

**GY 110: People, Places, & Environment**

**Fall 2018** (may be subject to minor changes)

**Instructor: Dr. Wanyun Shao**

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**Time: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm TR                                                                       Location: Farrah Hall 220**

**Office hours: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm TR**

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**Course Description**

As one of the two major branches of Geography, Human Geography is concerned with the relationships people have with their places and environments. For global citizens living in the 21st century, being confronted with daunting challenges such as environmental degradation, economic inequality, major demographic shifts, and political polarization on varying geographic scales, it is necessary to understand how human choices can steer their relationships with their places and environments in totally different directions. During this course, students will embark on an intellectual journey to explore the dynamics of people, places, and environment.

Throughout this course, we will delve into various topics including: basics of geography, population and health, migration, folk and popular culture, languages, religions, ethnicities, political geography, food and agriculture, development, industry and energy, services and settlements, and urban patterns.

**Required Text**

The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 12th Edition by James Rubenstein.



**Figure 1. Course Structure**

**Student Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

By the end of this course, your understanding of the relationship between people and environment will be updated. You will be able to identify social, cultural, political, and economic phenomena in a spatial context. Moreover, you will be able to better appreciate how place provides the community an identity and a platform on which we survive, evolve, and thrive. You will be more conscious of the impact of human activity on environment.

In particular, students will learn

1. to identify demographic, social, cultural, political, and economic phenomena in a spatial context.
2. to describe geographical distributions of various demographic, social, cultural, political, and economic phenomena
3. to analyze the driving forces behind various geographical distributions
4. to assess the advantages and disadvantages of globalization in developing countries

**Exams**

There will be two noncumulative examinations including a mid-term exam and a final exam. Each will be worth 100 points.

**Quizzes and Homework**

There will be 13 reading quizzes during this course. Each quiz is worth 15 points. Each quiz covers a very specific topic. There will be 14 homework assignments. All the quizzes and homework will be online.

**Course Grading**

Exams (2)                                            100 points per exam                                                  =200 points

Quizzes (13)                                          15 points per quiz                                                       =180 points

Homework (14) 108 points =108 points

Total                                                                                                                                           =488 points

**Semester Grades Are Determined Using This Scale**

439-488 90-100% =A

390-438 80-89% =B

342-389 70-79% =C

293-341 60-69% =D

<292 59% or less =F

**Note:**students are required to take all the quizzes and exams, and do the homework on time. Failure to complete all of the required quizzes, exams, and homework may result in a grade of F for the course.  If you know ahead of time that you would be absent for an exam, please notify me of your absence at least two weeks in advance. If your absence for an exam is due to a sudden and unexpected event, a make-up exam will be considered only upon receipt of an official/proper documentation for an absence.

**Attendance Policy**

Students must attend every class. Attendance will be taken every class.

**Notification of Changes**

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

**Email Policy**

I WILL NOT respond to messages sent by any email service other than UA E-mail. AND ALWAYS PUT the course number on the subject line. When you email me, please address me as Dr. or Professor Shao. Any emails without proper salutation will not be replied to.

**Disability Accommodations**

Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours to discuss your accommodations. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not registered for accommodation services through the Office for Disability Services (ODS), but need accommodations, make an appointment with ODS, Houser Hall, Room 1000, or call 205-348-4285 or email ODS at ods@ua.edu.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is a very SERIOUS and UNFORGIVABLE offence under UA policy. Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic “F.” A student may be denied an academic degree if found guilty of academic dishonesty. This is noted permanently on the student’s educational record. Please refer to the UA Student Handbook on Academic Dishonesty or feel free to contact me for further clarification. Conduct in the Classroom In the classroom, I expect you to show respects for me and your classmates. All students need a comfortable, safe, and distraction-free learning environment. If you engage in any behavior that can be disruptive or disrespectful, I will ask you to discontinue immediately or leave the classroom. I have NO tolerance for cell phone use in the classroom. If you have to use your iPads or laptop to take notes, you are not permitted to engage in activities that are irrelevant to the class.