

**Chemeketa Community College**

4000 Lancaster Drive NE

PO Box 14007

Salem, Oregon 97309-7070

**Course Outline**

**Course Identification** GEG106 **Credits** 3 **Date** 6/9/06

**Course Title:** Cultural Geography

**Total Instructional Hours, for Course, per Term:**

33 Lecture Hours = 3 Credit(s)  
     Laboratory Hours =      Credit(s)

**Prerequisite Course(s):**

None.

**Required Text(s):**

Rubenstein, James. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography*, latest edition. Prentice Hall.

Rand McNally *Atlas of World Geography*, latest edition.

**Course Description:**

Introduces the cultural elements of geography, including the study of human population, migration, language, religion, cultural landscapes, and geopolitics. Special emphasis is placed on the unequal distribution of power in the U.S. with regard to religion, ethnicity, and language.

**Performance Based Learner Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe how culture influences human-environment interaction.
2. Interpret cultural landscapes through direct observation and interaction.
3. Describe the present pattern of population distribution and analyze how and why it is changing.
4. Identify factors that cause people to migrate and assess their relative importance.
5. Describe how the unequal distribution of power in the U.S. may affect individuals with different religious views, languages, or ethnicities.
6. Explain and provide examples of how bias can result in viewpoint discrimination.
7. Analyze current world events from a geographical perspective.

**Course Content Outline:**

- I. Introduction
  - A. The discipline of geography
  - B. The subfield of cultural geography
  
- II. Population
  - A. Distribution and density
  - B. Natural Increase
  - C. Demographic Transition theory
  - D. Overpopulation
  
- III. Migration
  - A. Push and pull factors
  - B. Types of migration
  
- IV. Geopolitics
  - C. Boundary conflicts
  - D. Supranationalism
  
- IV. Geography of Religion
  - A. Types of religions
  - B. Bias
    - i. Viewpoint discrimination
    - ii. Fostering respectful discussions of controversial issues
  - C. Major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism)
    - i. Origin
    - ii. Diffusion
    - iii. Distribution
    - iv. Beliefs
  
- V. Geography of Language and Ethnicity
  - A. Racism and discrimination
  - B. Cultural basis of discrimination

**Primary Teaching Methods:**

Teaching methods will emphasize critical thinking about how and why difference can lead to bias, discrimination, and inequalities in American society, as well as how individuals may thoughtfully and responsibly work to foster respect and equality.

1. **Interactive Lecture.** Presentations by the instructor that involve students through questioning to promote discussion and critical thinking.

2. **Case Studies.** Real-life examples of bias, discrimination, or unequal distribution of power in the U.S. through use of video, still images, news articles or stories, and/or guest speakers.
3. **Discussion.** Guided discussions to encourage students to examine their own and others' values and help them communicate productively and respectfully on controversial and potentially divisive topics.
4. **Written Reflection.** Students will record their own responses to issues discussed in class, ranging from short journal-type reactions to longer position papers.
5. **Community Experience and Observations.** Students will be encouraged to observe or participate in new cultural experiences outside of class, whether on campus or in the larger community.
6. **Current Events.** A project will be assigned that has students find news articles related to diversity and cultural geography in general and then write a summary and response for each story.