

GEOG 1400G – Introduction to the Human Environment

Course Outline: Winter 2021

1. Course Information

1.1. Location: Virtual

Lecture: Monday, 10:30-12:20 - Synchronous via Zoom. Address posted in Resources file of course OWL site.

Labs/Tutorials: Synchronous via Zoom

Lab Section 2: *Monday, 8:30-10:20*

Sara Wilson

Lab Section 3: *Monday, 4:30-6:20pm*

Braden Dyce / Asma Khanan

Lab Section 4: *Tuesday, 9:30-11:20pm*

Haley Everitt

Lab Section 5: *Tuesday, 2:30-4:20pm*

Zoe Askwith

Lab Section 6: *Wednesday, 9:30-11:20pm*

Braden Dyce

Lab Section 7: *Wednesday, 4:30-6:20pm*

Saaka Sulemana

Lab Section 8: *Thursday, 9:30-11:20pm*

Asma Khanan

Lab Section 9: *Thursday, 3:30-5:20pm*

Zoe Askwith / Saaka Sulemana

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Hopkins

Office Hours via email or arranged telephone: Monday, 1:30-3:30

Email: jhopkins@uwo.ca

TAs: Hours and Means to Be Announced

Zoe Askwith zaskwith@uwo.ca

Asma Khanani Caporaletti akhanan2@uwo.ca

Braden Dyce bdyce@uwo.ca

Haley Breanne Everitt heveritt@uwo.ca

Saaka Sulemana ssulem@uwo.ca

Sara Michelle Wilson swils222@uwo.ca

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 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 and other relevant reading materials will be posted on the course website in OWL as needed. During this pandemic year, full lecture notes will also be posted the Friday before the Monday lecture.

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
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9. Communicate geographic ideas and understanding effectively to a variety of audiences in writing, orally, and graphically.

6. Format and Course Content

6.1 Lecture Topics & Schedule

You are expected to attend all of the synchronous lectures, attend your assigned lab section, complete the written lab assignments, and read the entire textbook. 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. 11
2	Human Populations: Ups, Downs, Movements <i>Chapter #2: Population and Health Geography</i>	Monday Jan. 18
3	Geographies of Global Inequalities <i>Chapters #3: Uneven Development & Global Inequalities</i>	Monday, Jan. 25
4	Human Environmental Impacts: Let's Get Sustainable <i>Chapter #12: Humans and the Environment</i>	Monday, Feb. 1
5	Cultures & Landscapes <i>Chapter #4: Geographies of Culture and Landscape</i>	Monday, Feb. 8
	NO LECTURE OR LABS – READING WEEK	Feb. 15 – 19

#	Lecture Topics & Textbook Chapter Readings	Dates
6	Identities & Places Chapter #5: Geographies of Identities and Difference	Monday, Feb. 22
	MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Weeks #1-#5)	Monday, Mar. 1
7	Politics & Space <i>Chapter #6: Political Geography</i>	Monday, Mar. 8
8	Urban Systems & Structures <i>Chapter #7: An Urban Word</i> <i>Chapter #8: Urban Form & Social Geography of the City</i>	Monday, Mar. 15
9	Agriculture & Food <i>Chapter #9: Geographies of Food & Agriculture</i>	Monday, Mar. 22
10	Industrialization & Post-Industrialization <i>Chapter #10: Geographies of Energy, Industry & Service</i>	Monday, Mar. 29
11	Geographies of Globalization <i>Chapter #11: Geographies of Globalization</i>	Monday, Apr. 5

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. Usually, I provide only the most skeletal of lecture material (mostly images and figures)—and ask students to literally write down most of the material in their own notes. Given the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic and the necessity of employing a Zoom format, the complete PowerPoint lecture slides will be posted in OWL. I strongly encourage you to attend the synchronous lectures rather than attempt to interpret what are often cryptic words, phrases or figures in the slides. You really do need to hear me put those slides into context.

6.3 Lab Sessions

Each student will meet via Zoom five times during the term as a participant in a smaller group led by a *Teaching Assistant* (TA). These group 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.

These labs involve discussion and activities culminating in the submission of written for evaluation by the Teaching Assistant.

Session #	Tutorial & Lab Topics	Readings	Week of
1	Lab #1: Human Impact on the Natural Environment	Cameras & Pictures	Jan. 25 th
2	Lab #2: The Supermarket Tour	CBC Video: <i>Products of Canada, Eh?</i>	Feb. 8
3	Lab #3: Development Issues (Due Week of Mar. 9 th)		Mar. 8
4	Lab #4: Agriculture in Canada (Due Week of Mar. 23 rd)	CBC Video: <i>Broken Harvest</i>	Mar. 22
5	Lab #5: Geography of Industry (Due Week of Mar. 30 th during your TA's Office Hours)	Fort McMoney Docu-Game	Apr. 5
	TAs Available during Office Hours		Apr. 12 - 16

7. Statements concerning Online Etiquette

To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette during our Zoom seminars:

- Please “arrive” to class on time
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- Self-identify when speaking
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Please see the *Western Zoom User Guide* in the Resources folder in the course OWL site for more tips.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

8. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Labs	30%	See above
Mid-term Examination	30%	Mar. 1 st , 2021
Lab Absence Penalty	See below	
Final Examination	40%	T.B.A. Apr. 14 th – 30 th

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures and labs, as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. **Your attendance at the labs is mandatory.**

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

One Absence: 5%
Second Absence: 10% Total -15%
Third Absence: 20% Total – 35%

Fourth Absence: 30% Total – 65% F in course

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 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, be penalized according to the absence rates noted above. If you chose to miss a lab where you are scheduled to make a presentation you will receive the mark of zero on that presentation.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

10.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 the instructor 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).

11.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.***

12.Plagiarism & Academic Offences

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.

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

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>).

13. Make-Up Examinations

There is no mid-term make-up examination. If you miss the mid-term examination, its 30% value of your final course make will be added to the 40% weight of the final examination, meaning the final exam for those who miss the mid-term will be worth 70% of the final course grade. That final exam will be three hours in length and have more questions relative to the standard two-hour final examination. It is in your best interest to write the mid-term examination.

14. 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

15. 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.

16. 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

17. 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.

18. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

19. Use of Electronic Devices

Never record digitally or otherwise any part of the class seminars. Do not record our Zoom seminars.

20. Email Communication

Please use e-mail judiciously. Do not ask the professor or TAs 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 that you do—we will be delighted to address them during our office hours over the phone or via Zoom. 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 me the professor by email, please do not expect an instantaneous response: it may take 24-36 hours. I will not respond to emails after 5:00 pm and rarely on weekends. **Please respect these boundaries.** Please use proper English in your text mail. Communication, like politeness, is a two-way street, and I shall extend to you the same courtesies. Thank you.

21. Mutual Respect

Students can expect the Professor and the Teaching Assistants to come prepared for, and attend, all lectures and labs, respectively, in a regular and punctual fashion. We ask the same of you. Both the professor and the TAs will strive to promote a collegial atmosphere of mutual respect conducive to the exchange of ideas and the process of learning. Our classes are open intellectual forums to explore issues from a geographical perspective; everyone's voice and interpretations are welcome. Your own grounded interpretations and opinions in no way whatsoever need parallel the Professor's or the TAs' to succeed in this course. Freedom of thought and expression is strongly encouraged: please do so in a courteous, responsible, and respectful manner. By abiding to this code of mutual civility and respect, we set the stage for a safe, healthy and stimulating intellectual forum for each other.

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 and/or the professor during office hours: I am approachable and I welcome your questions. I 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 2021

January 11: Classes resume

January 19: Last day to add a second term half course

February 15: Family Day – Department Office Closed
February 13 to February 21: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)
March 15: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty
April 2: Good Friday
April 12: Classes end
April 13: Study day
April 14 to April 30: Examination Period

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