

*Hofstra University*  
*Department of Economics & Geography*



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# GEOG 102 – Population, Resources, and Environment

## Objectives

Geography 102 will develop the relationships among three important topical areas of geography: population and its dynamics, the consumption of resources, and the environmental impacts of humanity's increasing numbers. By gaining an understanding of the basic geographic principles underlying these relations, the student will improve his/her ability to interpret various international, national, and local events in terms of their environmental dimensions and outcomes. Specific topical objectives include:

- Population issues. Introduce different concepts linked with demography and population theory and relate them to differing levels of development and urbanization. Issues of human migration at international, national, and sub-national levels are also presented.
- Resources issues. Introduce, in a broadly conceived manner, natural resources to include human, capital, locational, and environmental resources. A particular emphasis will be placed upon energy and its consumption.
- Environmental outcomes. Introduce current and future consequences of human use and misuse of resources and how these differ among regions and over time. The goal is to develop an awareness of the environmental impact of human habitation and resource use. The course will then conclude on the issue of sustainability.

## Requirements

Geography 113C is part of Hofstra's social sciences distribution requirements. This means that as per the guidelines for core classes at Hofstra, this class requires a larger amount of reading (at least 1,200 pages) than a regular class and has a set of writing requirements (4,500 words). Students entering this class should thus be aware that they are expected to do all the readings and be able to write well-structured class projects. Poor written work will be penalized; any students who feel that their writing is not up to an acceptable standard should seek immediate help from the writing laboratory in Caulkins Hall.

## Responsibilities

Respective responsibilities are as follows:

- The Professor's responsibilities. Provide the most up to date and accurate information concerning the class topics. Create a challenging learning environment where the students are

exposed to new concepts and ideas. Be available (virtually and physically) to answer questions and discuss issues. Provide a fair and transparent evaluation of the students' work.

- The Student's responsibilities. Class attendance is the basic student's responsibility. Participation in class discussions constitutes an important dimension of the learning process in a subject where issues, rather than the mere learning of factual material, are the focus. Students are encouraged (and expected) to verbalize their ideas and views on the issues to be discussed. Students are also responsible for reading the required material before going to class and handing the assignments at the expected deadline.

### Evaluations

Several means will be utilized for evaluating students' performance in the course. Three examinations, one every three topics, appear on the schedule of class activities. The examinations will emphasize written work and the extent the students understand the core concepts introduced. Class participation or its absence will also be assessed and factored in to the semester grade. In addition, each student will be responsible for developing two projects. The first project involves an articles review (about 8 pages). The second project is an analysis paper (about 8 pages), which explores more in details selected issues covered in class.

You can accumulate in this class up to 225 points. Here is the breakdown of the point value of each item you will be evaluated on:

- Examination 1. 40 points.
- Examination 2. 40 points.
- Examination 3. 40 points.
- 2 class projects. 90 points (45 points each).
- Class attendance and participation. 15 points.

### Grades

To successfully complete this class, you need to accumulate 120 points:

(A) 200 points and above.	(C) Between 140 and 149 points.
(A-) Between 190 and 199 points.	(C-) Between 130 and 139 points.
(B+) Between 180 and 189 points.	(D+) Between 126 and 129 points.
(B) Between 170 and 179 points.	(D) Between 120 and 125 points.
(B-) Between 160 and 169 points.	(F) Below 120 points.
(C+) Between 150 and 159 points.	

Test material will be based on both the assigned readings and material covered during lectures. In order to gain a firm grasp of the issues discussed in class, it is imperative that students complete the required readings before class. This amounts to about 80 pages per week, including course notes.

### Penalties

Examination dates will not be changed and make-up exams will not be given except under the most compelling circumstances. A student who missed an exam is required to submit appropriate documentation before any special arrangement may be made. Without proper documentation, a student will receive a zero point for a "no-show" exam. No incomplete will be granted for this course.

Late assignments will be penalized as follows: 10% of the total points for the assignment will be deducted for each day the paper is handed in late (beginning immediately after 5 PM on due day). No assignment will be accepted 5 days after the due date. Failure to turn in assignments will adversely affect grades.

If for any reason you are having problems following lectures, cannot cope with the readings, or have any other problems with the course, please bring this matter to my attention before the end of the semester. I will be more than willing to help you out if you come to me with any course related problems.

## Outline

### **Topic 1 – Introduction to Population, Resources and Environment**

*Introduction to population geography. The notion of resource. The environment as a complex system. Readings: Peters and Larkin, Introduction and Chapter 1.*

### **Topic 2 – The Attributes of Populations**

*Population growth. Fertility. Mortality. Population profiles. Readings: Peters and Larkin, Chapters 2, 3, 5 and 6.*

### **Topic 3 – Population Theory**

*Demographic transition. Malthusianism. Neo-Malthusianism. Creative pressure. Readings: Peters and Larkin, Chapter 4.*

## **First Examination**

### **Topic 4 – Population Policy**

*Fertility policy. Mortality policy. Readings: Peters and Larkin, Chapter 7.*

### **Topic 5 – Migration and Urbanization**

*Migration issues. Migration theory. Refugees. Urbanization. Readings: Peters and Larkin, Chapter 8.*

### **Topic 6 – Commodities**

*Space. Minerals. Food. Water. Readings: Peters and Larkin, Chapter 10.*

## **Second Examination**

### **Topic 7 – Energy Resources**

*Conventional energy sources. Alternative energy sources.*

### **Topic 8 – Environment and Society**

*Environmental perception and concern. Environmental policies. The ecological footprint. Readings: Peters and Larkin, Chapter 9.*

### **Topic 9 – Environmental Sustainability**

*Demographic growth and sustainability. Resource consumption and sustainability.*

## Final Examination

### Bibliography

#### Required Readings

Brown, L.R., G. Gardner and B. Halweil (1999) *Beyond Malthus: Nineteen Dimensions of the Population Challenge*, New York: W.W. Norton. 167 pages. Note: this is a free publication posted as a PDF on the course Blackboard web site.

Peters, G.L. and R.P. Larkin (2002) *Population Geography: Problems, Concepts, and Prospects*, 7th Edition, Dubuque, Iowa: Kendal/Hutt Publishing Company, 428 pages.

### Academic Honesty

Integrity and honesty issues are taken very seriously in this class. Anyone caught cheating during an examination will be reported as an infraction to academic honesty to the provost in line with recognized university procedures. Plagiarism (see Hofstra Bulletin) in whatever form is considered a serious offence for disciplinary action. All handed material will be cross-verified on the Internet. Plagiarism will be assessed and penalties applied according to the following criteria:

- **Fraud.** Any assignment that has been written by somebody else (purchased or freely given) or recycled from another class is fraudulent. Fraud may also imply that almost all, if not the entire, contents of the assignment have been plagiarized and only a small part, such as the introduction and the conclusion, has been modified. A fraudulent assignment automatically implies a failing grade for the WHOLE CLASS and is reported to the Provost as a major infraction to academic honesty. No rewriting opportunities will be offered.
- **Substantial plagiarism.** A significant part of the assignment has been plagiarized with elements such as borrowed text without citations, rephrasing, inserted quotations and a failure to correctly acknowledge sources. An assignment with substantial plagiarism automatically receives a grade of zero and is reported to the Provost as a minor infraction to academic honesty. Rewriting may be permitted, at the professor's discretion, if the student provides strong attenuating circumstances (such as admitting wrongdoing). A rewritten assignment cannot receive more than 75% of its full credit.
- **Incidental plagiarism.** A small part of the assignment has been plagiarized with omissions and some rephrasing for a few paragraphs. A penalty up to 50% can be applied and the student can rewrite the assignment at his/her request. A rewritten assignment will be given full credit.

If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, you should seek guidance from me before you hand in your assignment.