

Contact information

Owen Dwyer, PhD
Department of Geography
Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis

Office: Cavanaugh 213C
Phone: 274-8808

The best way to contact me is via the course mail function of Oncourse or my email account, odwyer@iupui.edu

Geography Department webpage - [klik here](#)

Required texts

1. Michael Kuby et al., "*Human Geography in Action*" (HGIA)(purchase new at the bookstore or online)
2. Daily subscription to the "*Christian Science Monitor*" (CSM)(sign up in class)

Course description

Geography 110, "Introduction to Human Geography," is a three credit course. It can be taken to fulfill a portion of your social science requirement and to complete your comparative world culture requirement.

As a social science course, Geography 110 is concerned with three fundamental questions:

- Where are things located?
- Why are they located there?
- How do they interact with the world around them?

This course emphasizes the acquisition of basic geographic concepts (e.g., how to make thematic maps) in order to better understand the human spatial patterns and processes of our world (as opposed to natural patterns and processes of our world - be sure to take G107 to learn more about these). You will be graded on a series of weekly quizzes.

Importantly, this course incorporates several of IUPUI's principles of undergraduate learning.

- Communication skills related to quantitative analysis are stressed in several map interpretation exercises.
- Critical thinking skills associated with the analysis and synthesis of information are called upon, for instance, when comparing and contrasting residential segregation in different places.
- A better understanding of American society and culture is promoted via assignments that explore the links between local and global issues around the world (e.g., human impacts on natural environments).

It is essential to your success in this course that you have regular and reliable access to a computer and the internet. The textbook for this course, HGIA, makes

extensive use of computer-based exercises. The weekly quizzes for this course are self-administered via Oncourse.

If you don't know how to use Oncourse, now is the time to learn. You can read the student guide to Oncourse, take an online tour of the package, or attend a free introductory class about Oncourse. Call 274-HELP (the University's technology assistance center) to learn more about these options and other sources of getting assistance with Oncourse.

Before class: Preparation

Before each class I expect that you will check Oncourse for announcements and course mail. Be sure to check the schedule on Oncourse and complete the assigned readings and activities, including articles from the CSM (I'll post a list of relevant articles to Oncourse), before class. Come to class with any questions about the reading assignment and activities. Be prepared to participate in a class discussion.

Importantly, I will not collect the activities you complete in HGiA. I expect that you will check your work against the correct answers that are provided as attachments to the Oncourse schedule. Be forewarned that the weekly quizzes draw heavily on the assigned readings and activities in HGiA, i.e. it pays to complete them.

During class: Instruction and inquiry

On the first day of class each week, we will typically cover the assigned readings and activities from HGiA. New concepts will be presented and discussed. During our second weekly meeting, we will finish any remaining business from the first meeting and focus on the reading assignments from the CSM. I expect that you will come to class having read and completed the assigned materials and that you will be prepared to ask and answer questions.

After class: Evaluation

You will be evaluated in this course with weekly quizzes (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false). There are a total of 14 quizzes and they account for the vast majority of your grade. The dates of the quizzes are listed in the Oncourse schedule. The quizzes will be available via Oncourse for roughly 48 hours after the end of our second weekly meeting. During this time you will have one opportunity to take the quiz. The quizzes are self-administered. You may use your notebook and textbook and newspaper to help answer the questions. In fact, the only thing you cannot do is collaborate with anyone (I address the issue of cheating below). Sounds easy, right? Wrong. Since you can use your reading materials and notes I assume that you'll know the material very well. Therefore, I ask in-depth questions and the quizzes are timed. In a word, these quizzes are very difficult. A practice quiz is available via Oncourse. I will demonstrate the procedure for taking a quiz in class.

Other things to know: The quizzes are cumulative (i.e., you cannot forget about the material in Chapter 1 just because we've moved onto Chapter 2). You'll have 30 minutes to complete each quiz. Each quiz will consist of between 10 and 20 questions and be worth 10 points. Quiz questions will be selected randomly from a test bank stored in Oncourse. Thus the relative order and selection of quiz questions will differ among students. The material on these quizzes will come from lecture notes, newspapers, films, in-class assignments, and HGiA chapters – in brief. everything we do in this class is fair game for a quiz question.

A very important note. As stated above, you will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz. I strongly recommend taking the quizzes while you are on campus given the speed of the network and lack of distractions. Taking a quiz at home is complicated by the fact that your computer may occasionally be disconnected from Oncourse – usually because of a slow modem connection. In these cases, immediately reconnect with Oncourse and resume the quiz – do not postpone the quiz until a later time. You will be allotted another 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Upon completing the quiz, send me a brief note via Oncourse mail explaining the situation. My Oncourse log tracks how long it takes students to submit their tests. When your connection is interrupted, the log will note that you received, in effect, extra time to complete your quiz. Without a written explanation, I'll presume that some form of cheating is afoot and begin an investigation. Likewise, a pattern of broken connections and longer-than-expected submission times will be interpreted as cheating and be dealt with as outlined below.

Policy regarding make-up quizzes

No make-up quizzes will be given. It is your responsibility to complete the quiz each week.

Grades

There are a total of 140 possible points. Grades will be distributed as follows:

A+ = 136 to 140 pts

A = 130 to 135

A- = 126 to 129

B+ = 122 to 125

B = 116 to 121

B- = 112 to 115

C+ = 98 to 111

C = 84 to 97

C- = 70 to 83

D = 56 to 69

F = 0 to 55

Rights and responsibilities

For my part, I will begin and end class on time. I will be available for consultation during my scheduled office hours. If the scheduled times are inconvenient for you, make arrangements with me to meet at another time. Your grade in this course will be based on the work you do. Information concerning your grade will be kept confidential.

Your responsibilities include the following. If you celebrate a religious holiday and as a result will miss class, notify me in writing at the beginning of the semester. It is inappropriate to interrupt or in any way disturb your fellow students as they attempt to take notes and participate in class. Not only is it rude to do so, it is also expensive inasmuch as your colleagues are paying money to attend lecture. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to get copies of the notes from one of your colleagues. I will not make my notes available.

Importantly, I expect that you will check Oncourse before class for any course announcements or mail I may have posted.

The University requires that I track of your attendance. Obviously, it will be extremely difficult to complete this course without regular attendance.

A special note concerning plagiarism and other forms of cheating. The vast majority of students do not cheat. Their honesty is to be commended. So that their honesty is not compromised, I will not tolerate cheating on the part of the small number of students who, for whatever reasons, choose to do so. The work you submit for grading must be your own. Plagiarism or other forms of cheating will result in a failing grade for the course and a report being filed with the Dean of Students. You are referred to the IUPUI Student Code for further information.

IUPUI Student Code - [click here](#)

Chat room: In the Hallway

Oncourse has a chat room function, accessible via the In Touch menu. A chat room, "In the Hallway," has been established as an online environment in which students can share information about class. I will not monitor or archive the contents of this chat room. However, if I am made aware that individuals are abusing the forum and making it a hostile place for other class members, I will bar their access to the chat room and file a report with the Dean of Students.