Hi Prospective Geography 102 Students,

I am Jason Burgdorfer and will be your instructor for cultural geography during the 2015 winter session. This course is offered in a 100% online quick five week format starting Monday January 5th and ending Saturday February 7th. The course will be broken up into weekly modules covering material from two or three chapters of your textbook each week. Each week there will be two or three chapters to read, two or three discussion board questions, one activity, one practice quiz, and one test to complete by deadlines posted in the syllabus. There will be no final exam in this class. Also, there will be one writing assignment that will be due by Wednesday February 4th during the last week of class.

You will need to purchase *Visualizing Human Geography*, 2nd edition (2014) by Alyson Greiner. The book is available for purchase in the COC bookstore on the Valencia Campus. It is very important that you purchase this textbook as soon as possible so that you will have it for the first week of class starting June 9th. We will be using Chapters 1-2 of the textbook during the first week of class.

To succeed in this class it is recommended that you complete to following in this order for each week. 1. Read the assigned chapters. 2. Review the assigned chapter lecture presentation slides. 3. Take the practice quizzes. 4. Complete the activity. 5 Post your answers to the discussion board questions. 6. Post your responses to other student’s posts in the discussion board. 7. Review for the test. 8. Take the weekly test.

The course’s Blackboard page will become available to you on Saturday January 3rd. In the mean time it is recommended that you begin to read chapters 1 and 2 of your textbook. As soon as you have access to Blackboard you are welcome to begin working on the First week’s assignments.

When you login to the courses Blackboard page for the first time please find the start here tab in the menu bar to the left and follow the instructions to get started working on the first week’s learning module. Attached to this orientation letter you will find a preliminary syllabus that is subject to change for this class showing class policies, readings schedule, grading, assignments, and test dates.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at jason.burgdorfer@canyons.edu

Jason Burgdorfer
Geography, Geology, and GIS Instructor
College of the Canyons
Preliminary Syllabus (Subject to Change)
Geography 102 Cultural Geography
Winter 2015

Course and Instructor Information:
Section # 15299 Winter 2015
Instructor: Jason Burgdorfer
Class Meeting Times/Place: Online
Office Hours: Online and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 2:30pm to 3:30pm in Boykin 109
Email: jason.burgdorfer@canyons.edu

Course Description
Examines the location, distribution and interrelationships among cultural patterns which may include population, language, religion, economics, migration, cities, politics and human effects on the natural environment. Map studies and field trips may be included.

Student Learning Outcome
1. Locate cultural features and patterns on a map, analyze their distribution, and assess the spatial change and diffusion of these human patterns, such as population, religion, language, economics, trade, agriculture, political systems, migration, diseases, communications, and impact on the environment.

Grading
- Introduction 1 X 10 Points = 10 Points
- Weekly Activity 5 X 50 Points = 250 Points
- Weekly Discussion Board Posts 5 X 30 = 150 Points
- Practice Quizzes 12 X 10 = 120 Points
- Weekly Tests 5 X 80 Points = 400 Points
- Writing Assignment = 100 Points
- Total Points = 1030/1000

Students who earn between 900 and 1000 points will receive an A, 800-899 points will receive a B, 700-799 points will receive a C, 600-699 points will receive a D, and 599 points and below will receive a F.

Weekly Activity: Each week their will be an online activity worth 50 points. These activities are used to explore class material in more depth and provide active hands on learning opportunities. Each week’s activity will need to be submitted by the 11:59pm on Sunday at the end of that week.

Discussion Board Posts: Each week you will be required to answer 3-5 critical thinking questions (1-3 per chapter) pertaining to the week’s topics. The questions will be posted in the class’s Blackboard Discussion Board at the beginning of each week and your answers will be submitted as a thread in the specific forum pertaining to the question. Your answers to the week’s critical thinking questions must be posted in Blackboard by 6:00am on Friday of each week. Each answer is expected to be answered in a short paragraph and all of your answer posts in a week will be graded out of 25 points. To earn a full 30 points you will be required to provide meaningful academic comments, responses, feedback, and/or discussion on at least one other student’s post. Also, please note that you will not be able to see other students answer posts until you have posted your own answer.
Practice Quizzes: On Blackboard you will find quizzes pertaining to each of the 12 chapters of the *Visualizing Human Geography* textbook used in this class. These quizzes are there for practice and self assessment to see if you understand the material as you read through it in the textbook and review each chapter’s PowerPoint presentations. These quizzes will not be scored on accuracy; however you will receive 20 points for completing each week’s chapter practice quizzes. It is highly recommended that you complete each chapter’s quiz on Blackboard since it is from these quiz questions that many of the weekly test questions are drawn from. **Please note that the quizzes for each week will open up on Monday at 12:01 am and close at/ due by 6:00am on Fridays.**

Weekly Tests: There will be five tests in this class, one at the end of each week. Each test will be taken online through Blackboard and consist of 40 multiple choice, diagram/chart interpretation, and true false questions worth 2 points each. Each week’s test will only cover that week’s particular material and will not be cumulative. Each week’s test will open up on Blackboard each Friday at 6:00am and will close at/due by 11:59pm on Sunday. There is no Final Exam. **Please note that you will not be able to take the test after it has closed on Blackboard, and that once you begin taking the week’s test on Blackboard you will have one hour to complete it.**

Writing Assignment: For 100 points you will conduct research on a selected human geography topic, write a paper 1,500 words in length, and post your findings in a power point presentation on Blackboard for other students to see and post responses to in the Discussion Board. The writing assignment will be due by 6:00am on Wednesday February 4th. Please see the Writing Assignment page in Blackboard for more information on this assignment.

Academic Integrity: This class will strictly follow College of the Canyons Academic Integrity Policy. It can be found at: [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc/Handouts/PDFs/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement.pdf](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc/Handouts/PDFs/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement.pdf). Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. If you have any questions about this or have any doubt about whether your work is or is not your own, please contact the instructor.

Support for Students Outside the Classroom:

Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS): Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of disability should contact the DSPS offices at (661) 362-3341 to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. The DSPS office can be found on the 1st floor of Seco Hall on the Valencia Campus. For additional information please refer to: [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dspss/](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dspss/)

Student Health and Wellness Center: The Student Health and Wellness Center provides a variety of physical and mental health counseling services to students who have paid the student health fee. The Student Health and Wellness Center is located in the Student Center building on the Valencia Campus and can be contacted at (661) 362-3259. Additional information can be found at [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/Health/Default.asp](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/Health/Default.asp)
## Course Schedule

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<th>Discussion Question Posts and Practice Quizzes Due: Weekly Test Opens At:</th>
<th>Weekly Test and Activity Due By</th>
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<td>Week One</td>
<td>What is Human Geography; Globalization and Cultural Geography</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2</td>
<td>Fri 1/9 6:00am Week 1 Discussion Posts Week 1 Test</td>
<td>Sun 1/11 11:59pm Activity 1 Week 1 Test</td>
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<td>Week Two</td>
<td>Population and Migration; Geographies of Language; Geographies of Religion</td>
<td>Chapters 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Fri 1/16 6:00am Week 2 Discussion Posts Week 2 Test</td>
<td>Sun 1/18 11:59pm Activity 2 Week 2 Test</td>
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<td>Week Three</td>
<td>Geographies of Identity; Political Geography; Urban Geography</td>
<td>Chapters 6, 7, 8</td>
<td>Fri 1/23 6:00am Week 3 Discussion Posts Week 3 Test</td>
<td>Sun 1/25 11:59pm Activity 3 Week 3 Test</td>
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<td>Geographies of Development; Geographies of Industry and Services</td>
<td>Chapters 9, 10</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
<td>Agricultural Geographies; Environmental Challenges</td>
<td>Chapters 11, 12</td>
<td>Fri 2/6 6:00am Week 5 Discussion Posts Week 5 Test</td>
<td>Sat 2/7 11:59pm Activity 5 Week 5 Test</td>
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