

Geography 1400-090

Humans in an Uncertain World

3 semester credit hours BF

Instructor:

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Elizabeth Dudley-Murphy was born and raised in Chile, South America. After graduating from high school in Santiago, she came to the U.S. to attend the University of Utah. After graduating with a BA in Anthropology, she worked for a few years and then returned to the University of Utah to complete a Master's Degree and Doctorate in Geography.

Prerequisites: None

General Education Status: Fulfills a core requirement for a major or minor degree in Geography
Social Science Foundation

Coursework: Six lessons, six assignments, six online discussions and two equally-weighted exams.

Description:

People! Politics! Language! Religion! All of these terms are elements of *Human Geography*. What is *Human Geography*? It is the study of different cultures of the world and the different elements that make up these cultures. Human geography focuses on "people", where they are, what they are like, how they interact over space, and what kinds of cultural landscapes they erect upon the natural landscapes they occupy. Human societies are not passive. Interaction between the environment and humankind is reciprocal - the environment affects human life and cultures and humans alter and transform the environment.

Human geography helps us to understand the world we occupy and to appreciate the circumstances affecting peoples and countries other than our own. It clarifies the contrasts in societies and cultures in the human landscapes they have created in the different regions of the earth.

Course Objectives: The objective of this course is to leave the student with a basic understanding of geographic concepts and how they can be applied to populations worldwide. The course seeks to introduce students to the scope and excitement of human geography while making clear the relevance of its content to their daily lives and roles as citizens of an increasingly interrelated world community.
By the end of the course the student will: 1) have a basic understanding of culture, culture change, and cultural regionalism; 2) have an understanding of concepts and models of

spatial interaction; 3) have an appreciation for population structures, patterns and change; 4) have an understanding of settlement patterns and why peoples settled where they did.

System Requirements: This class is completely online and can be "attended" from anywhere there is an Internet connection. All Assignments and Exams are submitted electronically. Students must have basic computer skills, be able to use an Internet browser, send attached files via e-mail and post comments to a web board.

Materials: Text: Human Geography, *Landscapes of Human Activities*. Updated 12th Edition, by Jerome Donald *Fellman*, Arthur *Getis* and Judith *Getis*. The text for this course has been used on campus for the Human Geography course and has met with approval from both faculty and students.

Books may be purchased at the [U Bookstore](#), or from the book vendor of your choice.

Home Page

When you first log on to the course, you will notice icons on the home page and in the left hand column. Click on any of these to get to the section you desire: Assignments, Grades, Announcements, Syllabus, etc. I will post frequent announcements, as this is the only way I communicate with the entire class. I will answer all e-mails within a 24 hour period, so please feel free to e-mail me with any concerns or questions, my e-mail address and phone numbers are listed above.

Lessons

The Lessons are intended to be an introduction to a particular section of the text. They also outline the chapters that are to be read for each lesson and each one corresponds to an assignment, that which has the same number. The lessons summarize what I deem to be the most important concepts in the chapters. At times the lessons will have information that is not found in the text.

Due Dates – Assignments, Discussions, Exams

All DUE dates for assignments, discussions and Exam dates are shown on the class calendar and on the Syllabus. The date where you see Assignments or Discussions are the dates they are DUE. You can begin and submit them any time before that date, but plan to have them in by the due date at 11:55 pm. It is a good idea to print the calendar months, but if not, check it frequently.

Online Discussions:

There will be six Online Discussions - to successfully complete the discussion assignments, select them from the Discussion link on the left column in the class main page, or from Assignments. This is an asynchronous discussion, you may not be logged in at the same time as other students in the class; however, you will be able to read other's comments and add your own thoughts. Your instructor will check the on-line discussion

and provide additional information, if needed. You may participate in this discussion any time up to the "DUE" date.

The discussion topics may or may not follow the chapters in the text. Hopefully the topics will stimulate some interesting responses and you can pull from information you have learned thus far. I would like to see some impromptu discussions so please feel free to respond to your fellow students. Although this is not a traditional "chat room", hopefully, by reading other students comments you will want to respond, not only to the discussion topic, but to the student's responses. If it takes us in another direction, that's great, that is what a discussion should be about, have fun with it! The discussions are graded, but if anyone would like to use the Chat tool, this will not be graded, as it is not a requirement.

Written Assignments

There are six web-based written assignments that consist of the following: 1) Short essays of one to two paragraphs each based on information from the text, and /or 2) short answer essays, based on online web-based searches. It is advisable that you answer the assignment questions as you complete the readings. In most lessons you have more than one chapter included in the reading assignment. It is easier to complete the answers in each chapter as you complete the reading. You are able to save partially completed assignments and return to complete them as you wish, click the Save button and you can return as many times as you like.

Short Research Project

For one of the assignments, we will write a 3 – 5 page paper regarding how the concepts you have learned about in this class could lead to further research or how they could be adapted for community engaged learning or internships. The idea behind this is to investigate the usefulness of the concepts in this class to other disciplines and beyond this semester.

Study Guides

When you first log on to the course, you will notice icons on the home page and in the left hand column. Click on any of these to get to the section you desire: Mail, Discussions, Syllabus, etc. The study guides consist of Self-Study Maps and "Comprehensive Study Guides". These study guides will contain everything you need to know for the exams. Do not be dismayed by the amount of reading in the text, there is a lot of material, but if you follow

Study Suggestions

1. Read the Lessons first.
2. Complete the Reading Assignment.
3. Scan the questions in the Written Assignment.
4. Re-read the assigned material being careful to learn the correct meaning of important new words.
5. Close your books and answer the written assignment questions in your own words. Many of the questions can be answered at great length, but you should try

to organize your answers so that they are both complete and succinct. Grading is based on quality, not quantity.

Exams: All exams will be online and each exam is worth 100 points. The exams cover material from the lessons that immediately precede it; exams are not comprehensive. Each exam consists of multiple choice, short answer or essay questions, matching, definitions, and a map component, which requires location of specific points on a map. All of the concepts and definitions you need to know for the exams are in the text. The exams will be available usually for three days, from Thursday morning until Saturday night allowing students with work schedules to be accommodated. You will have either 60 or 90 minutes for each exam and I will let you know ahead of time which it will be. Due to the exam being online, it will be considered open book. However, if you are not familiar with the information prior to the exam, you will spend too much time looking up answers, so I highly recommend staying on top of the material in the class, i.e., the assignments and discussions.

Grading will consist of:

Two exams 40%

Six Written Assignments 30%

Six Discussions 30%

You will receive a number and grade on each assignment as follows:

90-100=A	80-82=B-	70-72=C-	60-62=D-
87-89 =B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	Below 60=E
83-86 =B	73-76=C	63-66=D	

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT SYLLABUS STATEMENT

- * Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Penalties may include failure of an assignment, the entire course, and/or the filing of formal charges with appropriate university authorities. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, and plagiarism:
- * Cheating involves the unauthorized possession or use of information in an academic exercise, including unauthorized

communication with another person during an exercise such as an examination.

- * Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of all instructors.
- * Plagiarism means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in one's own work offered for academic consideration or public presentation.