South Central College

GEOG 103 Introduction to Cultural Geography

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description
This course is an introduction to cultural geography through the study of global patterns of many aspects of human culture, including population, migration, folk and popular culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, development, agriculture, industry, services, urban patterns, and resource issues. Students will examine all of these and several other issues during the semester. Students will stress the variation in the cultural landscape and critically analyze several current problems facing modern society, such as overpopulation and differences between societies. Cultural geography is focused on those things that are human-created. Therefore, the basic theme addressed throughout the course will be to discover where and why human activities are located where they are found. Students will participate in the discussions and will exchange ideas that will help them to better understand the diversity of the cultural landscape and the similarities and differences between different social groups. (MNTC 5 & 8y; Pre-requisite: Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Score of 78 or above or completion of READ 0090)

Total Credits 3
Total Hours 48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits/Hours
Lecture

Pre/Corequisites

Accuplacer Reading Comprehension Score of 78 or above or completion of READ 0090

Institutional Core Competencies

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

Cultural Competence - Students will be able to demonstrate an attitude of personal curiosity, a rising knowledge of cultures, and an evolving range of skills for living and working among others with other worldviews and ways of life.

Course Competencies
1. Demonstrate the elements of population growth and why population is changing at different rates in different countries

   Learning Objectives
   - Be aware of arithmetic, physiological, and agricultural population density measures
   - Summarize the three population change indicators: Natural Increase Rate, Crude Birth Rate, and Crude Death Rate
   - Discuss the four stages of demographic transition
   - Explain the importance of Thomas Malthus’s theory of population growth

2. Explain why people migrate, where migrants are distributed, and why people migrate within their own country

   Learning Objectives
   - Determine common Push and Pull factors for migration
   - Discuss the primary international migration patterns
   - Explain the differences between interregional and intraregional migration

3. Define folk and popular culture, where do folk and popular culture originate, and how they become diffuse

   Learning Objectives
   - Describe the characteristics of folk culture
   - Illustrate how popular culture originates

4. Distinguish between language and dialects and explain the difficulties of multilingual states

   Learning Objectives
   - Be aware of the primary language families and where they are located in the world
   - Describe regional dialect variations
   - Give examples of states with a diversity of languages and discuss how they cope

5. Define religion and describe where religions are distributed

   Learning Objectives
   - Characterize the key factors of the two types of religions: ethnic and universalizing
   - Discuss the distinctive regional distribution of the main religions of the world

6. Describe ethnicity and understand why ethnicities clash

   Learning Objectives
   - State why race differs from ethnicity
   - Explain the concepts of nation-states and multinational states

7. Demonstrate the concept of political geography and explain the different structures of states

   Learning Objectives
   - Define sovereignty and provide examples of sovereign and non-sovereign states
   - Discuss the impact of colonialism and the development of states
   - Identify and give examples of physical and cultural boundaries

8. Explain how human development is measured and know the impacts of world trade on development

   Learning Objectives
   - Explain the factors used to create the Human Development Index
   - Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of world trade, to include the concept of fair trade

9. Know the types of agriculture and how agriculture is distributed

   Learning Objectives
   - Distinguish between subsistence and commercial agriculture and be familiar with the regions where they exist
   - Be aware of sustainable agriculture practices

10. Explain the situational factors in locating industries
Learning Objectives
Explain the origins of the industrial revolution
Define how bulk-reducing and bulk-gaining industries are located based on inputs and markets

11. Demonstrate the differences between business services and consumer services and explain Central Place Theory
Learning Objectives
Exhibit knowledge of consumer, business, and public services
State how market area, range, and threshold are used in Central Place Theory to explain how services are distributed

12. Identify the patterns of urban areas compare and contrast urban transportation systems
Learning Objectives
Define the metropolitan statistical area and the Central Business District
Classify the three social area models: concentric zone, sector, and multiple nuclei
Compare and contrast public transportation with private motor vehicles

13. Comprehend the concept of sustainability and state the environmental challenges facing the world
Learning Objectives
Discuss the consequences of using nonrenewable energy resources
Provide global and regional examples of air, water, and land pollution
Explain the differences between sustainability, conservation, and preservation.
Be aware of the current renewable energy sources, such as biomass, wind, solar, and nuclear.

SCC Accessibility Statement
South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: www.southcentral.edu/disability

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