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501 West College Dr**ive** Brainerd, MN 5640



Aitkin High School

306 2nd St. N.W.

Aitkin, MN 56431

**GEOG 1459/ Course Syllabus  
Cultural Geography**

**Instructor: Dustin Richters Email: drichters@isd1.org**

**Office: Room 302 Office Phone: (218) 297-2115 ext. 3302**

**Office Hours: 7:30 – 8:20 MTWTHF**

**Course Information**

Course Title: **Cultural Geography**

Credits: 3

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Term: Spring Semester 2016

Sections:1st period and 5th period

**Prerequisites**

None

**Course Description**

This course examines cultural phenomena as they relate to the world’s peoples and places. Cultural Geography studies world population and immigration, folk and popular cultures, the world’s great religions, agriculture, political space, economic development and urban and industrial patterns. Connecting these phenomena to the landscapes they create is one of the key features of cultural geography.

**Course Purpose  
MN Transfer Curriculum (General Education) Courses - This course fulfills the following goal area(s) of the MN Transfer Curriculum:** Goal 5 – History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences| Goal 8 – Global Perspective

**Course-Specific Learning Outcomes**

**1. 2. Course Specific Outcomes - Students will be able to achieve the following measurable goals upon completion of the course:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Expected Outcome* | *MnTC Goal Area* |
| Analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface. | 5 |
| Analyze the ways in which culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions. | 5 |
| Analyze the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface. | 8 |
| Analyze the characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics. | 8 |
| Analyze the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface. | 8 |
| Analyze the ways in which the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface. | 8 |
| Examine how human actions modify the physical environment. | 5 |
| Understand how to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future. | 5 |
| From National Geography Standards NCGE.org |  |

**College-Wide Learning Outcomes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **College-Wide Outcomes/Competencies** | **Students will be able to:** |
| Demonstrate written communication skills | Answer essay questions related to course content. Write a research paper on a topic related to the course. |
| Discuss/compare characteristics of diverse cultures and environments | Answer multiple choice questions regarding diverse cultures and environments; write essay answers and/or course papers that address questions regarding diverse cultures/environments |

**Topical Outline**

**1. Lecture Sessions**

1. Introduction to Cultural Geography:
   * space
   * place
   * landscape
   * cultural regions
   * hearths
   * diffusion
   * cultural ecology
   * globalization
2. World Systems Theory:
   * colonialism
   * imperialism
   * development and underdevelopment
3. Population and Migration
   * distribution; relation to natural environment
   * demographic data
   * population movements
   * history of, reasons for and problems related to migration
4. Folk and Popular cultures
   * location and spatial connections
   * development of regions
   * characteristics and influences
   * landscapes
   * place and placelessness
5. World Religions
   * introduction to concepts in religion
   * student led presentations of the world’s major religions centered on the themes of cultural geography listed in introduction:
     + region
     + diffusion
     + cultural ecology
     + globalization
     + landscape
6. Political Geography
   * states and their shapes
   * growth over time
   * political divisions
   * voting patterns
   * ethnicities
   * separatism or unity
7. Agriculture
   * connections with environment,
   * lifestyle,
   * different types of products and where and how produced;
   * small farms vs. industrial agriculture
   * sustainability
8. Economic development
   * measures of development
   * economic sectors
   * change over time
   * modes of production
   * manufacturing and distribution
   * outsourcing, competitiveness
   * resource use and depletion
   * overconsumption and happiness
9. Urbanization and industrial location
   * Urban vs. rural
   * growth of cities
   * urban functions
   * world cities
   * locational decision-making
   * neighborhoods
   * urban functions
   * cities of the future

**Required/Recommended Textbooks, Materials/Supplies**

Textbook: *The Human Mosaic*: *A Cultural Approach to Human Geography* W.H. Freeman and Company: 12th Edition: Domosh-Neumann-Price-Jordan-Bychkov ISBN #: 978-1-4292-4018-5

Materials: You are expected to bring a notebook, working pencil, and the textbook to class daily. Failure to do so may affect your final grade.

**Grading Criteria/Course Evaluation**

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways throughout the course. There will be a variety of tests and quizzes over the textbook and classroom materials. There will also be a variety of other assignments including essays, group projects, study guides, and individual projects that will be required throughout the course.

**In order to get credit for the course students will need to pass with a C average. A grade of F will become part of your permanent academic record. Grade scales are as follows:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Final Grades are calculated by total number of points. | |
| Average Score | Letter Equivalent |
| 94 and above | A |
| 90 to 93.99 | A- |
| 87 to 89.99 | B+ |
| 84 to 86.99 | B |
| 80 to 83.99 | B- |
| 77 to 79.99 | C+ |
| 74 to 76.99 | C |
| 70 to 73.99 | C- |
| 67 to 69.99 | D+ |
| 64 to 66.99 | D |
| 60 to 63.99 | D- |
| 0 to 59.99 | F |

**Late/Missed Assignments and Exams:**

Late work is accepted, but only at 50% of its original value, unless pre-approved by the instructor. Missed work will need to be made up within the time allotted by Aitkin School District’s absence policy.

**Student Requirements**

Students are expected to attend class at all scheduled meetings. It is very important that students attend class in order to keep up with the schedule and course materials. If you must miss a class it is ***YOUR*** responsibility to ensure that you find out what needs to be made up. Excessive absences may result in a failing grade for the course.

Classroom behavior: Failure to follow classroom expectations on behavior may result in removal from the course and a failing grade.

**Statement of Accommodation - ADA**

As an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator, Central Lakes College is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity and works to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Accommodations are provided on an individualized, as-needed basis, determined through appropriate documentation of need. The accommodations authorized in your plan should be discussed with your instructor. All discussions will remain confidential.

For details specific to CLC, please contact Andria Belisle, Disability Coordinator, [abelisle@clcmn.edu](mailto:abelisle@clcmn.edu" \t "_blank) or   
218-855-8175, office E138.

**Affirmative Action Statement**

Central Lakes College is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in programs, services, and activities with regard to race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, or sexual orientation.

**Emergency Procedures**  
Emergency information and procedures can be found in each classroom. Please take time to review these procedures.

**Academic Integrity**Academic integrity is one of the most important values in higher education. This principle requires thateach student's work represents his or her own personal efforts and that the student acknowledges theintellectual contributions of others. The foundation for this principle is student academic honesty.

Central Lakes College expects all students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and acts of dishonesty will not be tolerated. See the student handbook for more detailed information.

* **Professional** **Conduct and Communication are expected.**

Formal and professional conduct is expected of you at all times in lecture, lab and on campus. Your practice of study, communication, politic, inter-personal and group interaction skills, generally accepted and expected of a medical-professional, begins and / or continuously improves in this class. Pro-actively shared, cooperative assistance is highly valued in the professional setting because it is a critical factor in providing quality health care and quality science. Because unprofessional, disruptive, and / or rude behavior demonstrated by you is harmful to the quality of health care in the professional setting to which you aspire, its demonstration in this educational setting toward anyone, including me, is unacceptable and will result in your immediate discharge from the classroom / lab. Your grade and your continued membership in the course will be negatively affected based upon the severity of the offense.

* **Cheating / Plagiarism** - *Cheating / Plagiarism are not tolerated in any form.*

**Cheating defined:**

* Copying, in part or in whole, from another’s test or other evaluation instrument or obtaining answers from another person during the test.
* Submitting work previously presented in another course, if contrary to the rules of either course.
* Using or consulting, sources or materials not authorized by the instructor during an examination
* Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions
* Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate
* Any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work, which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above
* Talking or consulting during the test with another person
* Giving / providing in any way, information to other students that allows the student an undeserved advantage on an exam or quiz, such as telling a peer what to expect on a make-up exam or prepping a student for a test in another section of the same class.
* **Plagiarism defined**:
* The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another’s work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one’s own work
* Representing another’s artistic/scholarly or similar works as one’s own
* Plagiarism may either be deliberate or unintentional, but it must be avoided with all due diligence
* **Consequences of academic dishonesty**, un-acceptable behavior**:**

Upon the first infraction of academic dishonesty, the instructor may do one or more of the following:

* Give a lower or failing grade on the assignment or exam
* Give a lower or Fail grade in the course
* Refer the student to the Vice President of Student Services for student disciplinary action.

Please read the following statement and acknowledge that you have reviewed the syllabus. Also, have a parent or guardian review the syllabus and sign as well. Turn in this page of the syllabus to Mr. Richters no later than the following Monday. Consider this your first assignment for the course.

*I have reviewed the preceding syllabus for College Cultural Geography and understand what is to be expected from the student during the duration of this course.*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_