

Syllabus: GEO 100E

Introduction to Cultural Geography
Department of Geography | College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Joshua Hagen

See the Marshall University Academic Calendar for course start and end dates, as well as deadlines for the last day to drop courses and last day to completely withdraw from the university.

Office

Office Hours:

You can email me with the VISTA *Mail Tool*, request a *CHAT* session, or use the *Whos Online* tool. Should you ever find yourself on campus during the semester, you can also look me up in person. My office is in Harris Hall 207.

About me:

I earned my Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, although I am not originally from there. It is actually difficult to say where I am from since I was born in Minnesota and have lived in California, Iowa, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Michigan, Germany, and most recently West Virginia. I have diverse research interests in human geography, but much of it currently focuses on political and cultural issues in 19th and 20th century Germany.

Course Materials and Cost

Paul Knox and Sallie Marston, *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography* (approximate cost new: \$100). Previous students have also found the book at reduced prices through ebay, amazon.com, or specialized textbook websites.

A Additional readings will be available on-line.

The books can be ordered online at [The Marshall University Bookstore](#) or at any other book seller of your choice.

Technical Requirements

- For minimum hardware/software requirements please see: <http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/support/hardwaresoftware.asp>
<http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/support/download.asp>
- Be sure to run the free web browser tuneup: <http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/support/tuneup.asp>

- If you have technical problems, please go to the Help Desk: <http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/support/>
- **HELP DESK PHONE NUMBERS:**
(304) 696-3200 (Huntington, WV)
(304) 746-1969 (Charleston, WV)
(877) 689-8638 (Toll free)

Course Details

Description from University Catalogue:

A survey of major countries in the world in a regional context with emphasis on cultural elements that are significant to man.

Prerequisites:

None

Objectives:

This course will introduce you to the basic concepts, ideas, and processes of human geography by examining the historical and contemporary patterns and processes that are shaping our world. We will investigate how these global changes are interacting with local places and regions. Although you may be familiar with some of the course's content from other classes, we will be approaching these diverse topics from the perspective of human geography by emphasizing the varied relationships between people, society, space, and place.

University Mission Statement: Approved by MU Board of Governors on May 12, 2004

"Marshall University will educate a citizenry capable of living and working effectively in a global environment."

This Course meets General Education Core Outcome 6: International Studies. Students will learn to:

1. Describe, explain, and analyze diplomatic, political, social, economic, and technological interaction among nations, peoples, cultures: including (but not limited to) ethnic tensions, multinational corporations, international structures and liberation movements of the 20th and 21st centuries.
2. Utilize historical, political, geographical, sociological and anthropological concepts
3. Describe, explain and analyze the cultural, economic geographical, political, religious, ad social dimensions of major world religions and / or nations of global significance in the 20th and 21st century
4. Describe, explain, and analyze the major issues, concerns and problems of a global scope (e.g., environmental degradations, maintenance of peace and underdevelopment, population growth,

human rights, etc.

Structure:

The course is divided into three sections. Each section has its own textbook readings, on-line lectures, writing assignment, and test. Students should review the deadlines for all tests and writing assignments listed in the Schedule folder.

Schedule:

- Students are free to work at their own pace, although the tests must be taken within the allotted time frames.
- Each general topic has an accompanying lecture available as a power point presentation. The lectures focus on some of the main points covered in each chapter and can be used as a type of study guide to prepare for the tests.
- The assigned chapters come from the textbook. The additional readings are newspaper articles available in Lexis Nexus through <http://www.marshall.edu/library/default.asp>
Enter *Lexis Nexus* and search by author or keyword to find the article.
- The tests will cover material from the lectures, the textbook, and the newspaper readings.

Course Grading

There will be three multiple choice exams, each worth 50 points for a total of 150 points.

There will also be 3 short essay questions (one page, single spaced). These questions are drawn from the newspaper readings. Student responses will be graded on their ability to demonstrate that they have read and thought critically about the article and how it relates to topics covered in the on-line lectures and textbook. Each short essay is worth 10 points, for a total of 30 points.

Students will earn 20 points for completing the Start Here! module and carefully reading the course syllabus. This also includes an Agreement Quiz, which requires students to acknowledge that they have read and understand the course policies and deadlines. The Agreement Quiz also includes several silly, ungraded questions that are intended to familiarize students with the general look and function of tests in Vista.

Students wishing to earn a few extra credit points may submit one question for

each test worth up to 2 points for a maximum of 6 points for the entire semester. Test questions must be submitted online at least one day prior to each test. This is completely voluntary – students who do not participate will not be penalized in any way.

Final grades are determined by the following scale out of 200 total points: A=200-170; B=169-150; C=149-130; D=129-110; F=109 or less.

This corresponds to the following percentage scale:

A=100-85%; B=84%-75%; C=74%-65%; D=64-55%; F=54% or less.

(Students can refer to this percentage scale to determine a letter grade for individual assignments during the course of the semester)

There will be no other extra credit assignments.

Students may check their grades by clicking the *My Grades* link from the course home page.

Exams

Taken with the *Assessments Tool*. *A proctor will not be required for exams, nor will any other special arrangements be required.*

Discussion Sessions

Discussions take place with the *Discussions Tool*.

On-Campus Requirements

There is absolutely no requirement that you come to campus. You can communicate with me via the course Mail tool, Discussion tool, or the Whos Online tool.

Course Policies

Penalty for late assignments:

Assignments submitted after the deadline will receive a zero. Late assignments will only be accepted if the student provides a university-approved excuse.

Make-up exams:

Make-up exams will only be allowed if the student provides a university-

approved excuse.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Students are expected to complete all tests individually, meaning they may not be assisted by another person regardless of whether that person is enrolled in the class or not. Students who violate these policies face serious consequences, including an automatic grade of F for the class and referral to the Office of Academic Affairs.

Plagiarism, defined at Marshall as 'submitting as one's own work or creation any material or an idea wholly or in part created by another,' is completely unacceptable and surprisingly easy to discover. Every semester, I catch 2-4 students who have attempted to plagiarize in this course. Students who plagiarize, whether one phrase, sentence, paragraph, or an entire assignment, will receive an automatic final course grade of F and referral to the Office of Academic Affairs.

Materials and images within the course website may be copyrighted and may not be reproduced.

Resources

Me: Don't hesitate to contact me directly with questions or concerns. It is easiest to reach me through the VISTA Mail Tool. Please don't let your questions hang out there and simmer. If you are not sure about something the best thing to do is to ask about it right away! Something that may seem obvious to me may not be obvious to you at all!

Support Services

Marshall University offers a variety of support services to students enrolled in online courses:

- [Off-campus Library Service](#)
- [Textbook Service](#)
- [Disabled Student Services](#)
- [Tips for Succeeding in Online Environment](#)
- [Study Guides](#)
- [Technical Help](#)
- [VISTA Help](#)

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