

University of Winnipeg
Department of Geography
GEOG 1105 (3) - 250, Winter 2024 (Jan 12- Apr 8)
Challenges of a Changing World: An Introduction to Human Geography
Course Outline and Syllabus

Instructor: Mohammad A. Alam

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Office hours: by appointment

Lecture: Friday 9:30 am – 12:15 pm

Lecture Location: 2E40 (Helen Betty Osborne (Ellice))

**Please note when corresponding with the instructor, use your University of Winnipeg email account system: name@webmail.uwinnipeg.ca*

Course description:

This course introduces geography as a means of interpreting world issues and places human-environment relationships in the context of global change. Rotating topics include resource use, food and energy supply, population change and human health; the dimensions of global forces such as urbanization, postcolonialism, nationalism, and globalization; and the environmental effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainability. Through the study of these challenges of a changing world, subfields in human geography are introduced including population, environmental, urban, political, social, and cultural geography. Students learn theoretical and practical application in these fields and may specialize in them in upper years.

Course Objective

- provide a strong foundation in a number of the core concepts of human geography related to people, culture, and environment;
- emphasize the relevance of the geographical concepts of space, place, and human-environment interactions, issues of population, resources and settlement;
- develop student knowledge of the evolution of the field in relation to other social sciences;
- provide the opportunity for students to actively engage in concepts and develop critical thinking in relation to the subject matter;
- and, assist in the development of academic skills such as reading comprehension, referencing, academic writing.

Required Textbook:

This textbook is required for the course and is available in the university bookstore:

Title: *Human Geography, 10th edition*

Authors: M. Mercier, and W. Norton

Edition: 2019

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Website: <https://www.oupcanada.com/catalog/9780199032938.html>

NEXUS:

Documents related to this course (e.g. course syllabus, project guidelines, lecture slides, supplemental readings), quizzes, tests, and exams will be made available to students through the NEXUS system. You must be registered in the course to have access to these materials. To login in to NEXUS, go to:

<https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/>

If you encounter difficulties with Nexus contact the help desk at 204-786-9149 or

help.desk@uwinnipeg.ca

Course Organization:

This course is structured to foster engagement and discussion in class. Regular attendance at lectures is required and reading preparation before class will enhance students’ understanding of the geographical concepts applied to the themes of the society and culture. 10% of your grade will be based on your participation. Occasionally short videos, daily news items and other popular materials will be used to illustrate the concepts presented in the course. The following schedule relates to lecture topics/themes and assigned chapters and articles; readings could change to accommodate emerging issues that we may want to discuss in class. Please be aware that due to unforeseen time restrictions, some material included on the course schedule may not be covered. Any changes will be announced in class.

Topics/Themes

- 1) What is Human Geography
- 2) Population and Health Geography
- 3) Uneven Development and Global Inequalities
- 4) Geographies of Food and Agriculture
- 5) Urban Geography
- 6) Urban Form and the Social Geography

Readings

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3
- Chapter 9
- Chapter 7
- Chapter 8

Student Evaluation

Mid-Term Test 1	20%	Feb 9 th , 2024
Topic Paper	15%	March 1 st , 2024
Mid-Term Test 2	20%	March 15 th , 2024
Final Exam	35%	TBA
Class Participation	10%	*Throughout

***Students are responsible for confirming the date and the location of the final exam with instructor.**

The requirements for evaluation in this course are structured for students to immerse in the textbook and lecture material while simultaneously developing a stronger understanding of the goals of the assignments, test and exams.

*** Completing assigned readings and being prepared to participate during class time will enhance learning in this course.

Description of Evaluation Criteria

1. *Mid-term tests (40% of final grade)*

The two 120 minute mid-term tests will be comprised of multiple-choice and true/false questions, in addition to short answer questions requiring written responses of 1-2 paragraphs. *The student should not use his or her textbook, course notes, or receive help any other outside source during the tests.* The mid-term 1 will be based on Themes 1 and 2, and the materials covered in Themes 3 and 4 will be the basis for mid-term 2. However, this may change depending on what is covered in class. This instructor will inform the students of any changes.

2. *Topic paper (15% of final grade)*

Discuss and provide a critical analysis of **one** of the abovementioned topics/themes using the terminology from the text and **three additional** references (at least 2 peer reviewed) (**Due in class: March 1st**). Papers should be type written and approximately 4 pages in length. You are welcome to explore a topic of your choosing as long as it relates to the concepts covered in the text from semester. Please confirm (before or after class, by appointment, or by email) your topic with the instructor.

3. *Final Exam (35% of final grade)*

The three-hour exam will cover all course materials and will include multiple-choice and true/false questions, as well as short answer and essay questions. *The student should not use his or her textbook, course notes, or receive help any other outside source during the exam.*

4. *Participation (10% of final grade)*

This course includes class discussions in the form of small breakout groups, question periods and presentations. Your participation in class is essential to your learning and the learning of the group. Therefore, participation will be accounted for through class attendance, sharing of the workload in group sessions, and general engagement in the course and course materials. The instructor aims to make the lectures a supportive learning environment for developing participation skills.

*Please confirm exam time by checking <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/exam-schedules/>
Students are responsible for checking this site.

Format

You must submit your assignments electronically. Instructor or TA will send an email confirmation that assignment was received. Feedback on assignments and grades will be returned electronically.

All written assignments submitted for course credit should reflect close attention to good style and format. Paragraphs must be double-spaced. Student name and number should be centered on a separate title page at the front of each assignment.

A clear and concise written style is required. Grammar, spelling and punctuation will be graded. It is strongly recommended that students spell-check (and grammar-check if in doubt) all work before it is submitted. Another option is to have another person proof-read the work and check that it 'makes sense'.

All assignment submissions are final: once the assignment is handed in, the Instructor will not accept revisions or re-submissions unless specifically requested.

Strict adherence to the stated/announced assignment deadlines is required. Unexplained late submissions will be penalized by 2% of the total assignment mark for each day late. Only in exceptional (i.e., medical and compassionate) circumstances will an extension be granted, and students must speak to the instructor and provide a medical note to the instructor and to the General Office for the student’s file. If the work is not submitted within 7 calendar days of the new date, no credit for the assignment would be given. An incomplete grade will not be assigned except for medical reasons or for compassionate grounds at the discretion of the Course Instructor. Work must be handed in on due dates regardless of the state of completion in order to be considered for Incomplete Status. An Incomplete Grade form must be submitted with the grade register or the incomplete will not be recorded.

Grading

Senate approved grades for courses include A+, A, A-, B+, B, C+, D, and F. The University does not have a standardized numerical grade conversion scale for each letter grade. The following numeric grading system **provides guidelines** only for the separation of letter grades in this course. These boundaries may be adjusted at the requested of the Environmental Studies and Sciences Department Review Committee or University Senate. Final letter grades are based on accumulated numeric grades during the course. For this course, grade equivalents are as follows:

A+	90-100%	C+	65-69.9%
A	84-89.9%	C	56-64.9%
A-	80-83.9%	D	50-55.9%
B+	75-79.9%	F	< 50%
B	70-74.9%		

Voluntary Withdrawal

You must formally withdraw from a course. If you simply stop going to classes, you may receive an “F” on your transcript and loss of tuition credit. The final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty is **Feb 16, 2024**. Please refer to the Undergraduate Academic Calendar for Voluntary withdrawal procedures. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not result in a fee refund.

Important Dates

Date	Significance
Jan 12	The first class of the course
Feb 09	Midterm 1 Test
Feb 18-24	Winter term Reading Week. No classes.
Feb 19	Louis Riel Day (University closed.)
March 01	Topic paper due
March 15	Midterm Test 2
March 15	Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
April 05	Last day of regularly scheduled classes
April 11-24	Final Exam period (Final Exam: TBD)

*Students are responsible to check all exam information prior to the exam on the course outline.

Challenges of a Changing World: An Introduction to Human Geography – Winter 2024

The following table outlines the topics to be discussed during the lectures. The order of presentation is subject to change as circumstances dictate and all the topics listed may not be covered (text readings assigned during class).

Tentative Schedule of Topics (topics may change due to unforeseen circumstances)

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Course initiation and resources • Introductory concepts	Course syllabus; Mental maps for student course objectives; Library tools; Chapter 1
Week 2	• Introduction to human geography • Population and Health Geography	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Week 3	• Population and Health Geography • The Demographic Transition Model	Chapter 2
Week 4	• Uneven Development and Global Inequalities • Mid-term 1 preview	Chapter 3
Week 5	• Mid-term test 1 (Feb 9 th)	Chapter 1 and 2
Week 6	• Uneven Development and Global Inequalities • Geographies of Food and Agriculture • Mid-term 1 review	Chapter 3 Chapter 9
Week 7	<i>Winter Reading Week (Feb 18-24)</i>	<i>No Classes</i>
Week 8	• Geographies of Food and Agriculture • Topic paper due: 1 March 2024	Chapter 9
Week 9	• An Urban World • Mid-term 2 preview	Chapter 7
Week 10	• Mid-term test 2 (March 15, 2024)	Chapter 3 and 9
Week 11	• An Urban World	Chapter 7
Week 12	• Urban Form and the Social Geography • Mid-term 2 review	Chapter 8
Week 13	• Course recap • Final exam preview	All course materials
April 11-24	Exam period (Final Exam: TBA)	All course materials

General Course Information

- When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, I will make every effort to inform students via UWinnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline).
- Students have the responsibility to regularly check their UWinnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors.
- Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

Research Ethics

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/ethics/human-ethics.html>

Academic Conduct

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the “Regulations and Policies” found in the University *Academic Calendar* at:

<https://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>. Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (“Student Discipline”), 9 (“Senate Appeals”), and 10 (“Grade Appeals”). Please emphasize the importance of maintaining academic integrity, and to the potential consequences of engaging in plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. Even “unintentional” plagiarism, as described in the UW Library video tutorial “Avoiding Plagiarism” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>) is a form of academic misconduct. Similarly, uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is a form of misconduct, as it involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. More detailed information can be found here: *Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures*: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>.

This section covers classroom regulation, grading, transcripts, challenge for credit, academic standing, student discipline (academic and non-academic misconduct), appeals including grade appeals, University Policies and Codes, graduation.

Please note the following summary of important information regarding Academic Misconduct:

Forms of Academic Misconduct:

- Plagiarism: includes presenting other people’s published or unpublished work in part or as a whole as your own. This includes material from lab manuals, essays, journal articles, books, etc. Plagiarism also refers to submitting the same work in more than one course without both instructors’ permission and to the situation where two or more students submit identical (or nearly identical) work for evaluation when the work was to be completed individually.
- Cheating: includes copying another person’s answer on a test, communicating with another person during a test or exam, consulting unauthorized sources (including written and electronic sources), obtaining a copy (of all or part) of a test/exam/assignment before it is officially available, purchasing tests, essays or other assignments and submitting the work as your own.

- Improper Academic/Research practices include: fabricating or falsifying results, using other people's research findings without permission, misrepresenting research results or methods, referring to non-existent sources or investigators, contravening the University's Policy and Procedures On Research Integrity.
- Obstructing academic activities of another person; for example interfering with another person's access to pertinent resources or information to gain academic advantage.
- Impersonation: both impersonation of another individual or allowing someone to impersonate you.
- Falsification or Modification of an Academic Record: including tests, transcripts, letters of permission, etc.
- Aiding and Abetting Academic Misconduct.

Penalties for Academic Misconduct:

Can include, but are not limited to:

- Written warning
- Lower or failing grade on an assignment or test
- Lower or failing grade in a course
- Denial of admission or readmission to the University
- Forfeiture of University awards or financial assistance
- Suspension from the University for a specified period of time
- Withholding or rescinding a UW degree, certificate or diploma
- Expulsion from the University

Procedures:

All allegations of academic misconduct must be reported initiating a process which involves several steps. These include procedures involving the instructor of the course in which the misconduct is alleged to have occurred, the Departmental Review Committee, and the Senate Academic Misconduct Committee. See the detailed description of the procedures, which also outline the appeals process regarding Academic Misconduct.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.

Forms of Academic Misconduct: see online

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>

Copyright and Intellectual Property

Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides—irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before, for example, photographing, recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students found to be in violation of an instructor's intellectual property rights could face serious consequences pursuant to the *Academic Misconduct* or *Non-Academic Misconduct Policy*.

Accessibility Services

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

Respectful Working and Learning Environment

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found at <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/>.

Respectful Learning Environment. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies could be considered non-academic misconduct. See the Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect/respect-policy.html>) and Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/acceptable-use-of-information-technology-policy.pdf>). More detailed information is outlined in the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>) and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>).

Privacy. Students should be reminded of their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>), especially if Zoom is being used for remote teaching (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>) and testing/proctoring (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>).

Official Correspondence

Students have the responsibility to regularly check their University of Winnipeg e-mail addresses to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the University and/or their course instructors.

Religious Holidays

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holydays of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2023-24 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

Class Cancellations

When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, every effort will be made to inform students via University of Winnipeg email (and/or using the preferred form of communication, as designated in this outline).

Academic Integrity and AI Text-generating Tools

Students must follow principles of academic integrity (e.g., honesty, respect, fairness, and responsibility) in their use of material obtained through AI text-generating tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing, Notion AI). If an instructor prohibits the use of AI tools in a course, students may face an allegation of academic misconduct if using them to do assignments. If AI tools are permitted, students must cite them.

According to the MLA (<https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>), writers should

- cite a generative AI tool whenever you paraphrase, quote, or incorporate into your own work any content (whether text, image, data, or other) that was created by it
- acknowledge all functional uses of the tool (like editing your prose or translating words) in a note, your text, or another suitable location
- take care to vet the secondary sources it cites

If students aren't sure whether or not they can use AI tools, they should ask their professors.

Indigenous Student Services. Indigenous students seeking additional supports, academic or other, are encouraged to contact the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (ASSC). The ASSC offers a variety of support services, and was created to maintain a safe, educational and culturally sensitive environment for all Aboriginal students (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) as they pursue their academic studies at The University of Winnipeg. More information can be found at: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/assc/>.

Scent-Free Environment. U Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products should you attend lectures in person. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.