

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** GEOG 110 **TITLE:** Cultural Geography **C-ID:** GEOG 120
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours
Method of Grading: Grade Option (Letter Grade or P/NP)
Recommended Preparation:
 - Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848
 - Eligibility for ESL 400

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**
 - Degree Credit**
 - Transfer credit:** CSU; UC
 - AA/AS Degree Requirements:**
 - CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science
 - CSU GE:**
 - CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions
 - IGETC:**
 - IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
 - Catalog Description:**

The study of the use and understanding of space within and between culture groups of the world. Interpretation of cultural landscapes resulting from the interactions of humans with features and processes of the physical environment and with one another. Special attention is given to the concepts of location, place, distribution, circulation, and region. Focus on the concepts of culture region, cultural origin, cultural diffusion, cultural ecology, cultural interaction, and cultural landscape as applied to the analysis of specific culture traits, including those of popular culture. Additional topics include: demography, languages and religions, urbanization and landscape modification, political units and nationalism, and economic systems and development.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the distribution of the human population and the processes (both historical and contemporary) that shape this distribution
 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the origins, diversity, and distribution of basic cultural patterns, with particular attention given to: language, religion, urbanization, political and economic patterns, and human-environment interactions
 3. Demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts used in the geographic study of human patterns including: diffusion, cultural landscapes, cultural ecology, and cultural regions

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the distribution of the human population and the processes (both historical and contemporary) that shape this distribution
 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the origins, diversity, and distribution of basic cultural patterns, with particular attention given to: language, religion, urbanization, political and economic patterns, and human-environment interactions
 3. Demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts used in the geographic study of human patterns including: diffusion, cultural landscapes, cultural ecology, and cultural regions

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
 - Lecture Content:**
 - Section 1-INTRODUCTION**
 - I. What is Geography?
 - II. The Subdivisions of Geography
 - III. A Brief History of the Development of Geography
 - IV. What is Culture? What is Cultural Geography?
 - V. The Value of Diversity-*Man's Efficient Rush Toward Deadly Dullness*, K. Watt.

Section 2-MODERN GEOGRAPHY

- I. Development of Cultural Geography in the United States
- II. Historical vs. Contemporary Preferences and Biases of Cultural Geographers
- III. Summary of the Modern Approaches to the Study of Cultural Geography

Section 3- THE FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

- I. Cultural Regions, Cultural Diffusion, Cultural Ecology, Cultural Interaction, Cultural Landscape

Section 4-PROXEMICS

- I. Definition
- II. Personal Distances (study by Edward Hall), Seating Arrangements
- III. *Proxemics in a Cross-Cultural Context* from The Hidden Dimension, Edward Hall, 1982

Section 5-THE GEOGRAPHY OF RELIGION

- I. Religion-Territory, conflict, and tolerance
- II. Religious Culture Regions
Formal vs. Functional, Major Religions of the World, Secularization, Sacred Space
- III. Religious Diffusion
Semitis and Indus-Ganges Religious Hearths, Barriers and Time-Distance Decay
Religion, Globalization, and International Conflict
- IV. Religious Ecology
Religion as an adaptive strategy, Environmental stress and religious response
The environment and monotheism, Religion and environmental modification
Religion and environmental perception
- V. Cultural Interaction in Religion
Religion and Economy, Religious Pilgrimage, Religion and Political Geography
- VI. Religious Landscapes
Sacred space, Religious structures, Landscapes of the dead, Religious toponyms

Section 6-GEOLINGUISTICS

- I. Linguistic Geography-Languages, Dialects, Pidgin, Lingua franca, Monoglot, Polyglot
- II. Linguistic Culture Regions
Mapping language-Isoglosses, Language families, English dialects in the U.S.
- III. Linguistic Diffusion
Searching for the Primordial Tongue, Linguistic globalization
- IV. Linguistic Ecology
Language as adaptive strategy, Environment as linguistic refuge
Environment guides migration of languages
- V. Culturo-linguistic Interaction
Technology and linguistic dominance, Language and empire, Language and religion
The Social Morale Model and The Economic Development Model
- VI. Linguistic Landscapes-Messages sent by linguistic landscapes, Toponyms

Section 7-ETHNIC GEOGRAPHY

- I. Ethnicity-Acculturation and assimilation
- II. Ethnic Regions-Rural and Urban
- III. Cultural Diffusion of Ethnic Groups
Chain migration, Channelized migration, Return migration, Simplification
- IV. Ethnic Ecology
Cultural preadaptation and maladaptation
Environment as refuge and cultural advantage, Ethnic environmental perception
- V. Cultural Interaction
Clustering by employment, Differences in land uses, Ethnicity and globalization
- VI. Ethnic Landscapes
Rural and urban ethnic landscapes, Ethnic flags
- VII. Ethnocentrism
The ego, Ethnocentrism as collective egocentrism

Ethnocentrism: What is it? Why are people ethnocentric? What is the problem? What can we do about it?, Ken Barger, 2004

General ignorance of other peoples and nations-NGS survey

National stereotypes, The "Mirror-Image" phenomenon

Section 8-GEOGRAPHY OF FOLK AND POPULAR CULTURE

- I. Comparison of Folk and Popular Culture
- II. Regionalization of Folk and Popular Culture
- III. Diffusion of Folk and Popular Culture

- Agricultural fairs; Popular culture and social stratification, Influence of advertising
- Communication barriers (absorbing and permeable barriers to diffusion)
- IV. Folk and Popular Culture Ecology-Folk ecology, Pop culture consumption, Ecotourism
- V. Cultural Interaction in Folk and Popular Culture
 - Convergence vs. Regionalization, The Media
- VI. Landscapes of Folk and Popular Culture
 - Folk architecture, Popular culture landscapes, *The American Scene*, D. Lowenthal 1968

Section 9-GEOPOLITICS

- I. Political Region-Formal vs. functional regions, Politics and globalization
- II. Political Diffusion
 - Country building; Expansion of independence, insurgencies, political ideas, innovations
 - Migration due to political events (or migration forced by government)
- III. Political Ecology
 - Mackinder's Heartland Theory, Folk fortress, Warfare and environment
 - Political ecology and activism
- IV. Politico-Cultural Interaction
 - Nation vs. Nation-state, Ethnic separatism, The cleavage model, Politics and economy
 - Religion and politics, The Corruption Index
- V. Political Landscapes
 - Boundaries and border landscapes, imprint of authority. National iconography

Section 10-GEODOMOGRAPHY

- I. Demographic Regions
 - Population Distribution, Thomas Malthus, Stages of Demographic Transformation
 - Age and Gender Distributions, Population pyramids, Standard of Living
- II. Diffusion of Populations (and culture traits which affect population)
 - Migration, Disease diffusion-the AIDS epidemic, Diffusion of fertility control
- III. Population Ecology/Human-Environment Interaction
 - Adaptive strategies-population needs and preadaptation, Environmental influence
 - Environmental perception and population distribution
 - Population density and environmental alteration, Sustainability, Carrying capacity
- IV. Cultural Interaction and Population Patterns
 - Cultural contrasts in attitudes, Political controls, Economics, Gender
- V. The Settlement Landscape
 - Population distribution and landscape patterns, Reading the cultural landscape

Section 11-INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY

- I. Industrial Regions
 - Primary industries, Secondary industries
 - Uneven development, Technopoles, Deindustrialization, Global corporation
 - The Postindustrial Phase-Tertiary Industry, Quaternary Industry, Quinary Industry
- II. Diffusion of the Industrial Revolution
- II. Industrial Ecology
 - Renewable resource crisis, Acid rain, Global warming, Ozone depletion
 - Radioactive pollution, The Environmental Sustainability Index, Progress and problems
- IV. Industrial Cultural Interaction
 - Labor supply, Markets and Agglomeration, Politics, Industrialization and cultural change
- V. Industrial Landscapes
 - Landscapes of profit and utility, Primary industry, Secondary industry and Topocide
 - Service industries, Industrialization changing landscape perceptions

Section 12-URBAN GEOGRAPHY

- I. Urban Culture Regions
 - Urbanized population, City definition, Impacts of Urbanization-World Cities
 - Problems in less-developed regions
- II. Origin and Diffusion of the City
 - First cities-development models, Urban hearths and diffusion, Cosmological cities
- III. The Evolution of Urban Landscapes
 - Urban morphology, Functional zonation
 - The Greek City, The Roman City, The Medieval City, Renaissance and Baroque Cities
 - The Capitalist City; Class, "Race and Gender in the Industrial City; The Megalopolis
 - Edge Cities, Urban Landscapes of the Developing World
- IV. The Ecology of Urban Location-Site and Situation, Defensive and Trade-route sites

- V. Cultural Interaction in Urban Geography
 - Spatial distribution; Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary industry, Central-place Theory
- Section 13-INSIDE THE CITY/Urbanization**
- I. Urban Culture Regions-Downtown, The CBD, Residential areas
 - II. Cultural Diffusion in the City
 - Location, Centralization, Suburbanization, Decentralization, Gentrification
 - III. The Cultural Ecology of the City
 - The Urban Geological Environment; Urban Weather, Climate, Hydrology, Vegetation
 - IV. Cultural Interaction and Models of the City
 - V. Urban Landscapes
 - Research themes-Landscape Dynamics, City as Palimpsest, Symbolic Cityscapes
 - Perception of the City-Mental maps, The New Urban Landscape

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Field Trips

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Short in class writing as well as short papers.

Reading Assignments:

Weekly readings from the assigned textbook as well as assigned articles.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Exams/Tests
- C. Quizzes
- D. Research Projects
- E. Written examination

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Jordan-Bychkov, T., M. Domosh. *Human Mosaic*, 12th ed. Freeman/Worth, 2011
- B. Rubenstein, J. M.. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, 11th ed. Prentice Hall, 2013

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Course Originator: Margaret Kaluzny