

Geography 2 - Cultural Geography
 Instructor: Matt Ebiner
 MW 11:45 am – 1:10 pm, Fall, 2009
www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner/

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 Office Hours: MW 11-11:45 am; W 5-6 pm
 TTh 1-2 and 5-6 pm
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Course Objective: Students will gain an understanding of the spatial patterns and geographic distribution of cultural phenomena and features such as population, agriculture, industry, cities, religion, language, and customs.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	8/31-9/2	Introduction & Themes of Cultural Geography
2	9/7-9/9	<u>Labor Day Holiday – September 7;</u> Geography of Population
3	9/14-9/16	Migration
4	9/21-9/23	<u>Test #1 – Mon 9/21;</u> Geography of Religion
5	9/28-9/30	Geography of Religion; Language
6	10/5-10/7	Geography of Language
7	10/12-10/14	<u>Test #2 – Mon 10/12;</u> Geography of Cities
8	10/19-10/21	Urban Patterns; <u>Newspaper Assignment – Due Wed 10/21</u>
9	10/26-10/28	Urban Patterns; <u>Test #3 – Wed 10/28</u>
10	11/2-11/4	Geography of Industry
11	11/9-11/11	<u>Field Trip (Monday, 11/9);</u> Geography of Agriculture
12	11/16-11/18	<u>Field Trip Write-Up – Due Mon 11/16;</u> Geography of Agriculture
13	11/23-11/25	<u>Test #4 – Mon 11/23;</u> Political Geography
14	11/30-12/2	Geography of Folk Culture
15	12/7-12/9	Geography of Popular Culture
16	12/14-12/16	Geography of Popular Culture; <u>Final Exam – Wed 12/16</u>

Required Texts: The Human Mosaic (9th Edition); Jordan-Bychkov & Domosh.
Geography 2 Course Study Guide, Ebiner.

Grading:	4 Tests @ 50 points each	=	200 points
	Final Exam	=	85 points
	Articles Assignment	=	40 points
	Field Trip	=	50 points
	Attendance	=	20 points
	<u>Participation</u>	=	<u>5 points</u>
	Total	=	400 points

Make-Up Tests: If you are absent for a test, you must take the make-up before the next class meeting. It will be different and probably more difficult than the test given in class.

Attendance: Each student begins the semester with 20 points for attendance. With the first two absences, nothing happens to that point total. After 2 absences 4 points are deducted for each subsequent absence unless it is college-authorized (field trip, sports competition). If you are absent more than twice, you will have a chance to recoup those points by doing an additional assignment. Please be punctual so that you don't miss anything important. **After three tardies, each tardy will result in minus 1 point.**

Participation: Participation is worth up to 5 points, based on your participation in the classroom or outside of class (office hours, after class, or through email).

Email: I receive a lot of junk email and I delete many emails without reading them, so please write **GEO 2 – JOHN SMITH (your name)** in the subject line when sending me an email.

Field Trip: There is a mandatory field trip on **Monday, November 9** to downtown Los Angeles. We will take the Blue Line from Carson to Downtown, and we'll take a walking tour of downtown L.A.: through the skyscrapers of the financial district, down the Hispanic shopping district on Broadway, over to Olvera Street and up to Chinatown. We will also be riding on the Red Line, L.A.'s subway. **The write-up for the field trip will be due November 16.** If you do not go on the field trip, you will have to do an independent field/photo project on your own. More details later.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit planned for the course.

Assignments: Late assignments will lose points each calendar day. If you must turn in an assignment late, you can slide it under my office door (NATS 211) or take it to the Natural Sciences Office in LS-101 where you can give it to the secretary (before 4:30 pm). She will place it in my mailbox.

Tracking your Progress: You should keep track of all the points you earn during the course:

Exam #1 = ____/50

Field Trip = ____/50

Exam #2 = ____/50

Articles = ____/40

Exam #3 = ____/50

Attendance (# of absences) = ____

Exam #4 = ____/50

Final Exam = ____/85

Final Grades:

A	=	360-400 (90-100%)
B	=	320-359 (80-89.9%)
C	=	260-319 (65-79.9%)
D	=	220-259 (55-64.9%)
F	=	0-258 (0-54.9%)

Students with Disabilities, including Learning Disabilities Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Special Resource Center on campus as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. If you suspect, or are unsure if, you have a learning disability you are strongly encouraged to contact the Special Resource Center on campus as soon as possible for testing, to better ensure any needed accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. If you have a documented or suspected disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME for Cultural Geography

Students can identify the salient features of the basic concepts of cultural geography. (This includes the ability to recall the definitions of the specialized vocabulary of cultural geography.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES – In this Cultural Geography class, students will learn to:

1. Explain current population distribution in the world in relation to environmental factors.
2. Explain the geographic variations of population characteristics (birth rates, death rates, natural increase) based on economic conditions.
3. Compare and contrast the push and pull factors for migration in different regions of the world.
4. Evaluate the various types of agriculture in the world; analyze the influence from the environment as well as agriculture's impact on the environment.
5. Examine the different levels of economic activities and identify the factors that determine the location of various industries.
6. Compare and contrast the urban morphology of cities throughout history and across continents.
7. Recognize the urban patterns in American cities, illustrating the different economic districts and ethnic areas of the city.
8. Describe the distribution of religions in the world. Compare and contrast the major beliefs and religion's influence on other cultural elements (language, agriculture, and politics).
9. Describe the distribution of languages in the world. Illustrate the source regions of the major languages and routes of diffusion. Analyze the influence of the natural environment on language distribution.
10. Analyze the stability of countries based on environmental and cultural characteristics found within its borders and in neighboring countries.

Classroom Policies & Suggestions to Maximize your Chances for a Good Grade

- Attend every class and be on time.
- Bring your course notebook (with the PowerPoint pictures) to every class.
- Use the website for this course (www.elcamino.edu/faculty/mebiner). Go through the PowerPoint slide shows for a topic before we cover it in class.
- Review your notes after class within 24 hours of class time. If you get to class early, review your notes to remind yourself what we topic we are on.
- Do your work before the last minute. Plan to finish your work at least 24 hours before it is due. Late assignments will result in a lower grade, and the later you turn it in, the larger is the point reduction. Turning in late assignments sometimes causes a student to fall just short of earning their desired grade.
- During class time you should be focused on Geography. Do not chat with classmates. Do not read the newspaper or books for other classes. Do not eat or drink in class, unless it is totally quiet and odorless.
- Turn off your cell phone before class begins. **NO TEXT MESSAGING DURING CLASS!**
- Do not sleep in class. You might feel embarrassed if I have to wake you in front of your classmates.
- Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the work or for the entire course. Plagiarism is using someone else's work and claiming it as your own. That is unfair and unacceptable. Do your own work, and write in your own words. Students are expected to be honest and honorable in this class.

Read the Los Angeles Times or some other Southern California newspaper on a regular basis in search of good articles related to Cultural Geography. You must find articles that illustrate the themes of cultural geography (chapter 1 and listed below). For each article you select, make sure that the article fits the particular theme. Three of the five articles must be set in a foreign country. Good examples of appropriate articles from the L.A. Times are listed below.

Try to select newsfeature articles which discuss a topic or region, not merely the news of the previous day. There is always a newsfeature article in the Los Angeles Times in Column 1 of the front page, so that is a good place to start looking. You can also print your articles from www.latimes.com.

Do not select articles from the Travel Section. Do not use articles that focus on VIOLENCE or NATURAL DISASTERS. Most articles about politics will not be good for the assignment.

Articles must be from September 1, 2009 or later. The article must be at least 900 words if it is from the Internet; articles clipped from the newspaper must be at least half of a letter sheet of paper, not counting headlines or graphics.

Categories of articles (find one article in each of the following 5 categories)

- 1) **Culture Region** (an area with some distinctive cultural characteristic;
Your write-up must specifically state what culture region(s) is/are discussed in the article.
Select an article which shows a region smaller than a country)

Examples: “Reindeer Herders of Russia Hunt for a Future” (changes in a nomadic region)
“Salsa and Chips” (developing high-tech region in Mexico)
“A Stroll Through Little Dhaka “ (Bangladeshi area of Los Angeles)
“U.S. drifting Apart, In So Many Words” (regional dialects in America)
- 2) **Cultural Diffusion** (the spread of some cultural element, including group migration;
Your write-up must specifically state what element of culture is diffusing, and what kind of diffusion it is)

Examples: “Eating Disorders Go Global” (Western influence affects Asian culture)
“Mexico’s City of Promise” (Mexican migrants heading for Tijuana)
“Day of the Dead Observances Move North (Mexican traditions in America)
“China Puts Bowling in a New League” (Bowling’s increasing popularity in China)
- 3) **Cultural Ecology** (interaction of culture and the natural environment;
Your write-up must specifically state that interaction;
Don’t select an article which focuses on a natural disaster)

Examples: “Grubs, Emu Eggs on ‘Bush Tucker’ Menu”
(Australian restaurant with natural foods from the local environment)
“Syrian Tries to Resurrect Language Spoken by Jesus”
(Aramaic language survival in Syria’s rugged environment)
“Harnessing of Volcano is Hot Hawaii Issue” (Volcano worship in Hawaiian religion)
“Wild Gift Raises Uproar in Russia” (poaching endangers the Siberian Tiger)
- 4) **Cultural Interaction** (influence of one cultural element/topic on another, like religion and politics;
Cultural interaction is not referring to an influence of one cultural group on another.
Your write-up must specifically state what cultural element is influencing which other element)

Examples: “The Sound of English Fades in Hong Kong” (political change affects language)
“Rights and Rites Clash in Mine Plan” (Indian religious beliefs vs. mining interests)
“Bedouins Forced to Wander Once More” (Israeli government affects nomad’s lifestyle)
“Judging the Divine Law of Islam” (influence of religion on politics)
- 5) Your 5th article can be from any of the above categories (it can be another article about a culture region, or cultural diffusion,..)

Follow the format below for each summary: number the article and write the title, date, and newspaper name. Also summarize the culture region, diffusion, etc in the article by writing that right below the article title.

- ❖ You will turn in a typed write-up of **at least 200 words** for each of the five articles. The first paragraph of each **write-up must explain how the article illustrates the particular theme**. You should start off by briefly defining the theme in the first sentence, and then in another sentence or two you must summarize how the article shows that. The next paragraph or two should summarize the most interesting and important parts of the article.
- ❖ Write each summary on a separate page.
- ❖ The clipped or printed article should be stapled right after your summary. If it is folded be sure that you only staple one corner of it, to facilitate unfolding and reading.
- ❖ You must also turn in one world map, labeled with each important place or area that was in the articles. Label your map with points and write the names of the places. You can also use arrows. You can use a world map from the back of the notebook, or you can download a blank world map through Ebner's website.
- ❖ Compile everything in this order: Write-up #1, Article #1, Write-up #2, Article #2.....Write-Up #5, Article #5, World Map. Include a cover-page and staple it all together; and do not put it in a binder.

Below you will see the proper format for each write-up, how to identify the article by title, word count. and how the write-up should begin. Remember that there will be one or two additional paragraphs to summarize each article.

Article #1 – Culture Region

“U.S. Drifting Apart, In So Many Words”, L.A. Times, June 25, 1997. Article = 1913 words; Summary = 343 words
Culture Region in article: Linguistic regions of the USA

A culture region is an area with particular cultural characteristics, and this article discusses the changing linguistic regions of the United States. There have always been regional differences in the English spoken throughout the U.S., and this article shows that some dialects are surviving in spite of modern communication systems....

Article #2 – Culture Diffusion

“China Puts Bowling in a New League”, L.A. Times, October 5, 1997. Article = 1013 words; Summary = 267 words
Cultural Diffusion in article: Hierarchical diffusion of bowling from the USA to China

Cultural diffusion refers to the spread of culture, sometimes by relocation, sometimes by expanding to large cities (hierarchical) or from one person to another (contagious). This article illustrates hierarchical diffusion of bowling, a popular American sport, to a few of the largest cities of China....

Article #3 – Cultural Ecology

“Syrian Tries to Resurrect Language Spoken by Jesus”, L.A. Times, 3/29/97. Article = 955 words; Summary = 252 words
Cultural Ecology in article: Mountainous environment preserves the Aramaic language

Cultural ecology studies the interaction between culture and the natural environment, examining how human activities affect the environment, or how the environment affects human activities. This article is a fine example of how the natural environment helps to preserve certain languages, by isolating them from more dominant languages. Aramaic used to be more widely spoken in the Middle East, but now only survives in some villages in the remote mountains of Syria which outsiders could not easily reach...

Article #4 – Cultural Interaction

“The Sound of English Fades in Hong Kong”, L.A. Times, March 9, 1998. Article = 1365 words; Summary = 306 words
Cultural Interaction in article: Politics in China influences the reduced status of the English language in Hong Kong

Cultural interaction looks at how one cultural element/topic influences another. This article looks at how politics is influencing language in Hong Kong, where the return of the British colony to China has made English a less important language. Following the British hand-over of Hong Kong to China in 1997, the usage of English has been intentionally reduced by the new government...

Grading Rationale (8 point possible for each article):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of the article | (4 = excellent; 3 = good; 2 = fair; 1 = poor; 0 = missing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summary | (3 = excellent; 2 = fairly good; 1 = fair; 0 = poor or missing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map labeling | (1 = accurately labeled; 0 = not labeled or inaccurate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late Penalty | -2 points for each weekday it is late |

Article #1 - Location _____

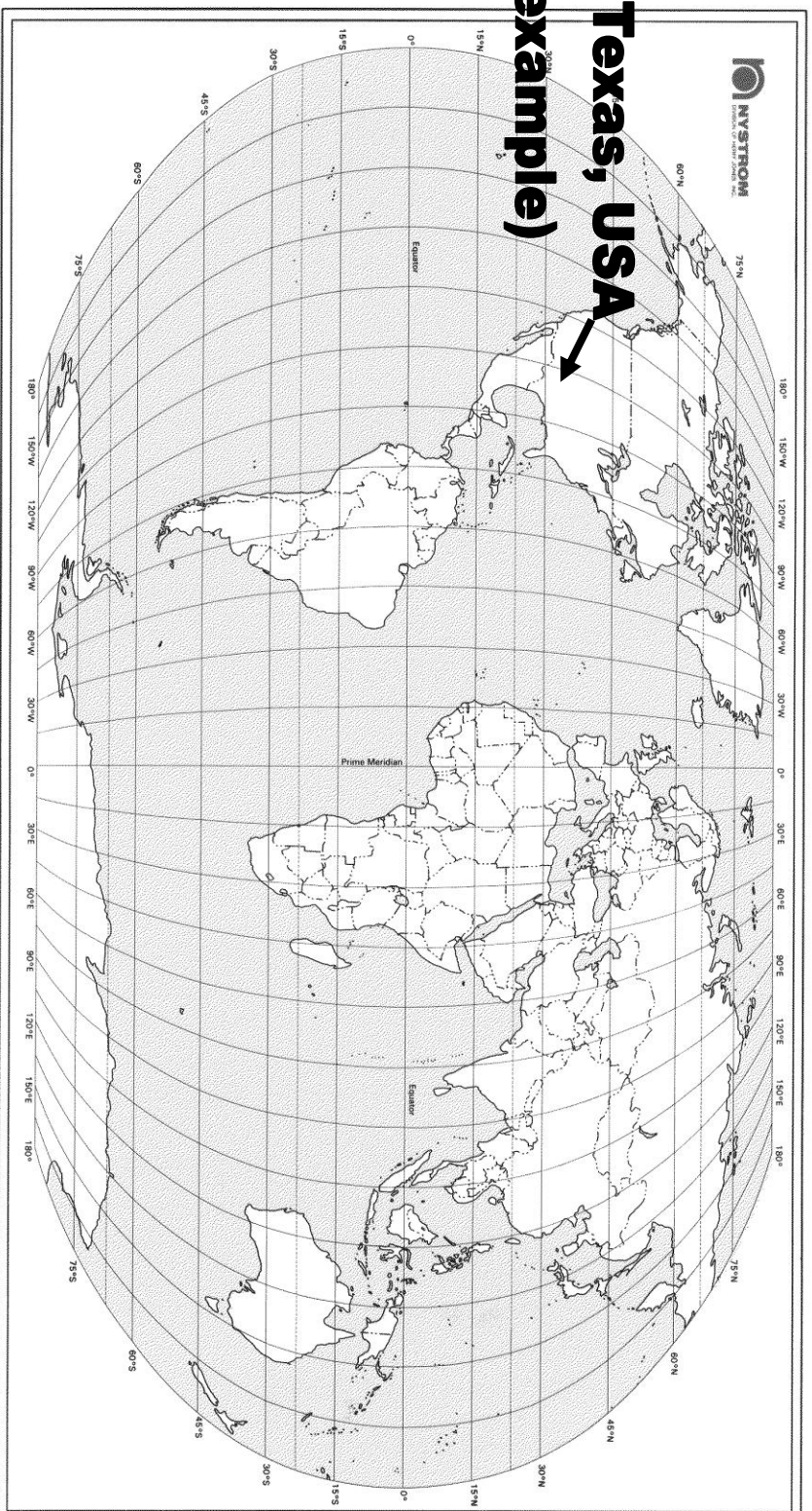
Article #2 - Location _____

Article #3 - Location _____

Article #4 - Location _____

Article #5 - Location _____

#1 - Texas, USA
(example)



On the map label the locations of your 5 articles

With a point or arrow, article number, and name of the location.