

ANTH 227L WA: Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Abby Wightman
EMAIL: awightman@marybaldwin.edu

OFFICE: 202 Academic
PHONE: (540) 887-7283

As a course which counts for Common Curriculum Themes credit, People, Place and Culture combines perspectives from two closely related fields, human geography and cultural anthropology, *to focus specifically on the theme of the relationships between people and the environments in which they live.* The course will be organized around four learning nodes – **PEOPLE, PLACES, FLOWS, and MAPS** – that each include more specific learning objectives. We will study how **people** – including culture, technology, settlement patterns, religion, and language – have been effected by, and continue to affect in turn, the **places** that we live. We will also study the **flows** of people, money, cultures, information and objects across space and time. In order to make sense of these global flows and spatial relationships, we will learn how to use and interpret **maps**.

Learning Objectives:

1. PLACES

- a. Physical and human characteristics of places
- b. Physical processes that shape the surface of the earth
- c. Characteristics and distribution of ecosystems on the earth

2. PEOPLE

- a. Relationship between human activity and the physical environment
- b. Characteristics and distributions of human populations
- c. Processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement

3. FLOWS

- a. Migration of human populations, especially refugees of war and environmental disasters
- b. Patterns and networks of economic interdependence
- c. How the forces of conflict and cooperation influence the division and control of the earth's surface
- d. Changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources
- e. Applying geography to interpret the past and the present and to plan for the future

4. MAPS

- a. Use of maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information

Online course philosophy:

As an online course, we will use **Canvas and Blogger** as our classrooms. On **Canvas**, you will find this syllabus, assigned articles and readings, discussions, essay assignments and final exam. On **Blogger**, you will find the course blog. This blog will serve in place of in-person lectures. The blog URL will be available on Canvas. It will be updated about every other week with important concepts, terms, and ideas that will help you through the course. You should make a habit of reading the blog each week. You should log on to both sites and familiarize yourself with them. If there are any problems with access to these sites, please notify me immediately.

Required Readings

1. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, Jared Diamond, 1997, ISBN: 978-0393354324
2. *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*, Timothy Egan, 2006, ISBN: 978-0618773473
3. *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*, Sandy Tolan, 2007, ISBN: 978-1596913431
4. *Student Atlas of World Geography*, Christopher J. Sutton, 8th edition, ISBN: 978-0073527673
5. Article Excerpts (PDF format) on Canvas under Course Readings (labeled BB on schedule)
6. Course blog, updated about every week. See Canvas for URL.

Grades:

Grades will be calculated on a point basis. Your grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 440. Letter grades will be assigned on a ten point scale with +/- . There will be no curve. There will be no extra credit. You will always be able to see your current grade on Canvas.

Grading Scale and Percentages		
Quizzes	140 (8 assigned/20 pts/quiz, lowest dropped)	31%
Reading Response Essays	100 (3 assigned/50 pts/essay, lowest dropped)	23%
Discussions	100 (6 assigned/20 pts/post, lowest dropped)	23%
Final Exam	100	23%
TOTAL	440	100%

Responsibilities (yours and mine):

I will try my hardest to respond to emails promptly – but please keep in mind that *emails sent after normal business hours (5pm weekdays) may not be returned as quickly*. Since course assignments are due at the latest on Mondays in most cases, please do not wait until the last minute in case something comes up – I may not be able to respond as quickly as you would like.

That said, *you control when you turn in assignments*. The course is divided into three sections with the assignments due in the second to last week of the section and the exams due in the last week (section three is slightly different, see below). The due dates are the last possible date by which they must be turned in or counted late (see late policy below). *All due dates are Monday, except for the final exam which corresponds to the last day of class*. Keep in mind, though, *that you may work ahead and turn in assignments before they are due*. I hope this schedule will allow you to be flexible (I know you all have very busy schedules) but still allow me to keep everyone on track. Please note and properly account for Thanksgiving Break on the schedule below.

And finally, I will work very hard to have all of your assignments graded and posted to Canvas a week after they are due. Please note that if you turn your assignments in early, you may not get that grade until a week after the due date. This is to ensure that I have a sense of how the entire class is doing and to keep my grading is consistent.

Assignments:

In order to get a good grade in this course, you must keep up with the readings and turn in assignments; doing so, especially keeping up with the syllabus, is your responsibility. I will not be able to remind you of readings, exams, or assignments – so make sure you check the syllabus often. All assignments should be submitted via Canvas, either in the space provided or as an uploaded attachment. If necessary, you can email me assignments but please try to use Canvas exclusively.

a. Exams

There will be one exam in this course, a cumulative final exam. The final exam will be open book and will incorporate essays and vocab IDs. The final exam will be available on available on Canvas during the last section of the course. Due date for the final exam is non-negotiable and the late policy does not apply. **Students who do not take the final exam automatically receive an F in the course, no matter their final grade (this is MBU policy). See schedule below.**

b. Quizzes

Students will take eight online atlas quizzes, via Canvas. Quizzes will only cover material from the Student Atlas and will be multiple choice. *Students must complete the quiz by midnight of the day they are due. They will be unavailable after this time.* Atlas quizzes will be worth 20 points each, but the one lowest score will be dropped. See Canvas for the material that will be covered on each quiz.

c. Reading Response Essays:

Students will write reading response for each of our three major books: *Guns, Germs, and Steel (GGaS)*, *The Worst Hard Time*, (WHT) and *The Lemon Tree* (TLT). Essays are due on specific dates, listed on the syllabus. **All essays are due by midnight on the day they are assigned.** You should upload each essay to Canvas. All essays will be processed through Safe Assign. **The lowest essay will not count toward your final grade.** Please see Canvas for assignment and format.

d. Class Discussions:

Twice in each section, you will be required to participate in discussions on Canvas. More information is available on Canvas. **Discussions, because they require engagement and interaction with your classmates, will not be graded past the due date.**

Late Policy:

All assignments are due on the days assigned. After the due date there is a 7 day grace period: late assignments will not be penalized if submitted during this time, but they may not receive any feedback on the grade. After the week grace period, all late assignments will receive either a 50% or a 0 depending on the severity of the lateness and the quality of the work. **The late policy does not apply to discussions, since they are intended to encourage students to respond to each other. Discussions cannot be made up. Discussion threads will not be available after the due date.**

Extended Time (ET) Policy:

To be considered for an ET, students must have completed 2/3 essays and have demonstrated a valid and appropriate need. If you are considering an ET, you must discuss this with me and your adviser prior to the last week of class.

Honor Code:

All work is subject to the Mary Baldwin University Honor Code. It is your responsibility to understand and follow MBU's Honor Code, as well as to understand what constitutes academic misconduct and plagiarism. For clarification of issues regarding plagiarism, please see the Canvas module Honor Code and Citations. **Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council and students will receive an F in the course.**

Accommodations:

As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act that was passed by Congress in 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Mary Baldwin University works to assist students with disabilities to remove barriers to academic success. If you are in need of accommodations your first and only necessary step is to speak with the Director of the Academic Resource Center, where you can self-disclose in a confidential meeting and complete documentation for initiating the accommodations that will help you to be successful in the classroom. Instructors are always willing to accommodate students with special needs; however, the process starts by speaking confidentially with the Disability Services Coordinator at MBU, Dr. Jenny Joczick at vjoczick@marybaldwin.edu. Once out of

high school you must be your own advocate and begin the process of accommodation. If you have a disability or think you may have a disability that is precluding your efforts to attain academic success, I urge you to contact Dr. Joczik.

SCHEDULE of READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, and FILMS

COURSE SCHEDULE		
Section 1: August 24, 2020 – September 21, 2020		
PLACE: Environmental influences on human behavior.		
Topics	Readings and Films	Assignments: due by 9/14
Geography, maps, human societies, development, technology, inequality	Knox and Marston, "Geography Matters" (BB) Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> , prologue-ch. 14 Film, <i>Guns, Germs and Steel</i> Part 1 (required BB) Atlas: Introduction, Unit I-II Blog posts 1-3	Introduce yourself on BB Atlas Quizzes 1-3 Discussion Questions 1-2
<i>GGaS Essay due by 9/21</i>		
Section 2: September 22, 2020 – October 19, 2020		
PEOPLE: The physical and cultural impacts of people on the environment.		
Topics	Readings and Films	Assignments: due by 10/12
climate, adaptation, human impacts on environment	Knox and Marston, "Nature and Society" (BB) Egan, <i>The Worst Hard Time</i> , intro-ch.3, 5, 7, 8, 10 Film, <i>The Dust Bowl</i> (required, BB) Film, <i>The Plow That Broke The Plains</i> , (optional, BB) Atlas: Unit V Blog posts 4-5	Atlas Quizzes 4-5 Discussion Questions 3-4
<i>WHT Essay due by 10/19</i>		
Section 3: October 20, 2020– December 6, 2020		
FLOW: The movement of people, cultures, and things.		
Topics	Readings and Films	Assignments: due by 11/23
colonialism, conflict and war, migration, refugee, place, globalization	Tolan, <i>The Lemon Tree</i> , intro-ch.14 Knox and Marston, "Contemporary Globalization" (BB) Film, <i>B.A.T.A.M</i> (required, BB) Film, <i>My Land: Seeing Both Sides...</i> (optional, BB) Atlas Units VI, III, IV and maps 159, 126F-L Blog posts 6-9	Atlas Quizzes 6-8 Discussion Questions 5-6
<i>TLT Essay due by 11/30</i>		
<i>Final Exam due by Sunday, December 6, 2020 no later than midnight (this is a non-negotiable deadline; late policy does not apply here)</i>		