

# GEOG 2: Cultural Geography

## Internet Course (100% Distance Education)

**Instructor:** Maureen Smith

**Office:** BGS 350

**Phone:** 949.582.4210 (call during office hours, email is best)

**Office Hours:** Varies based on semester

**Website:** <http://www.saddleback.edu/faculty/msmith115/>

**Email:** [msmith115@saddleback.edu](mailto:msmith115@saddleback.edu)

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students in this course will be able to explain cultural diffusion and analyze the factors that influence its rate and extend.
2. Understand the relationship between the physical environment and the cultural environment.
3. Students will be able to analyze the relationship between agriculture and urban patterns.

### **Course Description:**

Introduction to social and political elements of geography and a survey of major cultural patterns.

### **Course Goals and Objectives:**

The overall goal of this course is to expose you to cultural geography in a global context. Cultural geography is the study of the ways in which “combinations of environmental and human factors produce territories with distinctive landscapes and cultural attributes” (Marston, Knox, and Liverman 2005, 2). Equally important goals are to develop: 1) your comprehension and appreciation of world conditions and dynamics similar and different from your own, and 2) your ability to be reflective about your own knowledge and thinking.

### **Recommended Prep:**

It is recommended that all students in this course have successfully completed all basic skills courses in reading, writing, and math. You will be expected to perform at the college level in this course.

### **Required Texts:**

1. Rubenstein, J., *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition
2. GEOG 2 – Cultural Geography Reader by Maureen K. Smith. Only available on-line at [www.universityreaders.com](http://www.universityreaders.com).

**Course Requirements:** Students must have a working knowledge and feel confident with the use of the Internet, email, and be self-motivated. The course moves at a rapid pace with multiple assignments each week. Weekly assignments must be completed by the posted deadline. All activities will be online, using Blackboard on the Saddleback College homepage. Students are responsible to read all notices posted on the discussion board, announcements, and email. Reading from the textbook is also required to complete this course. There will be 3 exams, various quizzes, discussion posts, and homework activities. Specific instructions for all homework will be posted on Blackboard. Points will be given for all assignments, and the course grade will be based on the percentage of total points accumulated.

**Late work is not accepted. No exceptions.**

**Communication:** Saddleback College provides each student with an email address that can be accessed through MySite. Please note that your professor will use this email address to contact you and provide you with feedback on your work; therefore, it is imperative that you check your email address on a regular basis. If you are not accustomed to or willing to check your Saddleback email on a regular basis, you **MUST** set up the

account to forward emails to an email address that you do use on a regular basis. You are responsible for all information sent in my emails whether you read them or not.

The instructor will respond to email within 36 hours during the week (Monday through Friday at noon). Emails received after Friday at 12pm will be answered on Monday morning. This is important for students who think they will do all their weekly work on the weekends. **All emails must include your name (first & last), the ticket number and course title in the subject heading or it will be deleted. Example in e-mail subject line: Maureen Smith; Geog 2; tk#: 12345.** Problems with student email or web access will be considered the responsibility of the student to fix, not the instructor. Good communication is important, since we will not be meeting on campus. You do not need to send duplicate emails! I do not delete emails until I have answered them.

**Rules for Online Conduct (Netiquette):** The course topics are of a mature nature, and students are expected to act in a mature manner. It is essential that each student be polite and respectful at all times. While open discussion of the course topics is encouraged, students must maintain respect for each other, the instructor, and the peoples and cultures discussed in class. A good thing to keep in mind is, “would I say this to the person’s face?” or “would I say this to my grandma?” Also note that abusive or offensive language will not be tolerated. If a student is found to be disrespectful and/or providing a negative learning environment for others he or she will be removed from the course! Just be polite and act at least as respectfully as you want to be treated. Please go to the following websites for information on “Netiquette”:

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

**Basic Computer Skills and Requirements. You must be able to:**

- 🌐 Access and navigate the Internet
- 🌐 Access and navigate the course website
- 🌐 Receive and send emails
- 🌐 Access and post on Discussion Board
- 🌐 Create and send attachments
- 🌐 Use Word and its main features

**You must have access to:**

- 🌐 A reasonably fast computer, with at least 64 MB of RAM
- 🌐 Internet service from a reliable Internet Service Provider
- 🌐 Internet browser such as Mozilla Firefox or Safari
- 🌐 Microsoft Applications: Word, PowerPoint
- 🌐 To view portable document format (PDF) files, you need Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or higher. You can download the software free of charge from the company’s website, at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat>

**Examinations:** There will be 3 exams in this course each worth 50 points. Exams will cover material from textbook readings, article assignments, quizzes and homework. All three exams will be held on-line through blackboard. Exams can **only be taken once** and will have a 1 hour and 10 minute time limit once the exam has been opened. If you take longer than the allotted time, 1 point will be deducted from your exam score for every minute you go over. You must follow all the rules while taking the exam or else face the consequences of not finishing the exam and getting a low grade. You cannot have any other programs running or other internet windows open while taking the exam. You cannot take the exam while on a wireless internet connection (like using a laptop at a coffee shop) or press the BACK or Refresh buttons on the internet window.

If you do not follow one or more of these rules, the exam will stop, give you an error message and you will not be able to access the exam to finish it. I will only reset an exam once during the semester due to an extreme emergency that can be verified or system-wide Blackboard errors. In this case, you must take a screen capture of the error message that you receive and email that to me. That way I can verify that there was a true system-wide error instead of you just not following the exam rules.

Please note that exam and quiz dates will not be extended for technical difficulties related to personal computer equipment, only for system-wide Blackboard errors. You have 1 week to complete each exam or quiz; therefore, it is suggested that you do not wait until the last minute to complete them, as all assignments completed within 24 hours of the due date are done so at your own risk!

**Homework Assignments:** For some of the chapters in the textbook that we cover throughout the semester, there will be an assignment worth 10 points. Each assignment will be posted in blackboard with detailed instructions. No Plagiarism!!! You MUST answer the questions in your own words! Copying sentences straight from the textbook or article word for word or from another student will result in ZERO points. If I find that students are plagiarizing their homework or not properly citing their sources, the entire class will then have to submit their homework to turnitin.com to check for plagiarism. See the end of the syllabus for the correct way to cite your sources utilizing the **Chicago Manual of Style** which is required for this Geography course. Students are expected to write at the college level using appropriate organization, grammar, punctuation and spelling. You will submit these assignments to me via blackboard.

You will be submitting all of your assignments on our class site in Blackboard. There will be a link available for each assignment that allows you to upload your document. You are responsible for uploading your document by the designated date and time since late work is not accepted. To make sure that your document successfully uploaded, check the Gradebook and if it worked, there will be an exclamation point ( ! ) telling you I have received your assignment. All homework documents must be saved in **Rich Text Format (.rtf)** prior to uploading to Blackboard so that it properly displays on my end and I can grade it. If you do not do this and I cannot open your homework, it will be considered not turned in and you will get a zero for the assignment.

**Chapter Quizzes:** There will be 11 chapter quizzes throughout the semester on topics we are covering that are worth 10 points each. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped (if you miss a quiz, that is the one that will be dropped). Chapter quizzes can be taken **up to 4 times**, but they are drawn from a random pool of questions. Only your highest score is recorded. There is a 30 minute time limit for the quiz so your success is dependent on reading the material **before** you take the quiz. Just like an exam, when you are taking the quiz, you cannot hit the Refresh or Back button. If you do, the exam will close, only count the questions you answered, and it will count as 1 of your 4 attempts. I will not reset a quiz. Each quiz will only be available for a week so you must take the quiz at least once before the week is over or else you will receive a zero score. Quizzes will always be due on Sunday at 11:55pm the week it is assigned.

**Discussion Board Activities/Assignments:** Students will be required to read articles, do research, or another activity and submit insightful and clear answers to questions posted. You will also be required to read and respond to other students' discussion postings to fulfill this requirement. Your initial (first) post will be due each week on Thursdays by 11:55pm and will be worth 6 out of the 10 possible points. Then you will be required to read through other students' postings and respond to two other posts. Each response will be worth 2 points for a total of 4 to complete the 10 points possible. The two response posts will always be due on Sunday by 11:55pm. If you submit your post or responses past the due date, you will not receive the points.

Each posting will be graded based on **A)** how well it addressed the specific questions, and **B)** quality of thoughts expressed. Remember that you are expected to write at the college level! You can respond to other students' post all you want with "I agree" or "wow that is a good point" but those will not count! You will be graded based on your first post addressing all aspects of the questions and your responses to other students based on you giving good feedback or continuing the academic conversation.

**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course is based on each student's total number of points accumulated through their performance on assignments. The estimated number of total points possible for the course is around 350. At the end of the semester, I take your total points and divide it by the total points possible for the course. I do not round any student points up.

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Exams:	150	43%	350 - 315	A
Quizzes:	100	28.5%	314 - 280	B
<u>Assignments:</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>28.5%</u>	279 – 245	C
	350	100%	244 – 210	D
			209 or below	F

**Questions about Grades & Feedback:**

**Gradebook** – You will be able to check your grades in the course site on Blackboard. Grades will be posted once the entire classes' assignment has been graded. Depending on the assignment, this could take up to three weeks. With any grade questions, you **MUST** include a copy of the assignment or discussion posting.

**Assignment Feedback** – Feedback will be given in several ways:

1. Via a discussion response (overall response to class or individual responses on the discussion board)
2. Through rubric-based points
3. Gradebook in the instructor comment area (**I usually make comments to you here especially if you lose any points**).
4. Via embedded notes in electronically-submitted papers

Not all grades are automatically posted. Please do not inquire about when assignments will be graded, I always send an e-mail to the entire class letting you know that I have completed grading something and it can now be viewed in the gradebook. Note that I have set up two different regular due dates – Thursdays and Sundays before 11:55pm. All discussion postings and assignments will always be due on one of these days during the week.

Typical flow of due dates:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sunday
			Initial discussion thread posting due & readings.			Individual assignments, quizzes and discussion board responses due.

**ADA Accommodations: Students with a Disability:** "This course meets the requirements set forth in the accessibility checklist and universal design grid provided by Special Services. The Web pages, video

presentations, textbooks and class materials used in this course are accessible to students with disabilities.” If you have questions on how to make accommodations, please contact Mike Sauter, the Alternate Media Specialist. Website: [www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/](http://www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/)

**Note:** You **MUST** be assessed by DSPS and provide me with the paper work before any accommodations can be provided.

**Saddleback Student Handbook:** Please read about student services, student responsibilities, expectations for behavior, and academic integrity by picking up a hard copy in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division Office (BGS 314) or accessing it from the Saddleback website under the *New & Continuing Students* tab.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY & CHEATING POLICY:** Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the written work of others in an assignment is considered very serious and will not be tolerated in this course! Examples of academic dishonesty are: unacceptable examination behavior (communicating with other students, copying an exam from another person, allowing another student to copy your own exam), plagiarism (using another individual’s words as your own and/or not properly citing another individual’s work), fraud, unauthorized collaboration (including allowing other students to read your completed papers), and document falsification. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a **grade of zero on the test or assignment** and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean and V.P. of Student Services to be retained on record in your college file. Refer to pages 39 and 40 of the *Student Handbook* for more information on plagiarism. Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else’s words or ideas. All work must be properly cited from the text or other sources (this includes the internet). The discipline of Geography uses the Chicago Manual of Style for citation. The following are examples from the Chicago Manual of Style and **MUST** be used when citing someone else’s work.

**Citing within your writing:** The Proper way to cite someone else’s words or ideas **within your text** is as follows:

**A. WORD for WORD,** you must follow this format:

“French is an official language in 29 countries and for hundreds of years served as the lingua franca for international diplomats” (Rubenstein 2011, 164).

**B. PARAPHRASING:** If you take someone else’s idea and change it into your own words, you still must give that person credit by following this format:

Not only do 26 countries have French as an official language, it served as the lingua franca for hundreds of years (Rubenstein 2011).

**Bibliography:** Any time you cite someone in your writing, you must provide a bibliography at the end of your essay/assignment. Your bibliography/works cited page should be alphabetically arranged by the author’s last name. Examples are provided.

**Book:** your citation should follow this example:

Rubenstein, James M. *An Introduction to Human Geography: The Cultural Landscape*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.

**Article:** your citation should follow this example:

Innes, Judith E., and David M. Simpson. "Implementing GIS for Planning." *Journal of American Planning Association* 59, no. 2 (1993): 230-237.

**Website:** your citation should follow this example:

United States Census Bureau 2001. *Census 2000*. Available from <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>; Internet; (accessed 22 June 2010).

**Bibliography Example:** Here is an example of how to properly organize your Works Cited or Bibliography page. Bibliographies are always arranged in alphabetic order by the author's last name!

Campbell, Heather, and Ian Masser. *GIS and Organizations*. London: Taylor and Francis, 1995.

Somers, Rebecca. "Building your GIS from the Ground Up." *American City & County* 113, no. 4 (1998): 24-34.

Thomas, Robert J. *What Machines Can't Do*. Berkeley: University of California, 1994.

United States Census Bureau 2001. *Census 2000*. Available from <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>; Internet; (accessed 22 June 2005).

## Class Policies

### **Missed Assignment:**

Late assignments will not be accepted! Only in an emergency can you turn in one homework assignment late with the 'Late Work Coupon'. The 'Late Work Coupon' can only be used for article homework assignments, not discussion posts, quizzes, or exams. I do not want to know the emergency or the details. You have to decide what constitutes an emergency since you will only get to use it once. If you decide to use your 'Late Work Coupon' you still need to turn in the assignment within one week of its due date. You will fill out the "Late Work Coupon" available at the end of the syllabus and email it to me along with your assignment. Every day that the assignment is late, you will lose 1 point. So if you take the full week after the due date to submit it to me, the most amount of points you can receive for a 10 point homework assignment is 3 points. Once the "late" option has been used, no other assignments can be turned in late regardless of circumstances.

### **Missed Exams:**

No student can make up an exam! Only in the case of an extreme emergency (which must be verified by a doctor's note, funeral notice or police report). Students must inform the instructor as soon as possible via e-mail and phone message informing me of the emergency and you MUST already have the documentation ready to submit to me. With a documented and accepted emergency, students will lose 10% of the total points for the exam for each day it is past the due date so it is best to still take the exam ASAP.

## **Attendance:**

The instructor is required to drop all 'No Show' students. For this on-line course, you will be considered a 'No Show' if you do not show up to class the first week. This means that you must not only log into our course on Blackboard but participate in at least one of the two assignments due week 1. If you fail to do this, you will be automatically dropped from the course, no exceptions. The instructor also has the right to drop any student who fails to show up to class in Blackboard for three straight weeks in a row.

## **Technical Difficulties:**

General questions or problems with navigating Blackboard can often be resolved by reading the general instructions for Blackboard available at <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/documents/BBInfoandFAQ.pdf>

If you do have a technical difficulty, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor (by sending an email or leaving a voicemail) as soon as possible after experiencing the problem with a detailed account of the technical issue (e.g., a screen shot of the error message or problem you encounter would be helpful). This serves as a time stamp for when the problem occurred.

Once you have notified the instructor for the time stamp, you must then contact on-line technical support at either: <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/documents/BBInfoandFAQ.pdf> or the Online Technical Help Center: (866) 940-8991. Do not wait for me to respond to your email because I cannot fix your Blackboard problem. Unfortunately this can sometimes take a long time on the phone with technical support.


A true technical difficulty may be accepted as a one-time excuse for not turning in a quiz or homework assignment on time if these directions are followed and the time stamp on the email is more than 24 hours before the due date. After a one-time exception is given, it is expected that the student work with technical support staff on campus to learn how to avoid future technical difficulties. This policy is to assure that technical difficulties are not encountered during online exams by preventing the possibility of recurrent technical issues.

## **Preventing Technical Difficulties:**

To ensure that there are no technical difficulties while taking the online quizzes and exams you will need to **close all OTHER BROWSERS, close any other programs, and DO NOT click on "Refresh" or the "Back" buttons** as this can cause the website and the exam to freeze up and kick you out of the system. Please use **"Firefox"** (go to [firefox.com](http://firefox.com) to download for free) or **"Safari"** as your internet browser as it seems to work best when taking online exams. Students must also make sure they are on a **WIRED CONNECTION** (do not use a wireless router) when completing exams. Make-ups will not be allowed for such avoidable technical difficulties. Also, make sure your internet connection is not moving slower than usual before you start the exam as this could cause your exam to not be processed upon submission. Do not wait until the last minute to take exams as technical difficulties will not be considered if it is within the last 24 hours allotted to complete the exam.

## "Tentative" Course Schedule

 This is the order in which we will be moving through the textbook.

 The textbook & course Reader is on reserve in the library under: Maureen Smith (Geography)

CH.	TOPIC	CONCEPTS
1	Thinking Geographically	Maps, Scale, Place, Regions, & Space
2	Population	Population concentrations, Density, Natural Increase, Fertility & Mortality
3	Migration	Reasons for migration, Global Migration Patterns, U.S. Immigration Patterns & Impacts of Migration
10	Agriculture	Origins of Agr., Agricultural Hearths, Types of Agr., & Agr. Issues
13	Urban Patterns	Urbanization, 3 Models, Inner-City Physical, Social, & Economic Problems, & Transportation
4	Folk and Popular Culture	Origin & Diffusion of Folk & Popular Culture, Cultural Diversity, Role of Television
5	Language	Origin & Diffusion of English, Classification of Languages, & Language Diversity
6	Religion	Universalizing Religion, Origin & Diffusion of Religions, Religion vs. Government Policies
7	Ethnicity	Distribution of Ethnicities in U.S., Ethnic Identity, Ethnic Cleansing
8	Political Geography	Defining States, Boundaries, Cooperation, Terrorism

---

### LATE WORK COUPON: USE ONLY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Assignment must be received by the instructor within **one week** of the original due date. 10% will be deducted for each day that it is late so turn it in ASAP!
- Once you have used this coupon, you may not turn in additional late work **REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES!**