

DRAFT Syllabus
EDIS 5650: Cultural Geography
Curry School of Education, Fall 2012

Instructor:

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In-Class Meetings:

Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:45pm
Ruffner Hall Room 241

Course Description

This course is designed to prepare elementary and secondary pre-service teachers to understand the elements of the discipline of geography, with a focus on the relationship between people and places on earth. Students will acquire an accurate spatial perspective of the world and apply that perspective to life situations. The course will provide students with an overview of the tools used by geographers and the broad concepts addressed by the field of geography. Students are encouraged to examine the world, regions, and specific places through the multiple lenses of the geographer.

Course Objectives

Students will understand that:

- Geography is a complex and interdependent social science reflected in human patterns and interaction over time.

Students will know:

- The historical and cultural development of geography as a discipline to gain diverse perspectives on spatial considerations, spatial variation and human-environmental interaction
- Broad investigative lenses and approaches to human geography and how they impact specific places.

Students will be able to:

- Engage in critical, reflective discussions of the topics presented in class and readings; and will practice implementing these methods in small and large group settings.
- Identify and describe geographic content to explain why and how places with similar features have evolved as distinct regions.
- Use the geographer's tools to examine specific phenomena.

Required Course Materials

- Texts:
 - Greiner, A.L. (2011). *Visualizing human geography: At home in a diverse world*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Note: Other readings may be assigned on a weekly basis

Additional Resources:

- Google Earth: www.google.com/earth
- National Council for Geographic Education: www.ncge.org
- Virginia Department of Education (SOLs): www.doe.virginia.gov
- National Geographic: www.nationalgeographic.com
- National Geographic Teacher Site: www.education.nationalgeographic.com/education
- AP Human Geography: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_humangeo.html

Current Events:

- As part of this course, you are expected to keep up-to-date on current events.

Expectations:

- **Academic Integrity:** The policies and procedures of the University of Virginia Honor System will be strictly followed in this course. The honor system requires that all work be pledged:
 - *On my honor as a student, I have neither given nor received aid or assistance on this assignment.*
- **Attendance:** Attendance at all class sessions is assumed. For each class absence 10 points of your participation grade will be deducted. Please contact the instructor regarding any pre-planned or emergency absences. Students are expected to be on time; you have one “free” late arrival. For each subsequent late arrival, 5 points of your participation grade will be deducted.
- **Preparation:** Students are expected to be prepared for all class sessions. This preparation includes completion of reading assignments in advance of class sessions and active participation in class discussions and activities both in person and online.
- **Assignments:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class periods indicated for assignments turned in during the normal class session. All assignments turned in online are due by midnight of the assigned date. Assignments will be penalized one full letter grade for each day they are late. Assignments will not be accepted more than three days after the due date without previous instructor permission. All assignments must be typed. Assignments due as a hard copy must be printed, stapled, and presented in a professional manner.
- **Cell phones:** Cell phone ringers must be turned off, and phones put away during class time.
- **Laptops:** Laptops are for learning only during course hours.

Note: If you are a student with special needs, please let the instructor know as soon as possible.

Course Requirements:

Assignment	Due Date	Value	Submitted
1. What is Geography? Essay	Sept 4	10%	In class-paper.
2. Online Modules	On going	15%	Collab
3. Summary Papers/Study Guides	On going	15%	Collab Drop Box
4. Case Study	Dec. 12	25%	Collab Drop Box
5. Final Exam	Dec. 4	20%	In class
6. Attendance and participation	Ongoing	15%	On going

Grading Scale:

Grade	Scale
A	94-100
A-	91-93
B+	88-90
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C	79 and below

Note: The Curry School of Education requires a grade of B- or higher in all courses leading to a masters degree. All classes at the 5000 level and above fall under this rule. Any course in which you receive a grade below B- must be retaken, or, with the consent of the course instructor and your advisor, a planned and petitioned substitution must be made. Courses at the 5000 level taken prior to the fourth year may be petitioned for an exemption to this policy.

—Curry School of Education Student Advising Handbook

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Due Date	Task
What is Geography and Why Bother? Essay	Sept. 4	A one page essay that discusses what cultural geography is. The essay should interact with the readings in the text from the class as well as personal opinions.
On-line Course Modules	Due Monday of following week	Each online portion of the class will consist of online discussions and activities which should be completed by the Monday following the class session date. Discussion prompts will require at least two responses from each student. Responses should be a minimum of one paragraph of thoughtful ideas. At least one of the postings should be a response to another student's post. Other activities may also be included and directions will be provided. Online sessions will be conducted asynchronously on Collab.
Topic Summary Papers/Study Guides	One week following On-line modules	Students will be placed in groups for this project. Each group will be assigned one online session. The group will closely follow the online postings for the week and write a 2-3 page summary paper of the key issues that arise through the online activities. The group will also create a study guide for the class on the topic which can be in power point or some other format. The study guide will be posted on Collab for classmates to use in preparation for the final exam.
Final Exam	Dec. 4	The final exam will include material covered through the entire semester. Details on the format of the final will be provided.
Case Study	Dec. 11	The case study is designed to be a culminating project for the course. It should reflect your interests and knowledge developed over the semester. This project gives you the chance to examine one location or concept at a deeper level than what we did as a class.

There are at least two options for this project.

(1). Select a cultural geography topic (ex. population, political geography, religion, etc.) and examine how that topic is relevant in 2 or 3 different locations. This should be a comparative view of how similar issues are alike/different in different locations.

(2). Select a location and examine 2 or 3 different geographical topics relevant to that location. The case study should seek to examine how the particular location interacts with its people in unique ways across different geographical concepts.

A good case study will...

- show connections between different issues/locations.
- demonstrate geographical thinking.
- should be more thoughtful and “geographical” than a report on a country or place.
- be a substantial and in-depth look at a particular topic/location
- include a variety of sources such as popular news articles and academic journal articles. A minimum of 6-8 sources would be appropriate with the majority being academic. Do not cite encyclopedias or Wikipedia as a source and be sure that websites are respectable before using them.
- be 4-5 pages long.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
August 28 (Class 1)	Introduction	Readings for Today N/A
September 4 (Class 2)	Tools of the Trade: GIS <i>*** Class meets in Scholar's Lab in Alderman Library.</i>	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greiner, Ch. 1 • “This is not the World” • Listen to this podcast: http://backstoryradio.org/here-to-there-a-history-of-mapping-2/ Assignment Due: What is Geography and Why Bother? Essay.
September 11 (Class 3)	ONLINE Culture	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greiner, Ch. 2
September 18 (Class 4)	Population Geography Guest speaker: Carol Bliese	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greiner, Ch. 3 • Basics of Population Education 2011 • Wasserman, Our World of 7 Billion
September 25 (Class 5)	Language Guest speaker: Ella Andrei	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greiner, Ch. 4 • Ed Trajectories of ELLs

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergent Bilinguals Chapter 2 Harper & de Jong Mapping Language: LEP in America
October 2 (Class 6)	ONLINE Religion	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greiner, Ch. 5
October 9	No Class (Reading Days)	
October 16 (Class 7)	ONLINE Identity	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greiner, Ch. 6
October 23 (Class 8)	Political Geography	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greiner, Ch. 7 Clark & Jones, "After the collapse"
October 30 (Class 9)	The Geography of Education Guest Speakers: Ingrid Hakala Isin, International Education Panel	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noah, "Use and Abuse of Comparative Education" TBA
November 6 (Class 10)	ONLINE Development	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greiner, Ch. 9
November 13	No CLASS	
November 20 (Class 11)	ONLINE Environment	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greiner, Ch. 12
November 27 (Class 12)	Urban Geography	Readings for Today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greiner, Ch. 8 Allen & Turner, "Ethnic Residential Concentrations in US Metropolitan Areas"
December 4 (Class 13)	Final Exam	Assignment Due Today: In-class final exam.
December 11	NO CLASS	Assignment Due Today: Case Study Papers

Notes

** This outline may change as the semester progresses.*

** Please bring a laptop to each class if you have one*