

Master Syllabus
Introduction to Cultural Geography
GEOG 1302

All Geography faculty teaching this course are expected to include the following items in their course syllabus. Your individual policies are up to you, but you must include clearly stated policies as required below.

1. Heading

The instructor will give the following information to students:

- a. Instructor's name
- b. Course name and number:
Introduction to Cultural Geography
GEOG 1302
- c. Synonym and section number

2. Contact Information (How to reach the instructor)

The instructor will give students his home campus (if applicable), office number, and office telephone number. The instructor may also give students his e-mail address and other telephone numbers (including home number) if the instructor wishes to release that information. All instructors will give students their office hours. Full-time instructors will discuss how conferences outside of office hours can be arranged.

3. Course description

The following course description will be included in the syllabus:

This course explores how humans create "places" through culture and their adaptation to the physical environment. Formal and functional aspects of spatial decision making are stressed.

4. Required texts/materials

List all texts/materials that students will need for the course including the author, title, edition, and year of publication. The textbooks must be on the approved textbook list as maintained by the Social Sciences task force.

5. Instructional Methodology

The instructor will describe the methodology (lecture, group discussion, group projects, etc.) that will be used to teach the course.

6. Course rationale

Instructor will include a course rationale.

“Introduction to Cultural Geography is designed to provide students with an understanding of the spatial distributions of cultures and the processes that led to these distributions. This understanding will allow students to apply general geographic knowledge and skills to their chosen careers, to apply the course towards

an associate degree at Austin Community College, and to prepare them for success in upper division courses in Geography at other institutions.”

7. Common Objectives

The following common objectives will be included on the syllabus: (The instructor is encouraged to add additional objectives but they do not have to be listed here and can be handed out separately.)

By the end of this course, the student

- Will be able to describe what geography and cultural geography are.
- Will understand the importance of geographic tools and philosophy.
- Will understand the processes determining *place*.
- Will understand the basics of human-environmental interaction.

8. Course Evaluation/Grading System

There are no discipline-wide policies regarding grading/evaluations. The instructor will explain to students how they will be graded/evaluated in the course.

9. Course policies

The instructor will include policies on attendance (If you don't have an attendance policy, make sure that is indicated on the syllabus), withdrawals, incompletes, scholastic dishonesty, student discipline, academic freedom, and students with disabilities.

a. The following statement on scholastic dishonesty must be included:

“Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research, or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework.”

Included specifics guidelines about how scholastic dishonesty will be handled and what punishments may result if a student is found guilty of scholastic dishonesty.

- b. The following statement on students with disabilities must be included:

“Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester.”

- c. Policy on academic freedom. This is suggested wording; you may modify this as you choose.

“Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. Students may not only disagree with each other at times, but the students and instructor may also find that they have disparate views on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or in assignments. Rather, we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.”

10. Course Outline/Calendar

This will be instructor specific. Students need to have some idea of what they will be doing when, particular test dates, and other due dates. If dates are tentative or subject to change a statement to that effect must be included on the syllabus.