

# INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY

Geography 110-Fall Semester

Dr. Brian J. Sommers

## ABOUT THE COURSE

The Classroom is Diloreto 309. The Class is MWF at 10:00 (for section 3) or MWF at 11:00 (for section 4). You must attend the section that you are registered in. The Office Hours are M-F from 9:00-10:00. My office is in Diloreto room 208-014. Other hours are by appointment. My CCSU phone number is (860) 832-2792 and my CCSU e-mail address is [sommersb@ccsu.edu](mailto:sommersb@ccsu.edu)

## INTENTIONS OF THE COURSE

Many people think that geography is simply going to places, describing those places, and memorizing the names and locations of what you see (That we make maps and write tour books). In actuality, geography is like other social and physical sciences in that it attempts to explain how the world really works. This course introduces students to some of the basic concepts involved in the study of geography. In doing so, the course examines diverse concepts in the geographic study of climate, landforms, human population, language, religion, culture, politics, and land use. The intent of this material is for you to develop an understanding of the geography of the world around you. The hope is that this course will provide you with the knowledge to not only describe the world in which you, but also to explain why.

## ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR

Just as an introduction, I am from Akron, Ohio and have a BA in geography from the University of Akron. I have my MA degree from Miami University (the real one in Ohio-not the fake one in Florida) and my PhD is from the University of Arizona (Tucson not Tempe). I teach introductory geography courses as well as more advanced courses in planning and urban geography. My research interests are in urban geography and economic development.

## COURSE 'TEXTBOOK'

The course text is Introduction to Geography: People, Places, and Environment by Bergman and Renwick. The textbook is available in two formats. First, you can buy the textbook. It is currently in its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. If you have an older edition it will work OK, but there may be items that are missing. The second option is to get the textbook in online format at [www.safarix.com](http://www.safarix.com). Pearson Publishers have put the entire textbook online so that you can 'rent' access to it. The deal is that for \$50.00 you rent access to the textbook online as opposed to buying a copy at around \$90.00. You then have complete access to anything in the textbook for 150 days from the day you order it. It is exactly the same as the conventional printed version except that it has hyperlinks to other online materials. However you get a hold of the text is up to you. Just get it. **The text is absolutely, positively, without any doubt required for the course.** Other required readings are on the course web page. They include note files and POWERPOINT files for the lecture materials. **You are responsible for all materials presented in lecture, in the textbook readings, in the note files, and in the POWERPOINT files.** Materials from all of these sources can and will appear on the exams.

## THE COURSE WEB PAGE

The course web page includes a variety of resources for the course. It also includes course content pages with notes and POWERPOINT files for each chapter. The web page is accessed by going online and logging on to your Central Pipeline account. From there, find your 'My Courses' tab and then click on the Geography 110 link. You can also log into the SAFARIX version (assuming that you bought it) of the textbook from the course web page. All students will be expected to be able to

access materials on the web page. So if your network account is not up to date, then you will need to take care of it.

### THE EXAMS

There will be two exams. Both of these will be in-class and closed note/book. You will receive a zero for missing either exam without prior approval. If you have an approved excuse for missing the exam you will be given a make-up. Both exams will include a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The mid-term exam will be over the first half of the course. The final exam will be over the second half of the course except for a couple of cumulative essay questions.

### COURSE PARTICIPATION

I expect students to be in class. They should also be active participants in their own education. Based on these expectations, I allocate points for course participation. They may not be much, but they are enough to make a positive impact for those of you who are in class and participating.

### GRADING SCALE & GRADE DISTRIBUTION

The following is the grading scale for the class.

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

The course grade will be based on the following point distribution (**there is NO EXTRA CREDIT**);  
Mid-Term Exam=100 pts                      Final Exam=120 pts                      Participation=20 pts

### THE TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE & SCHEDULE DISCLAIMER

The course schedule, except for the test days, is a best estimate and slight deviations from schedule may occur. The schedule may change due to unexpectedly rapid or slow progress through the materials or due to other unforeseen circumstances. **Although the topics discussed on a given day may vary, the test dates will not. Plan accordingly.** In the event of a school closure the materials assigned for that day will be due the next class.

Week 1	Introduction, Maps, Latitude/Longitude
Week 2	Earth, its Atmosphere, and Insolation
Week 3	Weather and Climate
Week 4	Biogeography & Soils, Weathering, Plate Tectonics Introduction
Week 5	Volcanism, Mass Wasting, Ice & Wind as Mechanisms for Creating Landforms
Week 6	Water as a Mechanism for Creating Landforms
Week 7	Coastal Landforms and Environmental Hazards
<b>Mid-Term Exam on Friday, October 14th</b>	
Week 8	Population Geography and Migration
Week 9	Cultural Geography
Week 10	Political Geography
Week 11	Medical Geography & Development
Week 12	Economic Geography
Week 13	Economic Geography (continued)
<b>Thanksgiving break-no Wednesday or Friday classes</b>	
Week 14	Urban Geography (US)
Week 15	Urban Geography (non-US)
<b>Reading Day on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	
Week 16	<b>Final Exam</b>
<b>Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-1:00 for section 4</b>	

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-10:00 for section 3  
(You must attend the exam for the section in which you are registered)**