

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

GEOG 111, Fall 2017

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Paul Kaldjian

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Office Location: 245 Phillips Hall

Office Phone: (715) 836-2321

(Feel free to call, email, come by office hours or make an appointment)

Drop-in Office Hours

Mon & Fri 10-11:00 am

Tues 10:00-11:30 am

Or by appointment if

scheduled times do

not work

What this course is about?

Social, cultural, economic, and technological changes are bringing distant places of the world increasingly near, and our work, travel, and consumption ties us to people, ideas and products from everywhere on Earth. This course introduces students to some of the basic concepts, theories and practices of contemporary human geography that will, in turn, help us understand and appreciate the differences, similarities and relationships between places, from local to global.

You will quickly discover that human geography involves much more than colored pencils, blank maps, place memorization and crossword puzzles. As critical thinkers, our goal is to move from simple recall and memorization toward analysis, synthesis and evaluation -- the highest levels of thinking. Geography is the intellectually exciting and practically relevant examination of the spatial and environmental-societal relationships surrounding us. We will survey the traditional sub-fields of human geography as we learn geographic ways of thinking to aid us in understanding the people and places around us. We are becoming geographically informed people.

Geography is an integrative and synthesizing discipline. It has specialized forms of communication (maps), emphasizes spatial awareness and examines cause, consequence and significance. As a consequence, this introductory



Washington Post, 18 March 2014. Photo: P. Kaldjian.

class introduces many of UWEC's Liberal Education Learning Goals: 1) Knowledge of Human Culture and the Natural World; 2) Creative and Critical Thinking; 3) Effective Communication; 4) Individual and Social Responsibility; 5) Respect for Diversity Among People. Definitions of these goals and their outcomes in the context of geography are found at www.uwec.edu/Assess/plo/cas/geog/. While this course provides a foundation for developing knowledge of human culture from a geographic perspective, and attempts to provoke curiosity in the world around us, perhaps the single most important learning outcome is for us to develop knowledge for living in a pluralistic society and a globally interdependent world. We will see geography in everything.

To enhance our understanding of space and scale, cultures and regions, and the interdependence of people and places – that is, to stimulate our geographic imagination – class sessions will consist of lectures, complemented by videos, music, e-handouts and readings, news accounts and other materials that exemplify geography in contemporary life.

Learning Outcomes: Why should I take this course?

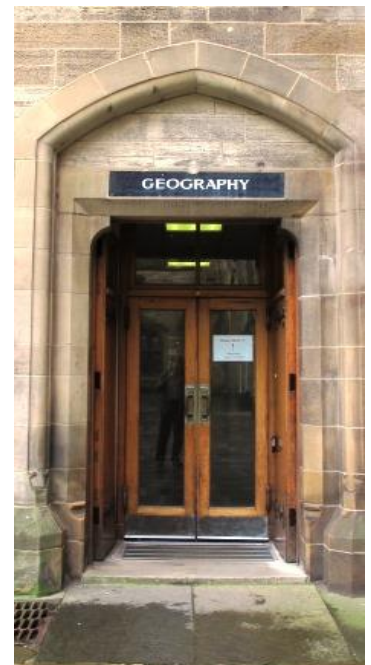
While this course covers all four of [UW-Eau Claire's Liberal Education Learning Outcomes](#) (knowledge, skills, responsibility, and integration), it emphasizes two of them.

Knowledge Goal: Build knowledge and awareness of diverse peoples and cultures and of the natural and physical world. Specifically, we will Use knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to explain and evaluate human behavior and social institutions.

Responsibility Goal: Apply personal and social responsibility for active citizenship and develop skills needed to thrive in a pluralistic and globally interdependent world.

What will I be able to do after successfully completing this course?

1. Demonstrate knowledge about the world's diverse cultures, environments, practices, or values;
2. Evaluate global systems, institutions, or relationships of power in a historical or geographical context;
3. Understand that individual and collective decisions have global implications
4. Demonstrate knowledge of social science theories and perspectives to explain human behavior and social institutions; and,
5. Demonstrate knowledge of methods and principles underlying research in geography.



University of Glasgow.
Photo: P. Kaldjian, 2014.

What kinds of topics will we be learning about?

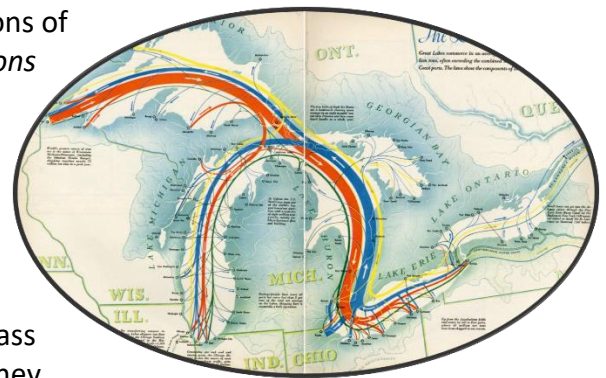
Geographical Perspective	What does it mean to think spatially? To have a geographical imagination? How does place matter? Importance of site and situation.
Regional & area studies	Why do we study areas and places? The importance of scale. Relationships within and between places.
Place Identification	Knowing where things are is a precondition to being able to learn and talk about them, and to understand the significance of place.
Physical Geography	Environmental context and resource base. Human adaptations of environment, environmental responses.
Human Geography	How a geographic perspective helps us understand culture & cultural processes (religion, language, ethnicity, diffusion of ideas, meaning of landscapes, and significance of place)
Value Systems & Responsibilities	Understanding how our identities, value systems, practices, & histories vary over space, are linked to place and power, & influence our perceptions & representations.
Maps & Communication	Understanding maps & their subjectivity; reading, analyzing and making maps; Moving beyond binary and black/white understanding of our world in our discussions, positions and expression.

Important Dates – See schedule on [D2L](#) for weekly topics, readings, exams & homework dates

6 September	First day of classes
12 September	Last day to add a class without instructor approval
19 September	Last day to drop a class with no record & to add a class without Dean's approval
Sept- 8 December	Campus/Community Events (see below)
Fall 2017	Campus Forum (Ticket may be required)
14 November	Last day to withdraw from a class with a "W"
12-18 November	Geography Awareness Week
23-24 November	Thanksgiving Break
8 December	Last day to submit Event Review Forms
15 December	Last day of classes – Exam period is 18-22 December

Is there a textbook for this course?

Required (rental) texts for this course are the latest editions of Knox and Marston's *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context* and Goode's *World Atlas*, both published by Pearson/Prentice Hall. Links to further required and optional readings are on D2L and part of course homework assignments. For effective learning, readings ought to be completed by the time they are presented in class (see schedule). You must learn what works best for engaging these materials and coming to class prepared. Lecture Powerpoints are posted to [D2L](#) after they are presented in lecture. Review them regularly.



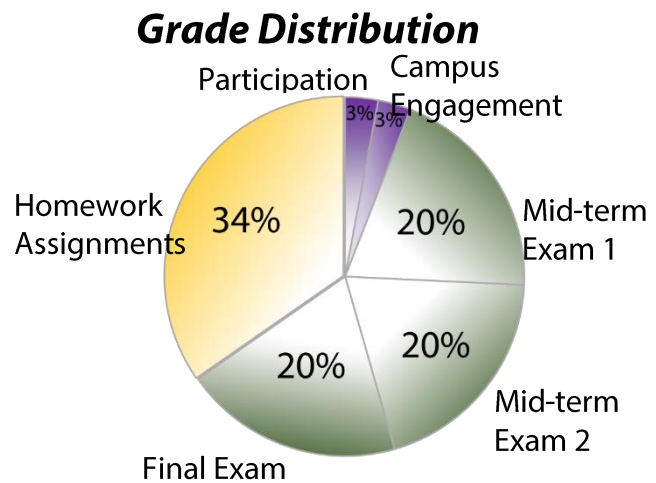
The Last of the Free Seas, *Fortune Magazine*, July 1940. Cartographer: Boris Artzhasheff.

Important: All course materials and information – schedule, assignments, pdfs of lectures, etc. – you need for Kaldjian's GEOG 111 are contained on [D2L](#). I will also use [D2L](#) to post your grades and you will use it for submitting homework assignments.

How will I be graded in this course?

Final grades will be determined according to the point system outlined below. Any adjustments to this over the course of the semester will be explained in class.

Participation	30
Campus Events	30
Final Exam	200
Mid-term Exams	400
Homework	340
Total Points	1000



Homework assignments are to be submitted as PDFs to [D2L](#) before the beginning of class on the day that they are due. They cannot, otherwise, be accepted without a penalty (-5% for each day). If you include hand drawn maps or images, please scan and save them as a pdf or jpeg. Emailed exercises will not be accepted except under special circumstances. Under extenuating and verifiable circumstances late homework may be accepted without penalty; if you have any questions about your specific circumstances, please see me. For your protection, please keep a copy of all homework. Honors students have an additional 100 point assignment.

Exams are a combination of multiple choice, matching, true-false and anything else that can creatively and appropriately be answered on a scan form. The final exam, while emphasizing the final third of the course, will be comprehensive. General review sessions are usually organized, but they will not replace the need for you to develop your own materials and system of study. Exams cannot be made up except under extenuating and verifiable circumstances – you must see me immediately if you miss an exam.

Participation and Attendance: It is imperative that students come to class, and better to come prepared. While attendance does not specifically count toward students' grades, attendance is a necessary condition for participation.

As a measure of participation, students are to turn in brief reflections/thoughts that emerge from lecture each day at the end of class. These will be collected and used as a measure of participation. To get credit, you **MUST** include your name, the date and a clearly written response germane to the subject of the day's lecture/readings/discussion. A discussion with Kaldjian in his office during office hours or a scheduled appointment can be used to make up one missed class period. You will have to send Kaldjian an email in follow-up to get credit.

Campus Engagement: Students are required to attend one campus learning event before Thanksgiving/Spring break. This is to be a talk, exhibit, a forum speaker, or special event with an international or multicultural AND intellectual/learning (not simply entertainment) emphasis. It can also be a foreign-language film subtitled for English speakers and shown on the UWEC campus (see [Int'l Film Society](#)). PLEASE NOTE: All campus films are not suited for all audiences. It is your responsibility to research the film before viewing it.

For this event, you are to thoughtfully respond within a week of the event using the on-line [Event Review Form](#) (in the form of an on-line Qualtrics survey). Be sure to keep a copy of your response for yourself in case I do not properly received the form.

As part of this first year emphasis course, you are also required to complete the 5 [Blueprint for a Blugold](#) modules and their quizzes, available on the [D2L](#) site for this course. The schedule for completing the module and taking the short quiz are listed in the course schedule.

What course and university policies do I need to be clear about?

Great question. Being clear about expectations and procedures helps to avoid confusion and increase the potential for learning.

Communication: Email is the most effective form of communication between you and me. Check your UWEC account regularly, as course announcements and information to your UWEC account constitute official course communication. When emailing me, please use your UWEC account. If I do not reply as quickly as you would like, please be patient and email again. As department chair, I have many things competing for my attention. Thank you for understanding.



An encouraging gesture from Istanbul.
Photo: P. Kaldjian, 2014.

Learning environment: While the number of students in our classroom makes class discussion somewhat difficult, it is possible. Our goal is to create a positive setting for learning and inquiry that is welcoming of all people. You are encouraged to discuss, ask questions and provide input as we explore issues and ideas. New and different ideas and perspectives can be threatening or discomforting, so how we discuss becomes very important – with respect and in an orderly fashion. It is ok to disagree. It can be done respectfully, and as part of learning.

Classroom Etiquette: Disruptive and disrespectful behavior and activities that detract from the classroom as a learning environment are unacceptable. Multitasking doesn't just distract you, research shows that it impedes the learning of those around you! If you have any questions or concerns about your specific circumstances, please see or [email me](#). For example, if you wish to use your laptop to take notes or need to leave your cell phone on – please see me in advance.

Please turn off cell phones, *do not text*, surf, or read newspapers and outside materials in class, unplug musical gizmos from your ears and provide the teacher and your fellow students with

the attention and presence we all need. *Laptops are not allowed without instructor permission* and you do not need to fact check during lecture – there is plenty of opportunity for discussion and new information outside of class time. In fact, studies show that taking lecture notes by hand is better for learning than typing on a laptop. Don't believe it? [Read here](#). If you want to sleep in class, do it upright – otherwise you need to be in bed.

If you have any questions or concerns about your specific circumstances, please see or [email me](#). For example, there may be emergency situations where a cell phone must be left on or where you may need to leave class early – please let me know in advance.

UW-Eau Claire Learning Support: UW-Eau Claire has many programs and support services intended to help students thrive academically and that recognize our many backgrounds and issues. Some of these services are listed below. Please do not ignore what they may offer you.

Any student who has a disability and is in need of classroom accommodations, please contact the instructor and the [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) Office in Centennial Hall 2106 right away. If you have special needs or concerns apart from disabilities, please see me. Please recognize that we cannot be of service if we do not know that there are unmet needs.

The [Academic Skills Center \(ASC\)](#) provides an array of academic support programs designed to enable students to become independent, efficient, and confident learners. The ASC is located on second floor of the Centennial Hall in the Student Success Center – CEN 2104.

The [Center for Writing Excellence](#), also in Centennial Hall's Student Success Center, offers the entire range of writing support – from brainstorming topics to polishing and revising final papers – and offers you a comfortable place to work on your writing one-to-one with trained writing assistants. Contact them to make an appointment.



If you are feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, depressed or otherwise emotionally distraught or struggling, please know that [UW-Eau Claire Counseling Services](#) is available to all of our students. If you are unsure about what to do, please make an appointment or come and see me. I will be happy to walk over with you.

Academic Integrity: To foster a constructive and collaborative learning environment, the University requires that all students adhere to the [Blugold Student Conduct Code](#) (find it through www.uwec.edu/dos/policies).

Very importantly, for a community and its members to grow, we must be able to trust each other. We are a learning community, and I will trust you and believe you, your motivations, your explanations and your actions. I will assume that your work is your own, that you will acknowledge the work of others, and work to assure you that your academic success does not

come at somebody else's expense. A community grows when all succeed. In this way, academic integrity benefits all of us. If this trust is violated, however, I will respond.

Academic dishonesty – the attempt to gain unfair advantage through deception or untruthfulness – is destructive, not only for the individuals who perpetuate it, but for the whole community. It is commonly associated with taking somebody else's work as one's own, but it can involve much more than that. It involves much more than just graded work. One of the most common violations of academic integrity is plagiarism, which people often commit without realizing it. While ignorance may be an explanation it is not an excuse. Please see me, your advisor, or the [Blugold Student Conduct Code](#) if you are at all uncertain.

Missed or late work: It is important to keep up with readings and assignments, and all quizzes, exams and assignments need to be completed by their due dates. If you miss a due date, it is still better to turn in an assignment late for partial credit than not complete it at all. In any case, please see me as soon as you know of an impending absence, or as soon as you can after an unexpected one.

As a general rule, accommodations for missed in-class activities, quizzes, exams, etc., are provided for authorized absences. Please see me to discuss and arrange accommodations as soon as is practical; if it is too late, you may not receive any credit.



Valley Fish Market, Prairie du Chien – second oldest city in WI. Photo: J. Hildebrand, 2015.

Withdrawing from a course: Sometimes we need to withdraw from a course for personal or academic reasons. If you feel you may need to withdraw from GEOG 111, you should know two things. First, you should discuss the situation with your advisor, a mentor, or me. Second, there are important for dropping classes (see above box of important dates or [deadline dates](#)). Please [email me](#) if you wish to set up a meeting.

Bakmakla usta olunsa, köpekler kasap olurdu

(If one learned by watching, dogs would be butchers)

– Anatolian Proverb, in Turkish