UNO GEG 1020 - INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
Fulfills AP Human Geography Credit at the High School

This UNO course has been approved by UNO faculty to be offered for dual credit, and this syllabus meets disciplinary outcomes as reflected in UNO’s master syllabus. **Students must submit a dual credit application and meet all registration, academic, and other institutional requirements according to established deadlines in order to receive UNO course credit.** Please visit dualenroll.unomaha.edu for additional information.

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**Course Description:**
This course provides an effective method for studying human activities on Earth’s surface. Human interaction with one another and the environment will be studied and analyzed to provide an understanding of the world in which we live. Major cultural topics of focus are the geography of population, agricultural systems, settlement, language, religion, political patterns, and man’s ways of occupying urban and industrial space, among others. The course is divided into seven units covering all aspects of the human-environment interaction. In addition to meeting the requirements for the UNO course, this course also meets the requirements for the advanced placement exam.

**Instructional Philosophy:**
Geography goes hand in hand with history to help a student become fully rounded in their study of social sciences. Geography allows for a student to be able to think spatially in order to take the ideas and events of the world around them and make connections between them.

**Advanced Placement:**
This class is designed to meet Advanced Placement standards and requirements (these requirements can be found on the AP College Board website). This class will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Human Geography Exam in the spring semester.

**Dual Enrollment:**
This is optional for students who wish to earn college credit while simultaneously taking this class. The Dual Enrollment Credit is applied at the end of the second semester and is based on the grade received in class during that semester. The first semester grade does not factor into Dual Enrollment in any way.

**College Credit:**
This class provides two opportunities for students to earn college credit. The first is taking the AP Exam. This is a one-time exam given in May and consists of 75 multiple choice questions and three FRQs (Free Response Questions). The second option is Dual Enrollment. As stated above, the work students do in class and the grade they receive at the end of the second semester will be applied to their UNO transcript which will earn them three credit hours and a GPA.
Major Units of Study:
There are seven major units of study spread over two semester: Nature and Perspectives of Geography, Population Geography, Cultural Patterns and Processes, Political Organization of Space, Agricultural and Rural Land Use, Industrialization and Economic Development, and Cities and Urban Land Use

Course Expectations:
Students will complete a number of in class and out of class assignments along with small projects throughout the semester. They will also be responsible for their learning when presented with an assessment at the end of each unit of study. Students will be assigned a text and expected to complete readings and assignments associated with those reading outside of class. The textbook will be a second teacher, it is imperative that the text is read on a regular basis.

UNO General Education Student Learning Outcomes (Social Science / Global Diversity)
This course also fulfills a UNO General Education requirement and is aligned with the following General Education Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). After completing the course, successful students shall be able to do the following:

- recognize the cultural, historical, social, economic, and/or political circumstances that produce different social and cultural systems;
- demonstrate specific knowledge of the cultural, historical, social, economic, and/or political aspects of one or more countries or nations other than the United States;
- explain the interrelations among global economic, political, environmental and/or social systems; and
- explain ways in which identity is developed and how it is transmitted within and by members of the group or groups
- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of interactions between human motivations, institutional forces, and/or social behavior;
- use critical thinking and reasoning skills to analyze theories, perspectives, and/or concepts relative to the discipline(s) studied;
- identify multiple methods and modes of inquiry and their appropriate application; and
- communicate ideas and explain concepts and analyses using the language of the discipline(s).

Academic Integrity: “The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found responsible for violating the policy on Academic Integrity shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions.” Via studentlife.unomaha.edu/integrity
Content Standards and Grading Weights:

**Standard 1**: Students will be able to compare and contrast the distribution, growth rates, and characteristics of human populations; e.g. unique cultures, settlement patterns, and the location of natural and human resources.

**Standard 2**: Students will be able to analyze the patterns of urban development, such as site and situation, the functions of towns and cities, and problems related to human mobility, social structure, and the environment.

**Standard 3**: Students will be able to analyze the forces of conflict and cooperation.

**Standard 4**: Students will be able to explain and evaluate the characteristics (economic, social, political, and environmental) of less developed, developing, and more developed countries and their common goals of sustainable development.

- **Practice** – assignments are brief and done at the beginning of learning to gain initial content (e.g., student responses on white boards, a valid sampling of math problems, keyboarding exercises, and diagramming sentences, checking and recording resting heart rate). Practice assignments are not generally graded for accuracy (descriptive feedback will be provided in class) and are not a part of the grade. Teachers may keep track of practice work to check for completion and students could also track their practice work. Practice work is at the student’s instructional level and may only include Basic (2) level questions.

- **Formative (35% of the final grade)** – assessments/assignments occur during learning to inform and improve instruction. They are minor assignments (e.g., a three paragraph essay, written responses to guiding questions over an assigned reading, completion of a comparison contrast matrix). Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided. Formative work may be at the student’s instructional level or at the level of the content standard. Formative assessments/assignments will have all levels of learning – Basic (2), Proficient (3), and Advanced (4), which means that for every formative assessment/assignment, students will be able to earn an Advanced (4). Teachers will require students to redo work that is not of high quality to ensure rigor and high expectations. The students score on a formative assessment that was redone will be their final score.

- **Summative (65% of the final grade)** – assessments/assignments are major end of learning unit tests or projects used to determine mastery of content or skill (e.g., a research paper, an oral report with a power point, major unit test, and science fair project). Summative assignments are graded for accuracy. Summative assignments assess the student’s progress on grade level standards and may not be written at the student’s instructional level. Summative assessments/assignments will have all levels of learning – Basic (2), Proficient (3), and Advanced (4), which means that for every formative assessment/assignment students, will be able to earn an advanced (4).

The following grading scale will be used to determine in-progress grades and those submitted at the end of the semester

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\begin{align*}
A &= 3.26 - 4.00 \\
B &= 2.51 - 3.25 \\
C &= 1.76 - 2.50 \\
D &= 1.01 - 1.75 \\
F &= 0.00 - 1.00
\end{align*}
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1. Students are responsible for completing all coursework and assessments as assigned.
2. Students will be allowed retakes and revisions of coursework for full credit as long as they are turned in during that unit of study while a student still has an opportunity to benefit from the learning. When time permits, teachers should allow the redoing or revising of summative assessments.
3. **Students are expected to complete assessments when given to the class**
4. Redoing, retaking or revising will be done at teacher discretion in consultation with the student and parent(s). Teachers may schedule students before, during, or after school to address needed areas of improvement if not convenient during class. The time and location for redoing, retaking or revising will be done at the teacher’s discretion in consultation with the student and parent(s).
5. **Scores for student work after retaking, revising or redoing will not be averaged with the first attempt at coursework but will replace the original score.**
Class Rules and Expectations:

- Students will come to class prepared to learn with materials needed for class including their own writing utensil, notebook or paper, and homework/revised work.
- Electronics must be in line with building rules as outlined in the student code of conduct and will be treated under said code unless otherwise stated by Mr. Razor.
- All course work must be complete by the end of the unit of study, if not, it will be given zero credit without an opportunity for redoing as per the Omaha Public Schools grading polices.
- Plagiarizing others work suffers a ZERO tolerance response according to the Student Code of Conduct.
- Snapchat, Twitter, group messages and related social and private media sharing of assignments and exams is plagiarism. Any instances of these actions will result in zero credit, parent contact, and a forfeit of the opportunity to redo the assignment in addition to any other consequences assigned.
- Students will receive a course textbook to be used in conjunction with the material from class. It is expected that said book will be returned upon completion of the class in the condition from which it was issued.
- This section of the syllabus and/or this document as a whole may be amended at any time as seen fit by the instructor.

Assessments and Exams:

- Course grades will be determined by planned assessments, exams, and projects.
- Major exams and/or writing projects are to be expected at the end of each unit.
- Each unit of study will consist of, at minimum, the following summative assessments:
  - Unit Essay (FRQ)
  - Unit Multiple Choice
- Addendum to the district retake policy:
  - Retakes for summative assessments will be done outside of class during a scheduled time as set forth by the instructor. The time will be chosen by the student during a predetermined timeframe as set by the instructor. Please understand the following:
    - Essay retakes will be allowed to be scheduled either before or after school.
    - Times for retakes must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance and you must contact the instructor before the scheduled time if you wish to reschedule within the time frame allowed.
    - Students may come in at any time and review the material covered but will not be allowed to see the exams during this time.
    - Failure to show at the predetermined time without prior notification will result in a forfeit of the retake opportunity.
    - Multiple Choice Exams and Personal Essays do not qualify for retakes.
  - Retakes for formative assessments
    - They do not exist.

Unit Grading Breakdown:

Each unit of study will have the following expectations for completion:

- Formative
  - Unit Chapter Notes Outline
  - Map Quiz
  - Mini-Quizzes and Thematic Quizzes
- Summative
  - Unit Exam Part 1 – Essay
  - Unit Exam Part 2 – Multiple Choice
Course Outline:
Unit 1 – Nature and Perspectives of Geography
• Introduction to the concept and study of geography as well as key concepts and vocabulary that will be used throughout the semester

Unit 2 – Population Geography
• Students will have an understanding of population and migration trends as well as their impact on states around the world through natural increase/decrease and immigration vs. emigration

Unit 3 – Cultural Patterns and Processes
• Understanding basic concepts and classifications of culture including belief systems, practices and conflict around the world
• This includes both foreign and domestic cultures as well as religious practices

Unit 4 – Political Organization of Space
• How and why states exist as well as how they interact with one another as well as how they organize and control space

Unit 5 – Agricultural and Rural Land Use
• Understanding the history and geography of agriculture as well as the intricacies of rural land use historically and in modern times

Unit 6 – Industrial and Economic Development
• Understanding the history and geography of industry and economic systems
• Application of industrial and economic models to historical and modern economies

Unit 7 – City and Urban Land Use
• Understanding the history and geography of cities

AP Exam
• In the weeks leading up the exam students will have mandatory in-class review, optional review outside of class at Burke and at UNO
• Students who are registered for the exam will test at noon on Tuesday, May 5th, from 12-4pm
Dual Enrollment and AP Testing

Because this class has been designated as AP by the Omaha Public Schools and has been approved by the AP College Board and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, students who take the class are eligible to gain college credit while simultaneously earning their required geography credit for the Omaha Public Schools. Earning college credit is not required to participate in this AP class, but it is encouraged. The following are the options you will have in this class:

**Dual Enrollment**

Students who choose to go with this option will pay a $250 fee to the University of Nebraska at Omaha which, upon successful completion of second semester with a grade of a C or higher, the student will then be provided the following: 3 credit hours on their college transcript, a college GPA, and a fee waiver for the AP Exam in May. This is the encouraged option for all students taking this class as it provides the most benefits for the time and work that students will put into the course. Please note the following information regarding frequently asked questions about Dual Enrollment:

- A 3.0 GPA at the time of application is required for Dual Enrollment. Any student who does not meet this qualification can speak with guidance about getting a waiver
- UNO’s Dual Enrollment Page:
  - www.unomaha.edu/enrollment-management/dual-enrollment/index.php
- UNO runs Dual Enrollment and holds the transcript, but you are not bound to them. This transcript and credit is transferable to nearly 95% of the colleges and universities in the United States. More information about transfer credit can be found here:
- Students can apply for a scholarship to cover the cost of Dual Enrollment through Nebraska’s ACE scholarship:
- The grade submitted for Dual Enrollment is based on **SECOND SEMESTER ONLY**. The grade from first semester does not have any bearing on your final grade submitted to UNO
- All coursework and classes are completed at Burke with optional opportunities at UNO for enrichment exercises that do not have any bearing on the course grade.
- The AP Exam is a required through Dual Enrollment and paid for by UNO so students who take the exam are given a waiver and do not pay for the exam. They ask all Dual Enrollment students to take the exam and if you wish to not take it, you will be required to pay a $25 fee to UNO but it has no bearing on your grade or eligibility for Dual Enrollment.

**AP Testing (non-dual enrolled)**

Students who choose to not Dual Enroll but want college credit may take this option. Students will register for the AP Exam and pay the $99.00 fee. Once the exam is completed and scored, if the student obtains a score of 3 or higher (based on a 1-5 point scale), they may be eligible to send that score to the college or university of their choosing. That college or university then decides if they will offer that credit to the student. Some colleges and universities require a minimum score of a 4 in order to be considered for credit. Many colleges and universities charge additional fees to process those credits, but in many instances, these fees are lower than taking the class. There is no guarantee, and I cannot guarantee, that students will obtain a score of 3 or higher on the exam. A score of 2 or lower will result in zero credit from any college or university. This test has no bearing on the students score in the class as scores do not get returned until the end of June and are run by the AP College Board, not OPS.

**High School Credit**

By taking this class and passing it with a grade of a D or higher you have fulfilled your one semester requirement for Human Geography as well as earned an additional social studies credit. These will be applied to your transcript and your GPA within the Omaha Public Schools only. You are ineligible to receive college credit for your work completed over the two semesters of this course.