking, like reading, form the foundation of communication, critical thinking, and decision making. If you write information down by hand, retention is heightened relative to passive observation. Consequently, this course is ‘*retro*’ by design—OWL will contain only the most skeletal of lecture material (mostly images and figures)—and this is precisely the point. You will have to physically attend the lectures, listen, participate, and take your own notes. If you miss a lecture, ask a fellow classmate for his, her, their notes. If you miss something during a lecture, please raise your hand and seek clarification from the instructor. I do not share my lecture notes.

6.3 Lab/Tutorial Sessions

Each student will meet weekly as a participant in a smaller group led by a *Teaching Assistant* (TA). The group meetings or sessions will serve three major purposes:

- i. They provide the participants with an opportunity to raise issues and discuss problems in greater depth than is possible in a larger lecture class;
- ii. They provide the participants with some exposure to research techniques in human geography;
- iii. They provide an opportunity for the instructor to check progress.

A ‘tutorial’ involves in-class discussion and activities: a ‘lab’ requires the submission of written work afterwards.

Session #	Tutorial & Lab Topics	Readings	Week of
1	Tutorial #1: The Nature of Geography	Cutter et al, 2002	Jan. 13
2	Tutorial #2: The Population Debate	Video: <i>How Many People Can Live on Earth?</i>	Jan. 20

Session #	Tutorial & Lab Topics	Readings	Week of
3	Lab #1: Human Impact on the Natural Environment	Cameras & Pictures	Jan. 27
4	Tutorial #3: Cultural Conflicts		Feb. 3
5	Lab #2: The Supermarket Tour (Due Week of Mar. 2 nd)	CBC Video: <i>Products of Canada, Eh?</i>	Feb. 10
	NO LECTURE OR TUTORIALS/LABS – READING WEEK		Feb. 17
	NO LECTURE OR TUTORIALS/LABS MID-TERM EXAMINATION		Feb. 25
6	Lab #3: Development Issues (Due Week of Mar. 9 th)		Mar. 2
7	Tutorial #4: Urban Problems	Video: <i>Unheard Voices</i>	Mar. 9
8	Lab #4: Agriculture in Canada (Due Week of Mar. 23 rd)	CBC Video: <i>Broken Harvest</i>	Mar. 16
9	Lab #5: Geography of Industry (Due Week of Mar. 30 th during your TA's Office Hours)	Fort McMoney Docu-Game	Mar. 23
	TAs Available during Office Hours		Mar. 30

7. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Labs	25%	See above
Mid-term Examination	25%	February 24, 2020
Participation	10%	
Final Examination	40%	T.B.A. Apr. 6 th -26 th

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures, labs and tutorials, as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. **Your attendance and participation are mandatory at the labs and tutorials: attendance and participation are worth 10% of your final course grade.**

You will lose marks on your final course grade for your absences at the following rates:

One Absence: 0% (*We all deserve a break*)
 Second Absence: 5%

Third Absence:	10%
Fourth Absence:	15%
Fifth Absence:	25%
Sixth absence:	'F' in the course

Perfect or near perfect attendance is necessary but in and of itself does not warrant 10/10: a demonstrable and exemplary active participation and constructive contributions to the in-class discussions and exercises is necessary. **Participation out of 10 marks will be calculated on the basis of this rubric.** The TA's assessment will stand.

- 5 - did not contribute but was present
- 6 - contributed when asked
- 7 - contributed when asked and gave respectable insight
- 8 - occasionally contributed voluntarily
- 9 - frequently contributed voluntarily with respectable insight
- 10 - frequently contributed voluntarily with excellent insight

Please attend so that you may fully engage in the course and contribute to the educational experience of yourself and your peers.

It is vital that you attend regularly, and only, your assigned session section and time. **You are not at liberty to attend other sessions.** If you miss a lab/tutorial due to a legitimate and documented reason, submit the appropriate documentation to your TA. If you are unable to submit a lab and have appropriate documentation, this portion of the mark will be transferred to the final examination. If you simply miss a lab or tutorial without acceptable documentation you will be assigned a zero on any written work, possibly diminish your overall participation mark, and lose possible other marks as per the absence penalties listed immediately above. If you chose to miss a tutorial/lab where you are scheduled to make a presentation you will receive the mark of zero on that presentation.

8. Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability](#). Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through [Student Health and Wellness](#) and [Learning Skills Services](#) in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

9. Late Submissions and Extensions

Assignments submitted late will lose 10% of the assignment's value each day. Assignments submitted after three days late will receive zero but will be graded for your educational benefit. All requests for extensions on assignments must be made in writing to your Teaching Assistant at least one week before the due date. You may have up to three days beyond the initial due date. Material submitted beyond the new due date will be penalized as per the course penalty (10% per day). Never slip assignments under a door. Submit late assignments in the 'Geography Drop Box' adjacent the door of room 2322A SSC (main geography office).

10. Appeals

Requests to have a lab or tutorial assignment formally re-evaluated must be done within one week of receiving the graded assignment. In this concise, written request to your Teaching Assistant, you will specify the aspects of your work that you would like re-visited and the justification for doing so. ***Please be aware that disliking or disagreeing with your grade is no grounds for re-assessment.***

Should you feel that your final grade in the course is biased, inaccurate or unfair, you do have the right to appeal your final mark. Please refer to the *Western Calendar* prior to doing so (see web site below). In an attempt to avoid such time-consuming and stressful procedures for all, be assured that each and every piece of work is graded carefully and thoroughly. ***Be aware that marks may be raised--as well as lowered--through an appeal process.***

You are advised to read the course calendar to familiarize yourself with Western's regulations and procedures concerning appeals, grades, regulations, penalties and such at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

11. Plagiarism & Academic Offences

Plagiarism is stealing: it is unacceptable, and those who tempt fate will be persecuted to the fullest extent allowed under the university's regulations. Penalties may include the following:

- i. Zero on the plagiarized assignment
- ii. An 'F' in the course
- iii. Expulsion from the university

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholastic Offence](#). Please avoid this experience and do your own work.

Be aware that all required papers *may* be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

12. Make-Up Examinations

Students with special accommodation will write make-up tests and examinations administered by the department on Fridays during respective periods of fall and winter terms. To prevent prior disclosure, the format and contents of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination. **If you miss the mid-term examination and have appropriate documentation, your final examination will be worth 65% of the final mark.** Your make-up will occur at the final examination and consist of the final examination (two hours) plus additional questions covering material from the mid-term. Three hours will be provided to write this final and make-up examination.

13. Alternative Examination Dates, Dropping the Course

The date of the final examination is set by the Office of the Registrar and will not be changed. If you consider that you have grounds to write a final examination on an alternate date, you must follow the procedure established by the Dean's Office and complete the appropriate forms. The same holds for dropping the course

14. Medical or Non-Medical Absence, Exemption and Tardiness

Students who have documented 'special needs' and/or official notifications of accommodation from the Dean's office —emailed directly to the course instructor—will be accommodated accordingly, including exemption of exams and assignments if circumstances warrant. For either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted. In all other instances of absences, omissions and tardiness on your part, your maturity is respected: you are adults. If you choose to miss lectures, assignments and examinations you are most at liberty to do so. The consequences are made evident in this course outline. ***If you are late to class—or must leave early—please do so quietly with minimal disturbance to your peers.*** Thanks.

15. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

16. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

17. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

18. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

19. Electronic Devices

Never record digitally or otherwise any part of the class lectures or tutorials/labs without prior and specific permission from the instructor or Teaching Assistant (**i.e. do not take photos with your phone of the PowerPoint slides**). Note taking is highly encouraged. No electronic devices will be allowed during the examinations.

If you wish to engage in personal or recreational use of your phone, laptop or any other distraction, please quietly leave the classroom. I will ask you to leave if you do not do so yourself.

20. Email Communication

Please use e-mail judiciously. Do not ask the professor or your Teaching Assistant questions about your assignments or course material over e-mail that require more than a one or two sentence response. Read the course outline and all assignments thoroughly and completely before asking questions, the answers to which, may well be found in the outline or assignment. If you have long and complex questions—and we hope you do—we will be delighted to address them face-to-face during office hours or in class. We want to help you succeed and email is rarely the vehicle to do so. Take advantage of the office hours posted on the front page of this outline.

If you chose to contact us by phone or email, please do not expect an instantaneous response: it may take 24-36 hours. The professor will not respond to emails after 5:00 pm and never on weekends. Your Teaching Assistant will specify to you the times, locations and means to contact them. **Please respect these boundaries.** Please use proper English in your text mail. Communication, like politeness, is a two-way street, and we shall extend to you the same courtesies. Thank you.

21. Mutual Respect

Students can expect the Professor to come prepared for, and attend, all lectures: the TAs will do the same for all tutorials/labs regularly and punctually. We will strive to promote a collegial atmosphere of mutual respect conducive to the exchange of ideas and the process of learning. We demand the same from you. Reading during a lecture or lab, the disturbing consumption of food or drink, littering the classroom, the use of entertainment electronics—**including cell phones and recreational laptop use**--and other activities--**particularly unnecessary talking**—will impede the ability of you and your peers to learn. Such activities are unacceptable during class: end-of-story. By abiding to this code of mutual civility and respect, we set the stage for a safe, healthy and stimulating intellectual forum.

Not to belabour the point, but included below is the *Code of Conduct for Students, Staff, and Faculty for the Department of Geography. The University of Western Ontario Code of Student Conduct* is available at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>: please familiarize yourself with both of these documents should you have concerns about your own or somebody else's classroom behaviours.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Finally, if you have problems with the course, please seek assistance from your peers, your TA, and the professor during office hours: we are approachable and welcome your questions. We do hope that you enjoy the class and learn from the course.

22. Geography Code of Conduct

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Affiliation with the Department of Geography presumes mutual respect among students, staff, teaching assistants, and faculty. A positive atmosphere of professionalism and collegiality is essential for everyone to perform to the best of his or her abilities. This requires respect for the opinions and questions of others and behaviour that is, at all times, courteous, and conducive to creating a pleasant and productive environment for learning and working.

As members of a Department of Geography, we are expected to show special respect for our environment, being individually responsible for promoting a clean and safe work environment within the facilities of the Department and the Social Science Centre, including classrooms, laboratories, the Map Library, offices, hallways, washrooms, exterior grounds, and the facilities and vehicles used in field courses and field trips.

It is inevitable that misunderstandings will occur from time to time. However, it is in everyone's interest to try and resolve problems in a non-confrontational manner. Threatening, violent, or abusive behaviour, harassment (including sexual and racial harassment), rudeness (in person, in writing, or on the telephone), and abuse of authority, for whatever reasons, corrode good working and learning conditions.

Incidents that cannot be resolved amicably may be reported to the Chair of the Department (661-3653). The Chair will consider appropriate actions for resolving the problem, usually after consultation with the parties involved. If required, contact with university services (e.g., Police, Equity) or civil authorities will be invoked.

Student Use of University Facilities and Classroom Decorum:

Students are expected to comply with the authority of University staff and faculty on all matters relating to access to facilities (offices, classrooms, laboratories, and Map Library) and to use of equipment and resources.

Students are expected to attend all lectures and laboratory sessions regularly and punctually.

Instructors are responsible for maintaining an appropriate academic atmosphere in all class activities; students are expected to cooperate in this effort.

Actions that impede instruction deter the ability of students to learn, or show disrespect for instructors and fellow students, will not be condoned in Geography classrooms and labs. Such actions include reading during lectures, disturbing consumption of food or drink, use of Walkman's and radios, and disruptive conversation. Serious disrespect for classroom decorum should be reported to the instructor and, if required, to the Chair of the Geography Department (SSC 2429, Telephone 661-3653).

Students are expected to adhere to University standards of academic honesty, as outlined under "[Scholastic Offences](#)" in the [Western Calendar](#). Unacceptable practices include cheating, impersonation, plagiarism, misrepresentation of research, falsification of documents, obstructing the academic activities of another, aiding or abetting academic misconduct, and abuse of confidentiality. In addition to incurring penalties, as outlined in the Calendar, some academic offences may fall under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Approved on behalf of Faculty, Staff, and Students by the Council of the Department of Geography on 4 March 1994.

23. Important Dates for Winter 2020

January 6: Classes resume

January 10: Last day to add a second term half course

February 17: Family Da – Department Office Closed

February 18-23: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

April 3: Classes end

April 4 and 5: Study days

April 6-26: Examination Period

Midterm Makeup Dates: *(not applicable to this course: there is no mid-term makeup)*

- Friday February 7, 9:00 am, SSC 1004
- Friday February 14, 9:00 am, SSC 1004

- Friday February 28, 9:00 am, SSC 1004
- Friday March 6, 9:00 am, SSC 1004
- Friday March 13, 9:00 am, SSC 1004
- Friday March 20, 9:00 am, SSC 1004

Final Exam Makeup Dates:

- Friday April 17, 9:00 am, SSC 1004
- Thursday April 23, 9:00 am, SSC 1004
- Thursday April 30, 9:00 am, SSC 1004

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