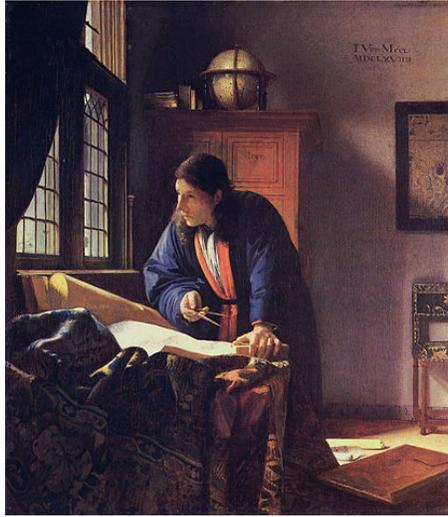


**GRG 305—This Human World: An Introduction to Human Geography
Spring 2014**



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Sections: Mon 10 am & 12 pm, Wed 10 am
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11-12 & Fridays 12-1 pm, CLA 3.400A, Desk 6

Course Description

This course will expose you to how geographers think about and understand social, economic, political, and cultural processes related to the spatial distribution and organization of human activity on the Earth, including how people understand and represent places that are both familiar and unfamiliar. This spatial organization of how people inhabit our planet affects the daily lives of people across the globe, including you. These economic, political, and cultural processes fundamentally concern the placement in or movement across space of things, such as people, money, goods, and ideas, forming social and spatial (or socio-spatial) interactions among places. Thus, a geographic perspective helps us understand and think about problems facing the world today at both the global and local scale.

What this class is not:

- It is not a survey of places around the world. It is not a class that delivers information about various places and regions of the world (sometimes called "world regional geography"). Instead, it is about how geographers think about and understand human activity. It is less about simply *where* something occurs than *why* it occurs *there*.
- It is not a class about the physical processes that shape the surface of the globe, such as plate tectonics, weather, glaciation, erosion, plant and animal distribution, etc. While important, those topics are the concerns of physical geography, landscape ecology, biogeography, geology, and other fields.

At the conclusion of this class you will be able to

1. recognize and describe different kinds of general and thematic maps, their different uses, and the cartographic elements that make them up.
2. understand and demonstrate how maps are produced, questions and judgments that go into their production, and how maps are used in different contexts.
3. understand and describe issues related to representation of place beyond cartography, and analyze common representational tropes of the developing world.
4. understand and describe the changing nature of social and economic interdependencies that connect people and places around the world, and the unequal power relations that structure those interdependencies, including how people affect change at different scales.
5. understand and describe social, economic, political, and ethical impacts of the changing geography of production of such commodities as clothing and food.
6. understand and describe major geographical facets of "globalization" and their social, political, and ethical impacts, including time-space compression, mobility, governance, and neoliberalism.
7. understand and describe how geographers approach questions of globalization and some of the social, economic, political, and ethical issues related to globalization that geographers are concerned with.

Texts

Because textbooks are expensive, boring, and contain a lot of information of dubious value, all readings for this class will be available on Canvas.

Assessment

Student learning will be assessed in two main ways: through tests and through a series of writing assignments and projects that require you to demonstrate an understanding of the material by applying concepts from the readings and lectures to real world situations. In addition, you are expected to participate in section discussions and activities, which are central components of your learning in this course. These elements are weighted as follows:

Two midterms	15% each
Final exam	20%
Four one-page papers	10% each
Section participation	10%

- Papers are to be turned in electronically through Canvas. It is your responsibility to learn the technology and to assure that your paper is properly uploaded into the system.
- Late assignments will lose 1/3 of a grade for every day late (including weekends).
- To earn credit for section participation, students must attend their weekly section, have completed relevant preparation, participate in section activities, and contribute to group discussions.

Technology

- Cell phones must be silenced. No texting during class.
- If have a laptop in class, you are expected to be using it for course-related purposes. If you are not (i.e. if you are on social media, shopping, etc.), you will be asked to leave by one of the TAs.

Seating

You are required to sit with students from your section, near your TA. This will help facilitate on-going conversations throughout the semester.

Grading and Workload

University guidelines state that "for each hour a class meets, an average of two additional hours of preparation is expected of the student." This class meets three hours a week, which means that you should expect about six hours of out-of-class work per week. Please remember that grades are defined by university policy in the following manner: "A (excellent), B (above average), C (average), D (pass), and F (failure)." This class will use the "plus/minus" system: 93-100 A; 90-92 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-; 77-79 C+; 73-76 C; 70-72 C-; 67-69 D+; 63-66 D; 60-62 D-; 0-59 F

Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Student Honor Code.

University of Texas Student Honor Code

"As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity.

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's words or ideas and passing them off as your own. It constitutes a serious breach of academic integrity and a violation of the UT Student Honor Code. Penalties for violating the Honor Code may include failure of this course and University disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to be aware of university policies on academic integrity (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php).

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Needs

One of the goals of this course is to create an environment which encourages and allows all students to participate in and benefit from class activities. Students with disabilities will be reasonably accommodated in this regard, in accordance with university policy. If you have a disability or special need, contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (<http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>) and notify me as soon as possible to arrange accommodation.

The Undergraduate Writing Center

The Undergraduate Writing Center provides individual, professional advice on all aspects of writing to UT undergraduates on a drop-in basis or by appointment. I encourage you to take advantage of this great resource.

Location: Flawn Academic Center 211, phone 471-6222. More info, including the current semester's hours, at <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>.

One Last Comment

Communicate with us! Please ask for help when you need it. If you are having problems, let us know *early*, and we will do what we can to help. The TAs and I have weekly office hours, which are times when we are specifically available for students. By all means, come and talk about any concerns or problems you have with any aspect of this course—or just stop by to talk about ideas and issues raised in class. Feedback (positive and negative) about the course is always welcome, and I'm happy to consider ideas you may have for improving the course along the way. I am also available at other times: just ask.