

Virginia Western Community College

GEO 210

People & the Land: An Intro to Cultural Geography

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

General Description:

Focuses on the relationship between culture and geography. Presents a survey of modern demographics, landscape modification, material and non-material culture, language, race and ethnicity, religion, politics, and economic activities. Introduces the student to types and uses of maps.

This course provides an introduction to the diverse academic discipline of geography, through the five major themes of culture region, cultural diffusion, ecology, interaction, and landscape. Topics include culture regions, race/ethnicity, demography, language, agricultural regions, industry and economics, urbanism, and tourism. Students will use geographic (spatial methods) to assess world events and situations, discuss and consider the changing world such as globalization, and learn map fundamentals to interpret maps.

Students will investigate traditional geographic concepts of culture, land use, political patterns, human adaptation to environment, and environmental modifications thereby broadening their worldview and cultural understanding.

This course is generally required for Virginia education licensure programs.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

Textbook:

Neumann, Price. *Contemporary Human Geography: Loose Leaf w/Achieve Read & Practice*. McGraw Hill. 2nd ed., 2019. ISBN: 978-1-319-27667-6

Other Required Materials:

None

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Interpret maps and understand basic map fundamentals.
- Understand the concepts of region, diffusion, and their interaction.
- Define race and ethnicity as well as describe demographic changes based on U.S. Census data.
- Trace the development of urbanism and explain urban influences.
- Describe the differing agricultural regions throughout the world and the cultural rationale for their development.
- Critically consider the major religions of the world and know the basic tenets of each.
- Develop a working knowledge of the spatial distribution of world populations and understand the cultural reasons for uneven development.
- Be familiar with world language families and their cultural implications.
- Understand the impact of industry on the physical Earth as well as its cultures.
- Critically argue for the concept of “one world or many” in relationship to cultural phenomena.

Topical Description

1	Background basics to understanding geography and human geography
2	Roots and meaning of culture
3	Spatial interaction and spatial behaviors
4	Population: World Patterns and Regional trends
5	Language and Religion
6	Ethnic Geography
7	Cultural Identities and Cultural Landscapes
8	Economic geography
9	Economic development and change
10	Urban systems and Urban structures
11	The political ordering of space
12	Human impacts on the environment

Notes to Instructors

- Map Studies: Students are provided with a PowerPoint presentation entitled Spatial Analysis 101 and blank maps for learning toponyms.