

GEOGRAPHY 1 302

Places and Spaces of Human Activity



Week 1: Course Overview
Dr. Sonia Wesche – Sept 7, 2012

Outline

- ▶ What is Human Geography?
- ▶ Who's who?
- ▶ Syllabus

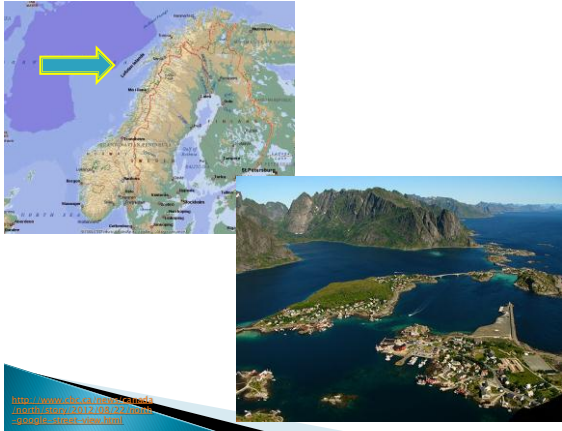
What is Human Geography?

- ▶ Are you **fascinated** with places? Peoples?



culture.co.in





Fascination ≠ Understanding



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Not just about maps and capitals...



... but also (and mostly) about ...

People & Places



Human Geography: Definition

- ▶ Spatial analysis of human populations, their cultures, their activities and behaviours, and their relationship with and impact on the physical landscapes that they occupy.

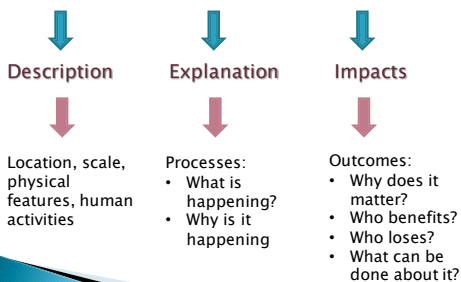
• Fellmann et al, 2009: Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities (2nd ed.)



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Practical Definition

What is where, why there, and why care? (Gritzner 2002)



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Description



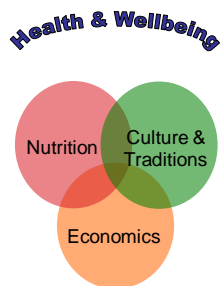
<http://maps.google.com/maps?l=67.569634,-139.828786z=14&t=h&hl=en>

Explanation



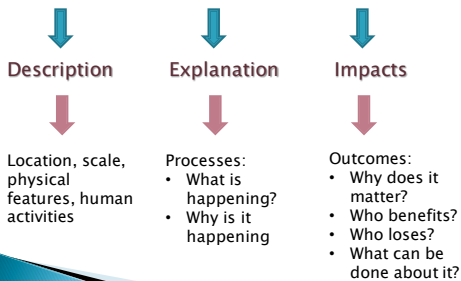
Impacts

- ▶ Affects human health
- ▶ Challenge to maintain culture and traditions
- ▶ What can we do about it?
- ▶ Adaptation strategies



Practical Definition

What is where, why there, and why care? (Gritzner 2002)



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Who's Who?



Me

- ▶ BA (UOttawa)
 - Environmental Studies, Geography
- ▶ MSc (Imperial College - U.K.)
 - Environmental Management
- ▶ PhD (Wilfrid Laurier - Waterloo):
 - adaptation to environmental change, Fort Resolution, NWT
- ▶ Post-doc (University of Northern BC – Prince George)
 - Aboriginal food security, Yukon
- ▶ National Aboriginal Health Organization (2009-2011)

<http://www.geography.uottawa.ca/prof/wesche.htm>

Course Syllabus

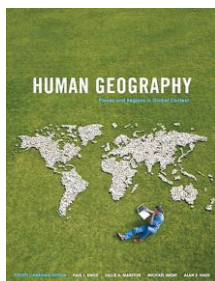
- ▶ Pedagogy
- ▶ Course nuts and bolts





Required text

- ▶ Knox, Paul L., Marston, Sallie A., Imort, Michael, and Nash, Allan E. (2013). *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context*. (4th Canadian ed.). Don Mills, Canada: Pearson Canada.



Available at Benjamin Books beside Father & Sons restaurant (Osgoode St. east of King Edward)



Expectations of participants

- ▶ Students will have completed assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss
- ▶ Lectures complement readings; lectures do not replace readings



Lecture format, content, style

- ▶ Mixture of discussion, traditional lecture, guest presenters, other formats
- ▶ Active learning/practical assignments



Assessment

Categories	Due date	Total (%)
Assignment 1: Mental maps	September 28 (hard copy in class or before 4:30pm in 07 Simard)	10
Mid-term test	October 16 (in class)	25
Assignment 2: Food systems	November 23 (pdf format via email before midnight)	25
Final examination	TBD: December 7-20 Exam period	40

- ▶ Exam questions: drawn from lecture materials & textbook
- ▶ See notes under 'Handing in Assignments' on syllabus for details



Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Sept 7	Overview of course and outline	
2	Sept 11	Why does geography matter, anyway?	Ch 1
	Sept 14	Foundational concepts	
3	Sept 18	Maps and mapping	Ch 1
	Sept 21	The changing global context	Ch 2
4	Sept 25	(ctd.)	Ch 2
	Sept 28	Population	Ch 3
			• <i>Mental Maps Assignment due Sept. 28</i>
5	Oct 2	(ctd.)	Ch 3
	Oct 5	Nature, society & technology	Ch 4
6	Oct 9	The geography of economic development	Ch 7
	Oct 12	Mid-term review	
7	Oct 16	<i>Mid-term exam (Oct 16)</i>	None
	Oct 19	Film and discussion	
8	Oct 22-26	NO CLASSES / STUDY BREAK	

Course Schedule

9	Oct 30 Nov 2	Cultures and Landscapes	Ch 5
10	Nov 6 Nov 9	Agriculture and Food Production	Ch 8
11	Nov 13 Nov 16	Settlement patterns & urbanization	Ch 10
12	Nov 20 Nov 23	Special Topics in Human Geography • <i>Food Miles Assignment due Nov. 23</i>	TBD
13	Nov 27 Nov 30	Special Topics in Human Geography Changing Human Geographies	TBD Ch 12
14	Dec 4	Wrap-up, question period and review	
Dec 7-20		<i>Final Exam during University Exam Period</i>	

Please read the syllabus!

Virtual Campus

- ▶ Lecture slides will be posted
- ▶ Updates to course schedule
- ▶ Instructions for assignments
- ▶ Discussion board to ask questions
- ▶ Consult it regularly



Communications

- ▶ General questions about course, missed lectures, clarification, etc.: post to Virtual Campus
- ▶ Questions requiring personal consultation, advice on studying, preparing research, etc.: consult a TA via course email: geg1302@uottawa.ca
- ▶ Unresolved issues, personal matters of sensitive nature: contact instructor

E-mail that will receive no response

From: Totally_def_17@hotmail.com

Subject:

Hey

I just got back my test and my mark is like totally unacceptable and I am very unhapy and I want something done about it :(
Dave

E-mail that will receive a response

From: Dave@uottawa.ca

Subject: GEG1302 midterm exam -- request for appointment

Hello,

My name is Dave X and I am in your GEG1302 class. I just got back my midterm exam and I was hoping my grade would be better. I checked the rubric, and I am not sure what was meant by the phrase "explain the discrepancies" in question 4. Can I come show you my paper? I have a class that conflicts with your office hours. Is it possible to see you on Friday morning? I have no classes then. Also, I would like to ask you for advice on how to improve my score on the final exam.

Thanks, Dave.

Classroom Etiquette



- ▶ Turn off phones, gadgets, etc.
- ▶ Use e-mail in a professional fashion
- ▶ Treat others with the same respect you expect from them
- ▶ Laptops: OK for course-related work; no gaming, facebook, e-mail, etc.
- ▶ Disturb other participants and you will be asked to leave, no warnings
