MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE
The City University of New York

GEOG 101: Introduction to Geography
(002-LEC)

Time: M/W 1 – 2: 15 pm
Place: Bedford 1026
Professor: C. Burrage
Email: cburrage@mec.cuny.edu
Office hours: Mon & Wed (15 min before and after class)

Welcome!

Welcome to GEOG 101. I am looking forward to making geography an interesting course that well help develop your skills and knowledge as a local and global leader.

University Course Catalog Description

I. The main purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the study of Geography as a Social Science by emphasizing the concepts that relate to meeting the goals of the National Geographic Standards. *"Understanding and responding to the challenges and opportunities of the world in the twenty-first century will require many skills; the capacities to think and communicate mathematically and scientifically will remain at a premium. Geographic literacy will also be necessary for reasons of enhancing economic competitiveness, preserving quality of life, sustaining the environment, and ensuring national security. As individuals and as members of society, humans face decisions on where to live, what to build where, how and where to travel, how to conserve energy, how to wisely manage scarce resources, and how to cooperate or compete with others "(NationalGeographic.org).*

II. Course Objectives / Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic geographic concepts as well as topics on both human and physical geography. After this class, students will be able to use research and analytic skills to evaluate and apply theories and methodologies. Inductive and deductive logic skills are taught to students to enable them to deconstruct cultural components and historical political evolution, recognize economic patterns and trends from the forefathers of economic thought and analysis, as well as gain an understanding of basic earth science concepts. In short, this course will introduce students to the mature study of geography. Including, but also transcending, the familiar elementary school exercise of memorizing what is where, this class will encourage students to ask the question, "Why is that there?"

COURSE OBJECTIVES

SLO 1 Develop a geographic perspective with which to view the landscape and understand current human events.

SLO 2 Employ the methods of geographers, including observation, mapmaking, and data gathering, reporting, and writing.

SLO 3 Utilize spatial concepts, geographic vocabulary, and landscape interpretation to a variety of locations around the globe.

SLO 4 Think, speak, and write critically about geographical issues around the world.

III. Course Prerequisites

The prerequisite for this course is ENGL 150 or Instructor's permission. Students will not be allowed in the class if they have not met of the requirements.

IV. Required Texts and Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. The instructor will update Blackboard with contemporary resources, including online lectures, videos, current events and scholarly literature.

V. Supplementary Materials

As already noted, additional reading materials such as magazine articles and peer review articles will supplement the course lectures. Supplemental readings will be posted alongside readings from your regular text. You need to keep up to date world current affairs in order to perform proper geographical analysis. To this end, keep abreast of world news from a variety of sources.

VI. Basis for Final Grade

Your final grade will be based on the distribution below. I reserve the right to change assignment weight or value, eliminate or add an assignment. Please check blackboard daily for assignment or examination announcements.

Assignments	Weight
Assignments & discussion board activities	50%
Final Project	40%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Your final grade will not be curved. The following point percentages will be used to determine your grade:

Grading Scale (%)

97 - 100	A+
93 - 96.9	A
90 - 92.9	A-
87.1 - 89.9	B+
83 - 87	B
80 - 82.9	B-

77 - 77.9	C+
70 - 76.9	C
67.1 - 69.9	D+
63 - 67	D
60 - 62.9	D-
0 - 59.9	F

VII. Grade Dissemination

Grades for your assignments and assessments are always available in a timely manner on Blackboard. Blackboard assessments are sometimes available immediately. Please check papers returned in class for comments. You are expected to redo assignments if requested.

VIII. Course Policies: Grades Late Work Policy:

Assignments turned **Group Work Policy**: Offer specifics about your policy on group work.

Assignments in late will be assessed a penalty of a letter grade. Blackboard portals for assignments and assessment will not be reopened after due dates have passed. Students who require extra time on exams must inform me at the beginning of the semester.

Extra Credit Policy and revision policy: Extra credit assignment will at the instructor's discretion. Please consult me before embarking on any extra credit assignments. Students will be allowed to revise their assignments if requested to do so. Please resubmit the revised work with the returned assignment(s) complete with instructor's comment attached.

Grades of "Incomplete": No incompletes please. It is often difficult to resolve incomplete grades therefore make every effort to review and resolve your grade with your instructor before the end of the semester. You will receive whatever grade you have earned.

IX. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Email is your best way to communicate with me. I will be communicating with you through your Blackboard email. Please ensure that your Blackboard account is up to date.

Web Courses: Blackboard is essential to this course. You may view your syllabus, assignments, assessments grades and comments in Blackboard. Please check every day for updates.

Laptop / Smartphone Usage: Students may use smartphones, tablets or laptops on instructor's request. Please turn off or place your cellphones on silent during class. Please refrain from taking photographs of slides, as this may be disruptive.

Classroom Devices: Tape recorders or other audio recording devices ARE allowed in the class. Recordings are for the student's assistance only. Do not share or copy.

X. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access: Students should inform instructor of any special allowances they may require. A scribe can only be present in if the student himself or herself is also in class.

Attendance Policy: Tardy students often disrupt classes. Please avoid been late for class. Attendance will be taken each class period. After two unexcused absences, three points per subsequent absence will be deducted from attendance and participation grade.

Academic Conduct Policy: Students must not cheat or plagiarize. Please see your student handbook regarding Plagiarism Policy in Medgar Evers College. Anybody caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically score an "F" grade in this course.

College Learning Center, Writing Center, and Academic Computing Labs: Please avail yourself of the services of the college such as the **Writing Center. Always feel free to consult me if you have problems with this course. Resolve to complete the course and make a good grade.**

Please note: All assignments are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Modules

Module	Topics	Readings & Assignments
1	Introduction The Home Planet	Chapter 1: Short *Film: History of the Earth* *Quiz/Discussion 1* *(Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 1***
2	The Nature of Geography Mapping Space	Chapter 2: Short *Quiz/Discussion 2 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 2***
3	Population Dynamics Population and Food	Chapters 3 & 4: Short *Quiz/Discussion 3 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 1 & 3***
4	Population and Resources: People and The Environment	Chapters 5 & 6: Short *Quiz/Discussion 4 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***Midterm Essay*** ***SLO 1,2, 3 & 4***
5	The Geography of Three Economic Sectors	Chapter 7: Short *Quiz/Discussion 5 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 1 & 3***
6	Uneven Development	Chapter 8: Short *Quiz/Discussion 6 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 1 & 3***
7	Population, Religion & Language	Chapters 9, 10 & 11: Short *Quiz/Discussion 7 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 1 & 3***

8	Creating a Global Economy Globalization and Neoliberalism	Chapter 12: Short *Quiz/Discussion 8 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 1 & 3***
9	The Nation-State Territory and Boundaries	Chapter 15: Short *Quiz/Discussion 9 (Available Fri-Sun)* ***SLO 1 & 3***
10	The Urban Transformation	Chapters 16, 17 & 18 *Quiz/Discussion 10 (Available Fri-Sun)* **Final Essay** **SLO 1,2, 3 & 4**

*** Note: The Schedule is subject to revision**