Introduction to Geography  
GEH101, GEH501, Section XT 81  
Lehman College, CUNY  
Fall 2010

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Class hours: Tuesday 6:00 – 8:40 PM

Office hours: Monday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM or by appointment or chance

Location: Gillet Hall, Room 311

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Course Description and Objectives:  
This course will introduce you to the basic concepts of geography. We will cover topics in the broad fields of geography, such as maps, landforms, weather and climate, natural resources, population, culture, as well as political, economic, and urban geography. A more general goal of this class is to contribute to your overall “liberal arts” education. Such an education gives you a broad background in the ideas and events that have in some way shaped our modern lives (for better or for worse). It increases your awareness of the diversity and complexity of human life and thought, it “expands your mind”. For this reason, while a liberal arts education does not usually teach you how to do a particular sort of job, it does develop skills that are increasingly necessary in any job. These include the ability to quickly understand complicated readings on unfamiliar subjects, to express your thoughts clearly and persuasively, and to reason critically, creatively, and independently.

Student Requirements:  
Your successful performance in this course depends on the following points:  
A) Regular attendance of the lectures  
B) Presentation of one subject in front of the class  
C) Timely completion of the reading and writing assignments  
D) Timely completion of the term paper  
E) Active and well prepared participation at classroom discussions  
F) Participation at the exams
A) Attendance Policy:
Discussions are an important part of the course and essential for the understanding and contemplation of the material. This is one of the reasons why it is essential that you will participate at the lectures. In addition to this I will do my best to make the course interesting and enjoyable for you. You will get 15 points (out of the 100) for your regular attendance and participation in the discussion. You can miss one lecture without providing any reason and without any consequences on the points. You can miss one other class without consequences on the points if you provide a valid reason for your absence by e-mail no later than 2 days after the missed class. Not providing a valid reason for more than one missed class or missing more than two classes altogether will lead to subtraction of five points per missed class.

B) Presentations:
You will present one of the subjects which are listed in the “Course Outline” below including relevant background information such as developments, reasons, conflicts, implications, opportunities and threats, outlook, and your own evaluation. Direct reading of a prepared statement will not be appropriate. The talk should be supported by an appealing visualization of the contents by PowerPoint. The time-frame for the presentation is 10 to 15 minutes. The outline of the presentation must be discussed with the instructor before the presentation is due. The grading criteria for your performance will be the timing (minus one point for each minute beyond the time-frame), the content (that is the quality of the research or the provided information), the quality of the media, and the quality of your presentation.

C) Assignments:
a) Reading assignments: To gain an understanding of the various issues and for the successful completion of the course you will be required to read the appropriate chapters in the book.
b) Writing assignments: The writing assignments must be handed in on one to two computer-typed pages. Late assignments will not be accepted and the lowest score will be dropped.
c) Term paper: You will write an essay (computer-typed, Arial 10 point, 1-inch margin, 1.5 line-spaced, 3 – 4 pages) which elaborates on the subject of your presentation including all relevant references. The quality of the provided information and the cognizable research effort will be criteria for the grading of the essay. Incorrect spelling or grammar and an inadequate style will result in point deductions. Literature cited must have the appropriate number (minimum of 4), appropriate type (not only Wikipedia and similar), and proper format (see below for examples).

Example of proper format for references IN TEXT:
- Book or Journal Article: The wild boar has caused extensive damage to the wildlife reserve (Smith, 1993).

Examples of proper APA (American Psychological Association) format for LITERATURE CITED:
Grades:
Your final grade is based on the following components:
• Lecture Exams: 40% of the total course grade
• Presentation: 10% of the total course grade
•Term paper: 20% of the total course grade
• Attendance: 15% of the total course grade
• Writing assignments: 15% of the total course grade

Excellence in performance and effort is expected. Mediocrity is not rewarded.
The total course grade will be assigned according to the following system:

A > 95       A- > 91.5       B+ > 88       B > 84.5       B- > 81       C+ > 77.5
C > 74       C- > 70.5       D+ > 67       D > 63.5       D- > 60       F < 60

Academic Integrity
Lehman College is committed to a standard of academic integrity for all students. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors." Students are subject to disciplinary action for academic misconduct. Please refer to the College Policies and Procedures regarding Academic Integrity in the Lehman Undergraduate College Bulletin and the Lehman Graduate College Bulletin for detailed information.
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<th>Subject/Activity</th>
<th>Assignment due</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
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<td>08-31</td>
<td>Introduction - Chapter 1</td>
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<td>09-07</td>
<td>Maps – Chapter 2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>09-14</td>
<td>No class!! ! Classes follow Friday schedule</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>09-21</td>
<td>Physical Geography: Landforms – Chapter 3</td>
<td>(1) Geology and evolution of landforms in a region of your choice</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>09-28</td>
<td>Physical Geography: Weather and Climate– Chapter 4</td>
<td>(1) Explain plate tectonics</td>
<td>(2) Impacts of climate change in a region of your choice</td>
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<td>10-05</td>
<td>Geography of Natural Resources – Chapter 5</td>
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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Population Geography – Chapter 6</td>
<td>(2) Explain El Niño</td>
<td>(4) Population growth in a region of your choice</td>
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<td>10-19</td>
<td>Cultural Geography– Chapter 7</td>
<td>(3) Explain the demographic transition</td>
<td>(5) The cultural landscape in a region of your choice</td>
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<td>11-02</td>
<td>Spatial Interaction– Chapter 8</td>
<td>Term paper (first draft)</td>
<td>(6) Political conflicts in a region of your choice</td>
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<td>11-09</td>
<td>Political Geography– Chapter 9</td>
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<td>(7) Economic development in a region of your choice</td>
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<td>11-16</td>
<td>Economic Geography – Chapter 10</td>
<td>(4) Explain cultural diversity in the U.S.</td>
<td>(8) Development of the urban landscape in a city of your choice</td>
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<td>An Urban World – Chapter 11</td>
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<td>(9) Environmental issues in a region of your choice</td>
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<td>Human Impact on the Environment – Chapter 12</td>
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<td>The Regional Concept– Chapter 13</td>
<td>Term paper (final version)</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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