

Introduction to Human Geography (GEOG 110)

Cape Town, South Africa Study Abroad

TnCIS – May 2010

Keith M. Bell, M.S. Geography

keith.bell@volstate.edu

Volunteer State Community College

888-335-8722 (Ext. 3788)

Credit Hours: 3 hours

Catalog Course Description: This course is an introduction to the geography of human cultures, especially those in South Africa. Course topics focus on human/environment interaction, demographics, distribution patterns and interactions of such cultural characteristics as language, religion, population, politics, urbanization and economics.

Prerequisites: None, but students should have successfully completed basic entry exams for reading and writing (i.e. no remedial and/or developmental classes).

Required Textbooks:

- Domosh, et al. The Human Mosaic: A Cultural Approach to Human Geography (11th edition) New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 2010. [ISBN 978-1-4292-1426-1]
*This textbook is considered an "old edition". I have adopted it on the grounds of content, size/weight and cost. You will find dozens of copies listed on Amazon.com (or other online book sellers) for around \$20.
- Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of human Societies New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999.

I. Weekly Topics:

Week 1 Topics

Chapter 1 -- **Human Geography: A Cultural Approach** (Domosh pp. 1-30)

- Diamond (Preface and Prologue pp. 1-32)

Chapter 2 -- **Many Worlds: Geographies of Cultural Difference** (Domosh pp. 31-64)

- Diamond (Chapter 3, pp. 67-81)

Chapter 3 -- **Population Geography: Shaping the Human Mosaic** (Domosh pp. 65-106)

- Diamond (various pages related to population; see Index for page numbers)
- Gould & Woods. Population Geography and HIV/AIDS: The Challenge of a "Wholly Exceptional Disease" (article reprint)

Chapter 4 -- **Speaking about Places: The Geography of Language** (Domosh)

- Diamond (Chapter 12, pp. 215-238)

Week 2 Topics

Chapter 5 -- **Geographies of Race and Ethnicity: Mosaic or Melting Pot?** (Domosh pp. 139-176)

- Diamond (Chapter 19, pp. 376-401)

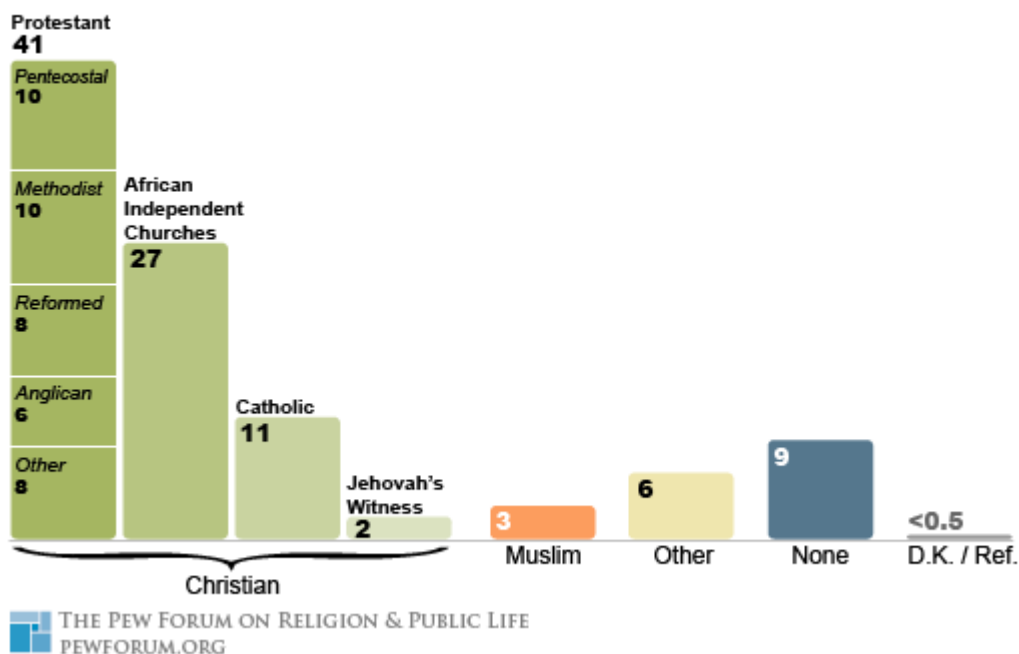
Chapter 6 -- **Political Geography: A Divided World** (Domosh pp. 177-214)

- Diamond (Chapter 14, pp. 265-292)
- Profile: [Jacob Zuma, South Africa's New President](#) (TIME Magazine Online)

Chapter 7 -- **The Geography of Religion: Spaces and Places of Sacredness** (Domosh pp. 215-254)

- Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature (2005) -- [Animism](#)
- Religion in South Africa 15 Years After the End of Apartheid (April 2009)

% of population in urban South Africa identifying as...



Chapter 8 -- **Agriculture: The Geography of the Global Food System** (Domosh)

- Diamond (Chapters 4 through 10, pp. 83-192)

Week 3 Topics

Chapter 9 -- **Geography of Economies: Industries, Services, & Development** (Domosh pp. 293-324)

- Ramchander: Township Tourism – Blessing or Blight? The Case of Soweto in South Africa (article reprint)

Chapter 10 -- **Urbanization: The City in Time and Space** (Domosh pp. 325-356)

Chapter 11 -- **Inside the City: A Cultural Mosaic** (Domosh pp. 357-400)

- Lanegran & Lanegran: South Africa's National Housing Subsidy Program and Apartheid's Urban Legacy (article reprint)

II. Course Objectives:

The primary educational objective of this course is to provide information that enables the student to understand the various human culture groups of the world, and specifically those in South Africa. It seeks to identify their geographical boundaries and interactions with their local environment (i.e. physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, cultural differences with neighboring ethnic peoples and related problems, etc.). Outcomes are summarized as follows:

1. Analyze geographical facts and interpretations.
2. Analyze and compare from a geographical perspective the political, economic, social, cultural, religious, and intellectual institutions, structures, and processes across a range of historical periods and environmental regions.
3. Recognize and articulate the diversity of human experience across a range of geographical regions and the complexities of a global culture and society.
4. Draw on geographical and historical perspectives to evaluate contemporary problems/issues.
5. Analyze the contributions of past cultures/societies to the contemporary world.

As a result of successfully completing this course the student will be able to demonstrate general knowledge of the spatial organization of human activity and human relationships, both between groups and within their particular environments.

III. Instructional Processes:

Course readings and field trips will bring cultural geography to life for students. In-class discussions and periodic fieldwork (to be recorded in your daily journal entries) will be used to track progress.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance:

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

1. Understand the basics of geography, specifically cultural geography.
2. Comprehend the unique cultural setting of South Africa, as well as the greater pattern of culture(s) around the globe.
3. Understand the dynamics of global population growth and decline.
4. Illustrate the role environment plays in developing culture, as well as the human impact on nature.
5. Understand the collision of cultures across the globe, and specifically in South Africa (i.e. native tribalism, Dutch/Afrikaners, British).
6. Understand the levels of economic development and the interaction of economies across the globe.
7. Understand the culture of agriculture and the role the environment plays in this process.
8. Understand the politics of space, especially the apartheid era in South Africa.
9. Comprehend the role and function of global cities, especially Cape Town.

V. Evaluation:

- A. Class Participation – Students are responsible for their own learning (meaning that this class will be “student based” learning instead of “instructor driven” learning). Participation, discussion and interaction are necessary components of this course. [200 points]
- B. Research Paper – Students will conduct independent research and write a 5-7 page paper (with 5 referenced sources) on some human geographical aspect of South African culture (to include aspects of environmental impact on the formation of culture concepts). [100 points]
- C. Journal Notes – Students will make daily accounts of their readings and experiences in their course journal. This will be no mere diary of activities, but an in-depth rendering of all things important to geography (e.g. regions, characteristics, relationships, patterns, processes, interactions, etc.). [150 points]
- D. Final Exam – One semester exam is planned for the end of the course. This exam will be in the form of an essay and cover a relevant topic from the three-week course work. [50 points]

Total points possible = 500

Grading Scale: A+ = 95-100; A = 90-94; B+ = 85-89; B = 80-84; C+ = 75-79
 C = 70-74; D+ = 65-69; D = 60-64; F = 59 and below

VI. Policies

Attendance Policy

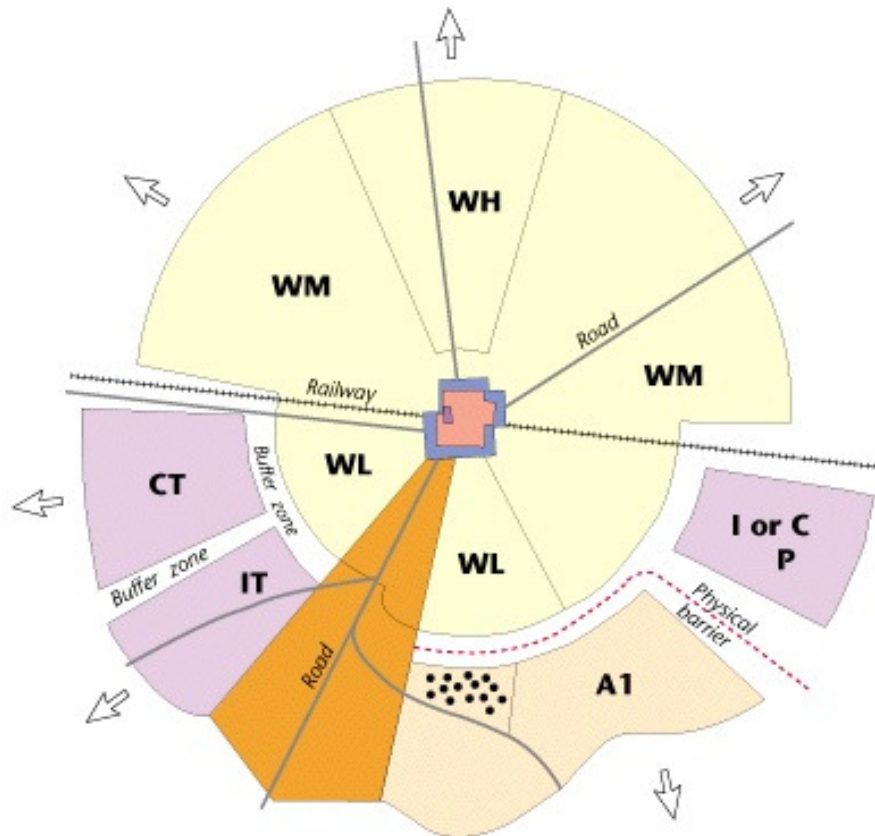
Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

VII. Instructional Hours:

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.



White CBD
 Indian CBD
 CBD frame
 Industrial

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

W White group area
 Black area
 Indian or coloured group area

I Indian **C** Coloured **T** Township **P** Privately developed

• Hostel **A1** Township

Socioeconomic status (white group areas) **H** High **M** Middle **L** Low

Domestic servants' quarters not shown

The model apartheid city (The Human Mosaic)