Dr Grant Saff  
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Phone: 516-463-5596 (my office), Department: 463-5592  
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Website: http://people.hofstra.edu/faculty/Grant_Saff/  
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs: 2:15 – 3:45 PM or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
In this course, we will explore the multi-faceted subjects that make up the core aspects of human geography. Topics include the spatial relationships between people and places within contemporary economic and political systems; an analysis of why the world's population keeps growing; issues relating to population migration; the various realms of cultural geography; the spatial distribution of industry and agriculture in a global economy; the role of trade and aid in the world economy; the location and changing nature of cities; nationalism and definitions of the state in a rapidly changing political world; and contemporary problems such as the AIDS epidemic, the ending of apartheid, issues over resource use, deforestation and ethnic nationalism.

The desired outcome of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the main features of human geography and hence provide the ability to enable them to interpret geographic information wherever it may be encountered around the globe.

READINGS
The following reading is REQUIRED, and is available for purchase at the Hofstra University Bookstore:


Note: this book has its own website and also comes with a full copy of the text on CD ROM. Very useful information including online quizzes can be bound at: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072826886/student_view0/index.html

It is strongly suggested that you make use of these online materials, including the very useful chapter quizzes.

I have also assigned various REQUIRED extra readings on important topics which are not adequately covered in the main text. These readings are available in two places:

a) Longer required readings can be found on ERES. You can access them on the web via the library or my website. The access password will be provided on the first day of class.

b) Shorter topical readings, mostly from Newspapers can be found in BLACKBOARD

Important course information such as the syllabus, study guides, notes etc will also be
posted on Blackboard. It is important that you access Blackboard regularly to read course announcements and extra readings. **Failure to access these readings will not be considered as an excuse for poor performance in exams or assignments.**

**IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO ACCESS ERES, BLACKBOARD AND YOUR HOFSTRA EMAIL.** Training and help are provided by the Computer Center.

**The Additional Prescribed Readings Are:**


Other reading maybe put on reserve as the course progresses. On occasion my lectures may be supplemented with videos, slides or guest lectures. Questions on any material covered in these presentations can be asked in the exams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This class is a Social Science Division distribution class. This means that as per the guidelines for core classes at Hofstra, the class requires a large amount of reading and writing. Students entering this class should thus be aware that they are expected to do all the set readings and that the exams will include a written component. 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.

Students are expected to attend classes and to be on time. THERE IS UP TO A 5% BONUS GRADE for students who participate in class by contributing to discussions and raising questions (attending class is not on its own sufficient to receive more than a token bonus point). The importance of this bonus grade should not be underestimated, as 5 bonus points is sufficient to raise a student's grade by one whole category (such as a B- to a B). On the other hand, more than three absences, chronic lateness, sleeping, making no attempt to answer direct questions, showing disrespect to the instructor or fellow students and/or creating any disturbances in class will result in the forfeiture of the entire bonus grade and could, under certain conditions, warrant further penalties or disciplinary procedures.

Test material will be based on both the assigned readings and material covered during lectures (which may or may not be covered in the readings). In order to gain a firm grasp of the issues discussed in class, it is imperative that students complete the required readings before class. On occasion my lectures may be supplemented with videos, slides or guest lectures. Questions on any material covered in these presentations can be asked in the exams.

Although this is an introductory course, it is still important for students who do not have any prior background in geography to realize that it may require more work to achieve a high grade in this course than in courses where the student has a prior familiarity with the subject matter (such as the major department).

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

a) Exams and tests:
There will be two exams as part of this course. Exam 1 counts 30% towards your final grade and Exam 2 counts 35%. The first exam is provisionally scheduled to take place during regular class time during the week of 15 –
17 March. The final exam will be held as per the Hofstra final exam schedule on Thursday 5/19 at 6:15 pm (If you want me to consider any requests for rescheduling due to examination conflicts, I must be warned at least four weeks prior to the final exam). While the exact format of each of the exams will be announced closer to the time, it is normally the case that the exams combine multiple choice and longer essay type questions. There will be a review session before each of the exams.

b) Written Assignments:
There will be TWO pieces of written work. These will take the form of two short (3-4 typed pages) article reviews.


b) Review 2: This review has two parts:
1) Review of Wills 'Conclusion: American Adam.' What does he say is the central difference between European and US views on the city, and how does he feel that western movies (and John Wayne) fit into this? Do you agree with him?
2) A 1-2 page addendum that looks at how the central themes in the film, "The Man who shot Liberty Valance" relate to the above. (This film will be shown in class). Due: 4/12. (Counts 20% of the final grade).

Each review should first summarize the author’s main arguments (1 page), and then critically review the article, answering the set questions and noting if you agree or disagree with the author’s conclusions. Make sure that you provide me with your OWN opinions, not simply a summary of the article.

BREAKDOWN OF THE FINAL GRADE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVALUATION</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Two Article Reviews</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Class Mark (when applicable), up to an additional:</td>
<td>5</td>
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Grades will be determined by averaging the scores obtained in the five components of the course. An A will be from 95-100 (an A minus is 90-94) and anything below 60 will be an F. An A is considered a reward for exceptional work, and as such will not be awarded lightly.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE POLICIES:
1) Students are required to respect other students and the instructor. Any behavior that may disturb the class or the instructor will be warned only once. A second offense would subject the student to appropriate disciplinary action.

2) NO LATE EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED. Plagiarism or any other cheating in a paper is a serious offence and will result in: a) The paper receiving a zero grade, b) The student being reported for a breach of academic honesty to the provost and c) if a very serious breach has occurred will receive an F grade for the course.

3) Exam dates will not be changed and make-up exams will not be given except due to a medical emergency on the part of the student. The procedure for getting a makeup examination is as follows: a) the student must contact me (by phone or email) prior to the examination notifying me that s/he will be absent and stating when s/he will return to class. If it is impossible to contact me prior to the exam, you are required to notify me as soon as possible, but before the next meeting of the class. b) On the day that the student first returns, s/he must come and see me in my office prior to class. At this time the student must hand me a note from an MD attesting that s/he was too ill to attend classes on the exam day (A note from a medical officer saying that the student was seen or complained of certain illness will not be accepted as a reason for missing an examination). c) If this note is found to be acceptable I will allow a make-up examination to take place at that time (not at a later date). In other words you should be prepared to take the examination during the time period of the first class meeting after you return to school. Without proper documentation, a student will receive a zero point for a 'no-show' exam. d) No student who has not met with me prior to the first class after an examination will be given a make-up examination.

4) Anyone caught cheating in an exam (or for a paper) will be reported to the provost in line with the university procedures for a breach of academic honesty (it is important that all students familiarize themselves with Hofstra guidelines on this matter). It is likely that any student who is caught cheating in examination will receive an automatic F grade for the class.

5) You are responsible for everything covered in class (and the readings), including any lectures you may have missed and any handouts. In the event that you may miss a class, you must copy any handouts and lecture notes from your classmates. No incompletes will be granted for this course.

6) I will only give a UW grade to students that have stopped attending class no later than the second meeting after the first mid-term examination. I will only award an NC grade to students who have taken the mid-term examinations, but not handed in any term assignments (such as the extra credit), and who have stopped attending class after the official withdrawal date, BUT BEFORE THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF CLASS. No student who takes the final examination and/or hands in the extra credit assignment will be eligible for this grade. Please familiarize yourself with Hofstra policies regarding grades and also with the official date for withdrawing from class.

7) It is your duty to check your email for messages from me. These email messages could relate to your specific performance or pertain to important class announcements. I will be using the email address that Hofstra provides to each student (and then
gives to the instructor). It is your responsibility to know this address and to familiarize
yourself with the Hofstra email system (you can for example, automatically forward
this email to another address). You should check your email prior to every class for
announcements. I am not responsible for teaching you how to use the Hofstra
computer system, please contact student computing if you need help.

8) The syllabus, Blackboard and other student resources can be accessed from my
website http://people.hofstra.edu/faculty/Grant_Saff/ and are also available in
Blackboard.

9) The best way to communicate with me outside of class times and my office hours
is via email. I will endeavor to answer all email questions within 24 hours (excepting
weekends). You may leave voice mail messages for me, but this will be less efficient
than emailing me. Please identify yourself in the heading of your email by name
and by class. The heading should thus read: "A question from John Brown, Geog
106 sec 1". This will ensure that the message gets opened, rather than being deleted as
spam.

10) You will be held accountable for any email that you send me. Make sure that you
check for viruses before you send anything electronic submissions to me.

11) If for any reason you are having problems following lectures, cannot cope with the
readings, or have any other problems with the course, it is your duty to bring these to
my attention. I will be more than willing to help you out if you come to me with any
course related problems. Any problems not brought to my attention will not be
considered at an excuse for poor performance in the examinations or paper.

YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS CLASS SIGNIFYS THAT YOU HAVE READ THE
SYLLABUS AND ARE WILLING TO COMPLY WITH ITS CONTENTS.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic (s)</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Basic Concepts in Geographical Analysis</td>
<td>FGG Ch 1, Pattison, Thrift; Harley, FGG Appendix A, Agnew</td>
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<td>- Reading Maps, Types of Maps, GIS</td>
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<td>2, 3</td>
<td>Cultural Diffusion: Language, Religion and Social Customs</td>
<td>FGG, Ch 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, Carney; Gordon, Harvey, Vidal de la Blache</td>
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<td>4, 5</td>
<td>Demography: Population and Migration</td>
<td>FGG Ch 4, Weiskel, Livernash</td>
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<td>6, 7</td>
<td>Economic Geography:</td>
<td>FGG, Ch. 8, 9, 10 Broad and Cavenagh</td>
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<td>- Economic sectors</td>
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<td>- Distribution of economic activity</td>
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<td>- The Global Economy</td>
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<td>- Patterns of Development/Economic Measures</td>
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<td>8, 9</td>
<td>Urban Geography and the Urban Challenge:</td>
<td>FGG, Ch. 11, Linden, Fishman; Hayden</td>
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<td>- Urbanization</td>
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<td>- Urban Systems</td>
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<td>- Inside the city</td>
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<td>10, 11</td>
<td>Political Geography: The Nation, State and Ethnicity; the Colonial and Imperial Legacy</td>
<td>FGG, Ch. 12, Griffiths 7,8</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>South Africa and Apartheid</td>
<td>To be added later</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Contemporary Environmental and Social Issues: The Endangered Ecosystem</td>
<td>FGG, Ch. 13, Mabogunje</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Resource Problems/Review</td>
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