

# Geography 220: Human Geography Winter Session

**Dr. Brian J. Sommers**

My office (if you are in the neighborhood) is DiLoreto 208014  
My campus e-mail (as opposed to my course e-mail) is [sommersb@ccsu.edu](mailto:sommersb@ccsu.edu)  
My office phone is 860-832-2792 (Fax 860-832-3140)

---

## INTENTIONS OF THE COURSE

This course introduces students to some of the basic concepts involved in the study of human geography. In doing so, the course examines diverse concepts in the geographic study of human population, language, religion, culture, politics, economics, and land use. The intent of this material is that the students develop an understanding of the geography of the world around her/him. The hope is that this course will provide the student with the knowledge not only to describe the world in which he/she lives, but also to explain why that world exists as it does.

## COURSE TEXTS

The course text is An Introduction to Human Geography by Rubenstein (8<sup>th</sup> edition). **This text is absolutely, positively, without any doubt required for the course.** You can get it in hard-copy or you can rent access to it via [www.safarix.com](http://www.safarix.com) online from the Prentice-Hall online library. We will be using maps, table, and graphs from the text extensively. If you find an old copy you can use it. There may just be some subtle or not so subtle differences in what is covered.

## CLASS FORMAT

The classroom is the Internet. The times when you are online and 'in-class' are up to each individual student. The format for the classes is guided independent study. It is independent study in that you will be working independently through the textbook materials. It is guided in that I will have supporting materials and discussion session over the items from the textbook. Here is how the course will work;

- Complete the readings and other materials in preparation for the tests.
  - Go to the 'Chapter Readings' link. The link will lead you to the text/study guide chapters and POWERPOINT files for that week.
  - Work through the materials with the aim of being ready for the test.
  - Use the chat room sessions like a combination classroom discussion/office hour. I'll be there to answer your questions. You can also send me an e-mail, or post questions to the discussion list. For the chat session schedule see the course calendar. **While not required, it is strongly suggested that students come to the chat room sessions whenever they have questions over course materials.**
  - Extra chat sessions are scheduled the first week of classes and before the start of class for students needing extra help in learning the software.
- On the dates/time indicated a test will become available through the 'TESTS' icon. It is a one-hour timed test. It is CLOSED BOOK and CLOSED NOTE. It will appear at 12:01 am. You have until 11:59 pm to take the test. For the testing schedule see the course calendar.
- When the test day is done the next set of readings will appear and the whole process will start over again.
- There is a quiz during the first week over chapter 1. This is to get you acquainted with the geography basics covered in that chapter and with the testing mechanism and how it works. The remainder of the textbook will be covered in the mid-term and final exams.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

These are the things for which you will be graded. There will be a quiz and two tests. They are required and you will receive a grade of zero for missing a test without a notification from the Office of Student Affairs. If you have such an excuse and miss a test you will be given an essay make-up exam.

The tests and quiz will be roughly 1/3 multiple choice/matching, 1/3 short answer, 1/3 essay in format. For the short answer and essay sections you will be given more answers than you need to respond to. Respond to the questions that you feel most comfortable with. There is no extra credit for answering extra questions.

## **GRADING SCALE & GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

The following is the grading scale for the class. You are strongly encouraged to use office hours or set up an appointment to discuss your grades during the semester. There is no extra credit.

A	93-100%
A-	90-92.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	83-86.9%
B-	80-82.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	73-76.9%
C-	70-72.9%
D+	67-69.9%
D	63-66.9%
D-	60-62.9%
F	Less than 60%

The course grade will be based on the following point distribution;

Quiz	=50 points
Mid-Term Exam	=200 points
Final Exam	=200 points
-----	
Total	=450 points

**THE COURSE SCHEDULE-See the Calendar!!!**