

## **Human Geography Syllabus (GEO116 - Online) Elgin Community College**

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Instructor: Christine McGuire  
Classroom: Online  
Office Hours: By appointment  
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Voice Mail: 847-697-1000 ext. 2165

### **Required Texts:**

Contact the ECC Bookstore: [eccbookstore@elgin.edu](mailto:eccbookstore@elgin.edu); 847-214-7935

### **Other Readings:**

Additional articles/readings may be assigned at the instructor's discretion during the course of the semester.

### **Course Description from Catalog:**

A survey of the many ways humanity has adapted to the various environments and the effects of human populations on the earth. Topics include population, race, religion, language, political, and economic systems.

### **Additional Information about the Course:**

The purpose of this course is to help you develop geographical skills that you may use to better understand and appreciate both the place where you live and places around the world as well as the interconnections among them. In pursuit of this goal the course introduces you to some of the major topics studied in human geography. We will explore these topics through a number of detailed case studies that show how demographic, environmental, cultural, social, political, and economic processes shape the geography of the world around us. You will discover that geography is not just about knowing where places are, but explores how geographical relationships are fundamental parts of all aspects of our lives. Moreover, the topics we explore in this class lead directly into topics studied in numerous other classes including cultural anthropology, sociology, economics, political science, history, civil engineering, ethnic studies, and gender studies among others.

This online class is not self-paced. You still have to meet deadlines and complete work throughout the week. The online course is more flexible in that you can do your work from wherever you have Internet access and you can do it at anytime during the day. Keep in mind that you should be spending approximately 9 - 12 hours a week on this course.

Also, because this is an online course you should not expect for it to be any "easier" than a traditional face-to-face course. On the contrary, it may be more demanding because with an online course, you are forced to be more active in your learning versus passively attending a face-to-face class and just taking it in. All communication in this class is done via reading and writing for the most part. Consider that when you consider how much work it will be. You should be prepared to work very hard in this course.

### **Credits:**

3 credit hours

### **Course Requirements:**

Three Exams  
Quizzes/Homework  
Participation

### **Attendance Policy/Class Participation:**

This is an online course, which means that there are no specific days that we meet in a classroom. However, participation is required within this course. Participation is done by posting messages in the discussion board and "attending" class. There will be weekly discussion prompts/questions that I will pose throughout the course that you are required to answer. In addition, you are required to respond to at least 2 of your classmates' answers for each of the prompts. (Please feel free to post more!) Your

initial response should be posted no later than Thursday of the assigned week. This allows time for your classmates to read your postings and then respond.

Using the discussion board in this manner is a way to generate classroom discussions about topics that we will be covering in class. Attendance is achieved by regularly and actively logging into the class and completing required assignments by their due dates. Your participation grade is based on the quality and substance of your messages (not necessarily just the quantity of messages that you post), along with regular "attendance" and completion of assignments.

**Late Assignments:**

All work needs to be completed by the given due date or will result in an F for that particular assignment. I do not accept any work that is late--this includes discussion responses, homework assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.

**Classroom Behavior:**

A positive demeanor is appropriate in the classroom and includes respecting fellow students, the instructor, and the course material itself. All opinions are valid in our classroom; personal "put-downs" are not allowed. Diversity is especially valued here. At all times behavior in the classroom should affirm individual dignity.

Professionalism is expected; it is not a nicety! So, when writing to class members or the instructor, please exhibit politeness, tolerance, and open-mindedness. This is crucial in an online course where we can't see your expression or hear your voice.

You may also become discouraged with taking an online course, especially if it's your first one. I hope you don't feel this way, but if you do please email me immediately.

**Withdrawal Policy:**

It is NOT the instructor's responsibility to withdraw students. A "W" will not be given as a final grade. The student is responsible for officially withdrawing from the class according to procedures described in the college catalog. Any student who does not officially withdraw by the withdrawal deadline will receive a letter grade.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Some accommodations, services, and/or support may be provided to students with disabilities (see College Catalog for more detailed information).

**Academic Responsibility:**

NO cheating or plagiarism of any kind will be tolerated. If you are found cheating or plagiarizing within this course, you will receive at least an F for the assignment at hand, and the offense could result in the failure of the course.