

GPHY 121SX Introduction to Human Geography

Fall 2018 (CRN 70343)

Stone Hall 304, MWF 1-1:50pm

Portions of Syllabus adapted from Dr. Christiane von Reichert (Spring 2018)

Instructor

Rebecca Kranitz
Office: Stone Hall 304C
Email: rebecca.kranitz@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 11-12 PM
Wednesday, 9-10 AM

Teaching Assistant

Emma Aschbacher
Office: Stone Hall 207
Email: emma.aschbacher@umontana.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2-3 PM
Thursday, 1-2 PM

Course Objective: Learn to think like a Geographer!

GPHY 121 Introduction to Human Geography sets out to build geographic literacy by exposing you to the richness of Human Geography (GenEd S) and raising global awareness about our diverse and increasingly interconnected world (GenEd X). You will also gain exposure to Geography's broad set of tools and techniques which boost your analytical skills, aiding in decision making and problem solving (from Dr. Christiane von Reichert, Spring 2018).

Recommended Textbook

- Greiner, A. 2014 or 2017. Visualizing Human Geography. 2nd or 3rd ed, Wiley.
- Additional readings posted on Moodle

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes 1 through 5 align with **National Geography Standards**, outcome 6 supports **GenEd Social Science S** learning goals and outcome 7 supports **GenEd Global and Indigenous Perspectives X**. Through this course, you will:

1. Understand the world in spatial terms by:
 - a. using maps and other geographical representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective;
 - b. using mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments;
 - c. analyzing the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface.

2. Understand the significance and meaning of places and regions by:
 - a. describing the “human characteristics” of places;
 - b. describing how “people create regions” to interpret Earth’s complexity;
 - c. describing how culture and experience influence people’s perception of places and regions.
3. Understand the patterns, processes and complexities of human systems by:
 - a. describing the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth’s surface;
 - b. describing the characteristics, distributions, and complexity of Earth’s cultural mosaics;
 - c. describing the historical and contemporary patterns and processes of development, social and economic, that affect people, places, regions, and states;
 - d. describing the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth’s surface;
 - e. describing the process, patterns, and functions of human settlement;
 - f. describing how forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth’s surface.
4. Understand the interactions and interdependencies between humans and their environment by:
 - a. describing how human actions modify the physical environment;
 - b. describing how physical systems affect human systems;
 - c. describing the changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.
5. Put to use the geographic skill set and knowledge base by:
 - a. applying geography to interpret the past;
 - b. applying geography to the interpretation of the present and plan for the future.
6. Meet GenEd Social Science S learning goals by:
 - a. developing knowledge of places, regions, cultural landscapes, languages, states, populations, - all of which are spatial structures that relate to human behavior, organization, social phenomena, and/or relationships; (GenEd S learning goal 1)
 - b. acquiring an understanding and knowledge of geographic theory, both current and from the past, that seeking to explain human organization in the context of space, and relations to the environment; (GenEd S learning goal 2)
 - c. developing the ability to understand, assess and evaluate data to draw conclusions and generalize. (GenEd S learning goal 3)
7. Attain GenEd Cultural and International Diversity X learning goals by:
 - a. Exploring the ways in which culture/ethnic groups define themselves, their attachments to place, and how their political and economic organization in relation to other groups has changed in response to colonialism, state building, neocolonialism, supranationalism, neoliberal political-economic globalization, and the emergent sustainability framework; (GenEd X learning goal 1)
 - b. demonstrating an awareness of diverse human settlement types, at scales from local to global, and on how political and economic forces affect relations of groups to one another and to the larger spatial aggregations; (GenEd X learning goal 2)

- c. analyzing and comparing rights and responsibilities of 21st century citizenship, mainly through the topic of “development” with its social, economic, and environmental dimensions at regional, national, and international scales. (GenEd X learning goal 3).

(From Dr. Christiane von Reichert, Spring 2018).

Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Attendance is optional and counts as extra credit. A sign in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class. If you miss 3 OR LESS classes, you will receive 5 bonus points on your final exam grade. If you miss 3 OR MORE classes, you will not lose any points, but you will not have any other opportunity to get extra credit points. It is up to you to make the decision on if you want to come to class. Excessive absences will result in a lower overall grade as you will miss out on lectures, discussions, and other in-class activities. Late arrival/early departure is not permitted. If you come to class, sign in, and then leave early, your name will be crossed off the sign in sheet.
- **Moodle:** Moodle is an online learning system that gives you access to course materials 24/7. Moodle will be utilized in this course in a variety of ways. The course syllabus and PowerPoint lectures will be posted, and you will submit your homework assignments to a Moodle dropbox. If you have difficulty accessing the course Moodle site, please inform the course instructor immediately.
- **Assignment Submission on Moodle:** All assignments will be completed on a computer and submitted to a Moodle dropbox. Assignments will be posted to Moodle. You will download the assignment file and complete on your own computer. You will then submit your completed assignment to a Moodle dropbox. Dropboxes will open the same day the assignment is given and will **close at 8 PM** on the assignment due date. Moodle assignments **MUST** be submitted as either a **.doc** or **.pdf** file (sometimes an **.xls** excel workbook). You are advised to work on a PC to submit electronic files to Moodle. Files created using the Mac word processor (Pages and Numbers) produces files in an unreadable format. If you work with a Mac computer and have Microsoft Office, there will be no problems. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you are advised to work on school computers in the library and various labs across campus. If you submit an unreadable file, you will not be able to resubmit later. Moodle **dropboxes will always close exactly at 8 PM** on the assignment due date. You are advised to not wait until the last minute to submit your homework. Moodle has been known to freeze and glitch. If the dropbox closes before you submit your assignment, you will not be able to resubmit.
- **Late Assignment and Missed Exams:** No late assignments will be accepted in this class. It is your responsibility to complete your assignments on time and turn them in before the deadline passes. No makeup exams will be given. Exceptions to the late assignment and missed exam policy will be made under the following circumstances: (1) Illness; (2) Death in the family; (3) Inability to make it to class

due to automotive problems or loss of childcare. In order to be granted an exception, you MUST PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION validating your excuse. I expect you to be proactive about communicating with me regarding missed classes, assignments, or exams. This means that you should reach out to me ASAP, preferably before class, to communicate your absence and provide documentation. If you wait until after you miss class or an assignment I may not be willing to work with you.

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones are not permitted. Please refrain from using your phone during class. Computers are not permitted. You may not use computers in this course for any reason, including taking notes. Computers can cause excessive distractions especially if the user is browsing the internet rather than using the computer to take notes. Please plan on using a notebook to take your notes.
- **Course Communication:** I will send out emails to the class regularly. All email correspondence must go through your university email. You can email me to ask questions on course materials, to set up a meeting, or with any other questions or concerns. If you email me from a non-school email account I will not respond. Please work only with your university email account.
- **Grade Drops:** During the semester, there will be four exams, four assignments, four video reviews, and seven journals. At the end of the semester, I will drop one exam, one assignment, one video review, and two journals. Please keep in mind that you are not permitted to make up exams, assignments, or video reviews. Dropping one score from each category is a cushion to help accommodate emergencies and unintended absences. If you choose to skip an exam, assignment, or review, and then have an emergency that causes you to miss a second exam, assignment, or review, there will be no options to make up the missed work. Use your freebies wisely. They are intended to be used during an emergency. If you complete all four assignments, you will have a better chance of getting a higher course grade at the end of the semester.

Exams

Four exams will be given during the semester. Exam dates are posted on the course schedule and are FIRM, meaning they will not change regardless of how long it takes to cover course material. All exams will be multiple choice exams. You must use a Red Scantron to record your exam answers. You must also have a #2 pencil to complete the scantron. Pens will not work. Scantrons will be turned in for grading. You may purchase Red Scantrons at the UM Bookstore. I will not provide extra scantrons on exam day. It is your responsibility to plan ahead and acquire a Red Scantron to bring to the exam. If you do not have a Red Scantron or pencil on exam day, you will not be eligible to take the exam or to make-up the exam.

Assignments

Four assignments will be given during the semester. Assignment dates are listed on the course schedule but are tentative, meaning they may change during the semester. If any changes are made, the course schedule will be updated, verbal announcements will be made multiple times in class, and an email will

be sent out to all students. Assignments are designed to engage students in course content in a more active approach rather than passive lecturing. Students will work with data related to human geography topics and answer associated questions. You will be given exactly one week to complete the assignment after it is assigned. Assignments must be submitted to a Moodle dropbox (see Assignment Submission on Moodle section above).

Video Reviews

Four video reviews will be given during the semester. Video review dates are listed on the course schedule but are tentative, meaning they may change during the semester. If any changes are made, the course schedule will be updated, verbal announcements will be made multiple times in class, and an email will be sent out to all students. Videos will be shown in class, meaning that attendance is required to complete video reviews. Video reviews introduce human geography topics through storytelling and visualization. Video reviews will provide students with new perspectives on a wide variety of topics. Content from video reviews will be covered on exams. On the day of a video review, you will be given a hard copy of the questions that you must answer. You should plan to take notes on this worksheet, however, final video reviews will be submitted to a Moodle dropbox. After class, you will download the same question file from Moodle and type up your answers to submit electronically. In theory, you should be able to complete the video review in class, then simply type it up when you get home.

Journals

You will complete a series of place-based journal entries. These journals are designed to help you develop a sense of place, or how you interpret the physical and social characteristics of a place, thus giving that place meaning. Journal entries will be assigned randomly throughout the semester at the end of class. You must be present in class to complete a journal entry. The journal prompts should not take very long to answer, around 5-10 minutes. Entries can be handwritten or typed, and you must turn in a hard copy at the beginning of class the class-day immediately after journals are assigned. There will be no right or wrong answer to journal entries, rather, you will be asked to reflect on a concept and apply it to your daily life. Each journal activity will be worth 2 points, and answers should be well-developed and provide supporting evidence. At the end of the semester, the two lowest journal entry grades will be dropped, meaning that only 5 journal entries will count towards your grade. It is my hope that these journals will help you develop the skills reflect on Missoula and other places around the world and become a well-rounded geographer.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is taken very seriously, and the course instructor will not hesitate to investigate and discipline any student suspected of violating the following criteria:

- Plagiarism of any kind (copying from a publication or from fellow classmates)
- Copying material from another student or from the internet during an exam
- Signing another student's name on the sign in sheet
- Disclosing exam content during or after you have taken the exam
- Removing exam material from the classroom or instructor's office
- Using electronics during examinations
- Causing repeated disruptions during class lectures

If a student is caught violating these criteria, the department chair and dean will be notified to determine proper disciplinary action. You can review the student conduct code using this link:

(<https://www.umt.edu/vpesa/documents/Student%20Conduct%20Code%20PDF-%20FINAL%208-27-13.pdf>).

Disability Modifications

Every student enrolled in this course will have an equal opportunity to succeed. If you believe you have a disability that will hinder your performance in this class, please contact Disability Services to create a plan that ensures proper accommodation of your needs. *All documentation from Disability Services must be provided to the course instructor.*

Some students may wish to request time-and-a-half (75 minutes) to take exams with Disability Services. If you are a student that will make use of this accommodation, you must set this up BEFORE the exam is administered. This means that you cannot show up on exam day without prior confirmation from the course instructor and Disability Services that you requested extra time. When taking an exam with Disability Services, you must take the exam on the same day it was administered in class.

Disability Services can be accessed at any point during the semester.

Disability Services for Students

Lommasson Center 154

Phone: (406) 243-2243

Moodle

Moodle is an online learning system that gives you access to course materials at all times. Moodle will be utilized in this course in a variety of ways. The course syllabus and PowerPoint lectures will be posted, and you will submit your homework assignments to a Moodle dropbox. If you have difficulty accessing the course Moodle site, please inform the course instructor immediately.

There are strict requirements that must be followed to properly submit your homework to a Moodle dropbox. The only acceptable file formats are **.doc** and **.pdf** only. Files created using the Mac word processor, Pages, produce files in an unreadable format. If you work with a Mac computer and do not have Microsoft Office, you are advised to save and submit homework assignments using a computer on campus. If you submit an unreadable file, you will not be able to resubmit at a later date.

Moodle dropboxes will close exactly at 8 PM on the assignment due date. You are advised to not wait until the last minute to submit your homework. Moodle has been known to freeze and

glitch. If the dropbox closes before you submit your assignment, you will not be able to resubmit.

Final Grade Components

Exams (4, 1 dropped)	40%
Assignments (4, 1 dropped)	30%
Video Reviews (4, 1 dropped)	20%
Journals (7, 2 dropped)	10%

Grade Breakdown

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93.3-100%	90-93.2%	86.7-89.9%	83.3-86.6%	80-83.2%	76.7-79.9%	73.3-76.6%	70-73.2%	66.7-69.9%	63.3-66.6%	60-63.2%	<60%

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned	DUE
1	8/27/2018	Introduction		
	8/29/2018	What is Human Geography?	Ch 1	
	8/31/2018	Maps and Mapping	Ch 1	
2	9/3/2018	NO CLASSES - LABOR DAY		
	9/5/2018	Globalization & Cultural Geog.	Ch 2	
	9/7/2018	Globalization & Cultural Geog.	Ch 2	
3	9/10/2018	Population & Migration	Ch 3, Assignment #1	
	9/12/2018	Population & Migration	Ch 3	
	9/14/2018	Population & Migration	Ch 3	
4	9/17/2018	Population & Migration	Ch 3	Assignment #1 (8 PM on Moodle)
	9/19/2018	Population & Migration	Ch 3	
	9/21/2018	Exam #1		
5	9/24/2018	Careers in Geography	www.aag.org/cs/careers	
	9/26/2018	Development	Ch 11, Assignemnt #2	
	9/28/2018	Development	Ch 11	
6	10/1/2018	Development	Ch 11	
	10/3/2018	Development	Ch 11	Assignment #2 (8 PM on Moodle)

	10/5/2018	Urban Geographies	Ch 8, Video Review #1	
7	10/8/2018	Urban Geographies	Ch 8, Assingment #3	
	10/10/2018	Urban Geographies	Ch 8	
	10/12/2018	Urban Geographies	Ch 8,	Video Review #1 (8 PM on Moodle)
	10/15/2018	<i>Exam #2</i>		Assignemnt #3 (8 PM on Moodle)
8	10/17/2018	Industry & Services	Ch 10	
	10/19/2018	Industry & Services	Ch 10, Video Review #2	
	10/22/2018	Industry & Services	Ch 10	
9	10/24/2018	Industry & Services	Ch 10	
	10/26/2018	Agriculture & Resources	Ch 9	Video Review #2 (8 PM on Moodle)
	10/29/2018	Agriculture & Resources	Ch 9	
10	10/31/2018	Agriculture & Resources	Ch 9	
	11/2/2018	Agriculture & Resources	Ch 9, Video Review #3	
	11/5/2018	Political Geography	Ch 7	
11	11/7/2018	Geographies of Identity	Ch 6; US Bureau of the Census (www.census.gov)	
	11/9/2018	<i>Exam #3</i>		Video Review #3 (8 PM on Moodle)
	11/12/2018	NO CLASSES - VETERAN'S DAY		
12	11/14/2018	Language	Ch 4, Video Review #4	
	11/16/2018	Language	Ch 4	
	11/19/2018	Language	Ch 4	
13	11/21/2018	NO CLASSES - THANKSGIVING		
	11/23/2018	NO CLASSES - THANKSGIVING		
	11/26/2018	Religion	Ch 5	Video Review #4 (8 PM on Moodle)
14	11/28/2018	Religion	Ch 5	
	11/30/2018	Religion	Ch 5	
	12/3/2018	Environmental Challenge	Ch 12	
15	12/5/2018	Environmental Challenge	Ch 12	
	12/7/2018	Environmental Challenge	Ch 12	
	12/12/2018	Final Exam - 1:10-3:10 PM, Stone Hall 304		