

GEOGRAPHY 363V

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

Dr. John Wright, Fall 2014

Tu/Th: 11:45-1:00 Guthrie Hall, Room 100

Office Hours: 145 Breland Hall, Tu/Th 9-10, 1:30-2:30, or by appointment

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Cultural geography is the study of the patterns, processes, and interactions of the world's cultures. We will study "cultural landscapes" – the Earth as transformed by human actions.

Major themes we will explore during the semester:

- 1) Human Genome: Race, Ethnicity, and Global Migration
- 2) Guns, Germs, and Steel – the dominance of Europe and Asia
- 3) Nations and States
- 4) Shapes of War
- 5) Middle East, Islam, Israel, Oil
- 6) Cultural Landscapes from around the world

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1) A free collection of PowerPoints and lecture notes posted on Canvas

GRADING: Grades will be based on the following:

- 1) **Exam #1: 15% (Sept 4th)**
- 2) **Exam #2: 20% (Sept 23rd)**
- 3) **Exam #3: 20% (Oct. 14th)**
- 4) **Term Paper: 10% (Due Nov 20th)**
- 5) **Final Exam: 35% (Dec 9th)**

GRADING SCALE: A = 90-100% (A- 90%, A 91-97%, A+ 98-100%)

B = 80-89% (B- 80%, B 81-87%, B+ 88-89%)

C = 70-79% (C- 70%, C 71-77%, C+ 78-79%)

D = 60-69% (D- 60%, D 61-67%, D+ 68-69%)

F = Below 60%

EXAMS: Midterms and the Final will consist of definitions, short answer/list questions, and essay questions. Review sheets will be handed out one week prior to all tests. Exams cover only the portion of the class that precedes them.

CLASS RULES: If you have special needs please let me know immediately. An "I" grade cannot be given unless you are passing the class ("C" or better) at the time of the emergency. No extra credit assignments. One full letter grade will be deducted from the term paper for each day it is late! **VALID MEDICAL OR FAMILY EMERGENCIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR LATE PAPERS AND MISSED EXAMS.** Let me know as soon as possible.

PLAGIARISM IN THE TERM PAPER:

What it is: Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment or citation: making it appear to be your own writing.

How to avoid it: Ideas, words, pictures, or other intellectual content that is taken from another source must be acknowledged in a citation that gives credit to the source.

For NMSU Plagiarism Policy See - <http://lib.nmsu.plagiarism/>

My Penalty for Plagiarism:

Minor: a word-for-word sentence included that is not acknowledged to be the writing of someone else: penalty is the deduction of one letter grade for each case

Major: entire blocks of text and/or the entire paper are plagiarized: penalty is getting a "0" on the paper. Further disciplinary action will be taken.

NOTE: I will Google sentences in your term paper that I find suspicious and I will find them on the Internet if you copied them from a source. Fair warning.

TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Length : 8 pages

Topic: Write a geographic description of a Cultural Landscape that is in conflict. The conflict can be ethnic, religious, or cultural (values, economics). You cannot use one of the exact landscapes we cover in class. Be sure to describe: origin of the landscape, ethnic makeup of its people, role of religion in forming the landscape, and analyze the conflict through the lenses of nations, states, separatism, religion, ethnicity, and race. Be creative and do not just list information. *Interpret* the landscape and the conflict. Give you opinion on how this conflict will turn out.

TIPS ON WRITING THE TERM PAPER

Choose a cultural landscape and conflict you are interested in. Check to make sure you will have enough data and information on a landscape before committing to it.

The best papers are fact-rich, well thought out, and clear.

One letter grade deducted for each day the paper is late.

No Wikipedia allowed – this on-line encyclopedia varies wildly in quality of entries.
I will deduct a letter grade if you cite Wikipedia as a source.

Cite your sources – use at least 10 sources.
I will deduct a letter grade if you only use Internet sources.

Format: Eight (8) pages. Double spaced. 1” margins, 12 Font in Times New Roman, number your pages at the bottom center of each page. Follow this format or I will deduct points.

MAP: Include a map showing where the landscape is – a clear copy of an existing map is completely acceptable. If you are a Geography major, consider making a map of your own.

CITATION STYLE

- 1) Avoid long quotes – **but for quotes of more than one sentence, indent and single space.**
- 2) Cite a source as (Jones, 1999: 2) for something that appears on page two of this source
- 3) Include a References page with all sources cited in full and placed in alphabetical order
- 4) Provide full citations – see following samples and/or bibliographies in books/articles for style.

Books

Chavez, A. 1987. *A Geography of Saudi Arabia*. New York. Bantam Books.

Articles

Smith, G. 2006. Islam and Conflict in Bahrain. *Journal of Middle East Studies*. Vol 13, No. 1: pages 112-117.

Internet

Give the website and name of the article and its author as it appears on-line.

CLASS SCHEDULE

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

- 8/21 **Cultural Geography Introduction: The Cyclones of Myanmar**
PowerPoint
- 8/26 **The Human Genome: Race, Ethnicity, and Global Migration**
Notes and PowerPoint
- 8/28 **How Guns, Germs and Steel Changed the World**
Notes
- 9/2 **Guns, Germs, Steel**
Video
Review for Exam #1
- 9/4 **EXAM #1** (Worth 15% of grade)

WAR AND PEACE

- 9/9 **Nations and States: The Five Worlds**
PowerPoint
- 9/11 **Shapes of War: Indonesia, Nicaragua**
PowerPoint
- 9/16 **The Crimea: Russian Invasion, Ethnicity, and Geopolitics**
PowerPoint
- 9/18 **Morocco: The Challenge of Living in Many Neighborhoods**
PowerPoint
- 9/23 **Scandinavia: Why Did the Vikings Become Peaceful?**
PowerPoint. Review for Exam #2
- 9/25 **EXAM #2** (Worth 20% of grade)

THE MIDDLE EAST

- 9/30 **Islam**
Notes and PowerPoint
- 10/2 **Israel**
PowerPoint
- 10/7 **The Geography of Oil**
PowerPoint
- 10/9 **The Geography of Oil**
PowerPoint
- 10/14 **Shatterbelt: A New Map of the Middle East?**
PowerPoint. Review for Exam #3
- 10/16 **EXAM #3** (Worth 20% of grade)

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

10/21 Cultural Landscapes and Homelands: Ireland and New Orleans

Notes and PowerPoint

10/23 China: Urbanization and Landscape Change

Notes and Powerpoint

10/28 Nepal: Kathmandu's Buddhist and Hindu Landscapes

Notes and Powerpoint

10/30 Nepal: Trekking to the Kingdom of Lo Manthang

Notes and PowerPoint

11/4 Sri Lanka: War Zone or Serendip?

Notes and PowerPoint

11/6 Istanbul: Monumentalism in a Contested City

Notes and PowerPoint

11/11 Rome: Monumentalism and Representations of Empire

PowerPoint

11/13 Ukraine and Poland: Landscapes of Turmoil

PowerPoint

11/18 Spain: Grenada and the Moorish Landscapes of Las Alpujarras

Notes and PowerPoint

11/20 Tahiti and Moorea: Paradise or Possession?

Notes and PowerPoint

TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS – A PRINTED COPY

11/25 & 11/28: NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING BREAK

12/2 REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

12/4 REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

FINAL EXAM (WORTH 35% OF GRADE)

Tuesday December 9th, 1030-12:30 in our classroom