



**Douglas  
College**

**EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2003**  
**CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

A:

**M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Collect, display and analyze geographical data using a variety of techniques.
2. Explain the spatial distribution of human phenomena (language, economic activities, religion, etc.).
3. Analyze the origin and diffusion of culture traits such as language and religion.
4. Examine and explain the characteristics of cultural landscapes.
5. Analyze the complex relationships between people and their environments.
6. Understand interactions between different aspects of culture.
7. Describe and explain similarities and differences among the peoples and places of the world.

**N: Course Content**

1. Introduction
  - a) The nature of human geography
  - b) Cultural variation and convergence
2. Who We Are – People and Culture
  - a) Population
    - demography
    - growth
    - models of population change
    - population-resource interactions
    - settlement patterns
  - b) The geography of language
    - language families
    - linguistic change
  - c) Patterns of religion
    - proselytizing and ethnic religions
    - origins and diffusions of major world religions
    - religion in the landscape
  - d) Political patterns
    - electoral geography
    - the nation state
    - the place of cultural minorities within the nation state
3. What We Do – Patterns of Subsistence
  - a) The geography of agriculture
    - agricultural regions
    - theories of agricultural origins and dispersals
    - modern commercial agriculture and sustainability
    - agricultural location theory
  - b) Industrialization
    - classification of economic activity
    - the Industrial Revolution
    - economic development - cores and peripheries
    - de-industrialization and the new international division of labour
    - impacts of globalization
4. Where We Live – Urbanization and Cities
  - a) Urbanization
    - definitions of urban
    - origin and diffusion of the city
    - the evolution of urban landscapes
    - the rank-size rule and primacy
    - cities in the developing world

**Course Content Cont'd.**

- b) Industrial and post-industrial cities
  - internal structure – urban regions
  - land use and land values
  - models of urban structure
  - ethnic and other minorities in cities
  - perception of the city
  - emerging urban landscapes
- 5. Conclusion
  - a) Human geography in a globalizing world

**O: Methods of Instruction**

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

- lectures
- small group discussions
- visual presentations – slides and videos
- individual and team projects and/or presentations
- field assignments
- practical in-class exercises

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students**

Texts will be updated periodically. Typical examples are:

Jordan-Bychkov T. G. and M. Domosh. (2002). *The Human Mosaic. A thematic Introduction to Cultural Geography*. (9<sup>th</sup> ed.) New York: Longman.

Knox, P. L. and S. A. Marsden. (2001). *Human Geography. Places and Regions in a Global Context*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

**Q: Means of Assessment**

Evaluation will be based on course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific criteria during the first week of classes.

An example of a possible evaluation scheme would be:

Lab Assignments	15%
Field Assignments	15%
Tests	40%
Term Project	20%
Participation	10%

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

Students may take a challenge exam to apply for recognition of prior learning

Course Designer(s): Ian Joyce

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Rep: Ian Joyce