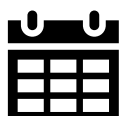


## GEOG 1400G – Introduction to the Human Environment Course Outline: Winter 2025

### 1. Course Information



Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 6	February 17-21	April 4	April 5 & 6	April 7-30

January 14, 2025: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 17, 2025: Family Day

March 31, 2025: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Lecture	Office Hours
<b>Dr. Cortney Golkar-Dakin (S. Awasis)</b>	cdakin2@uwo.ca	Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm	Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm

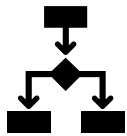
Teaching Assistants	Contact Information	Lab Sections	Office Hours
Leanne Ferguson	lfergu28@uwo.ca	004: Tuesdays 4:30-6:30pm  007: Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm	Mondays 12pm-1pm
Inonge Mutale	imutale@uwo.ca	005: Wednesdays 10:30am-12:30pm  006: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30pm	Wednesdays 1pm-2pm
Joshua Nwabuisi	cnwabuis@uwo.ca	002: Mondays 8:30-10:30am  003: Mondays 4:30-6:30pm	Mondays 1pm-2pm
Zakara Stamp	zstamp@uwo.ca	008: Thursdays 8:30-10:30am  009: Thursdays 10:30-12:30pm	Wednesdays 11am-12pm



- This course is taught in person
- Office hours will be held in person or remotely via Zoom (on request)
- Students can make an appointment to meet their TA or the instructor via email
- Students will be able to drop into office hours as a group
- Lab attendance is mandatory, and lecture attendance is expected to support students' success in the course
- Lectures will draw upon the textbook but will usually involve new content on chapter themes and/or related topics.
- Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures and labs, as well as the assigned materials.

## 2. Calendar 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 lab hours, 0.5 course]

Antirequisite: Geography 1100

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

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."

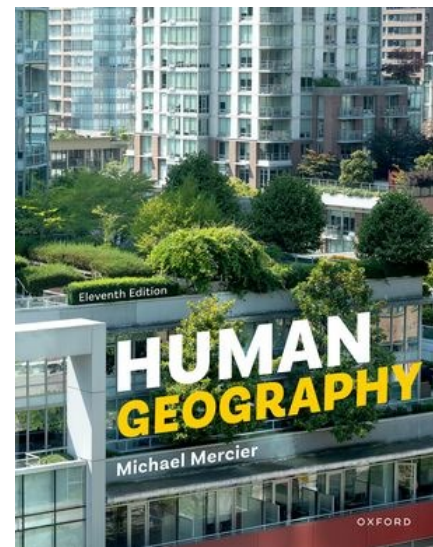
## 3. Course Materials



Required textbook: William Norton and Michael Mercier (2024) Human Geography. 11th Edition. ISBN # 9780190164577. (Available for purchase at Western's bookstore in UCC; the textbook costs \$127.45).

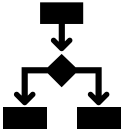
Students are required to use the 11th edition, please do not use any other edition.

Lab instructions and all other relevant course materials will be posted on the course website in OWL as needed. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.



## 4. Course Objectives

The main aim of this course is to introduce students to the nature of human geography as an academic discipline and as a body of practical and theoretical 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 aspects and issues of contemporary society: cultural diversity, racism, environmental degradation, ethnic conflicts, globalization, poverty, religious differences, overpopulation, transportation and urban sprawl, to name but a few. Doing so provides a critical interpretation of humans' interactions with the earth's environment and the differences between, and the similarities amongst, people, places, and the landscapes they create and inhabit. By examining the cultural, economic, political and social processes that generate the spatial patterns and relationships that modify the natural (*physical*) and built (*human*) environments, a foundation for subsequent human geography courses will be laid, as well as an ability to critically examine the student's own place in the world.



## 5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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



## 6. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Lecture Topic	Textbook Readings	Tutorial Topic	Due Dates
1	Jan 6-10	Introduction to Human Geography	Chapter #1	No tutorial	
2	Jan 13-17	Population Geography	Chapter #4	Lab 1	
3	Jan 20-24	Development Geographies	Chapter #5	No tutorial	Lab 1
4	Jan 27-31	Environmental Impacts	Chapter #2	Lab 2	
5	Feb 3-7	Cultural Geographies	Chapter #6	No tutorial	Lab 2
6	Feb 10-14	Geographies of Identities and Difference	Chapter #7	Midterm Review	
	Feb 17-21	Fall Reading Week	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Feb 24-28	<b>Mid-term Exam</b>			
8	Mar 3-7	Political Geographies	Chapter #8	Lab 3	
9	Mar 10-14	Urban Geographies	Chapters #9 & #10	No tutorial	Lab 3
10	Mar 17-21	Geographies of Food & Agriculture	Chapter #11	Lab 4	
11	Mar 24-28	Energy geographies	Chapter #12	No tutorial	Lab 4
12	Mar 31-Apr 4	Geographies of Globalization	Chapter #3	Exam Review	
	Apr 7-30	<b>Final Exam</b>			

## 7. Communication



- Please read this course outline and assignment instructions thoroughly and completely before asking questions, the answers to which may well be found in the outline or assignment itself.
- Students are welcome to ask the instructor and their teaching assistant short answer questions via email. If you have long and complex questions—and I hope you do—I will be delighted to address them during the lecture or during office hours. Please take advantage of the office hours posted on the front page of this outline. Our teaching team is available to help you succeed.
- Please do not expect an instantaneous response to your email from either the instructor or your TA, it may take 24-48 hours to respond. We are unlikely to respond to emails after 5:00pm on weekdays or during the weekend. Please be polite and use full sentences in your correspondence, and we shall extend the same courtesies to you. Thank you for respecting these boundaries.
- Regular updates will be provided on the OWL announcements, students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours.
- This course will use OWL for participation in discussion activities and posing course-related questions and content so that everyone can access resources and answers to questions.
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors and teaching assistants.
- For any other communication, the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official e-mail address for correspondence. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

## 8. Evaluation

The evaluation methods described below are essential requirements to meet the course objectives and learning outcomes.

Assessment	Format	Weighting
Labs	Short answer/essay	(4x10%) 40%
Mid-term Examination	Multiple choice	20%
Participation	Lab attendance and discussion activities	10%
Final Examination	Mixed	30%



### *Lab Sessions*

Throughout the term, students will meet six times in a lab group led by a TA. Four of these sessions will be to introduce and work on lab assignments and the other two sessions will be for exam review. **Lab assignments will be due one week after they are introduced in tutorial.** Lab sessions provide participants with an opportunity to raise questions and discuss problems in greater depth than is possible in a larger lecture class. They also provide the participants with some exposure to research techniques in human geography.

- Lab assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait at least 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

**Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.**

## 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](#).

### General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

### Formal Documentation Designation statement:

Students seeking academic consideration for missed midterm or final examinations will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for the midterm or final examinations will be provided with the opportunity to write a make-up exam.

### Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

### **Course Assessments that Require Supporting Documentation**

For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation:

Mid-term Examination (February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

### **Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

## **10. Make-up Examinations**

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination. You can find the relevant policy here.

## **11. Use of Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

## **12. How to Be Successful in this Class:**



Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful. It is recommended that you:

1. Use a planner or calendar application to keep track of deadlines and manage your time.
2. Connect with your peers. Try forming a study group and meeting on a weekly basis for peer support.
3. Ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion forums or contact your instructor or TA.
4. Celebrate your successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.
5. Take notes while reading and listening to lectures. When you write information down by hand, retention is heightened relative to passive observation.

### **13. 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.

All assignments 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> ).

Computer-marked multiple-choice exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **14. Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Department of Geography and Environment 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.

### **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. Support Services

Western's Support Services  
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

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

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.