

**Course Syllabus**  
**Jim Tiller**  
**Geography 161, All Online Sections**  
**Introduction to Geography (Online)**  
**Credit Hours: 3**

1. **Course Description:** An introductory course designed acquaint students with the basic principles of Geography. Attention will be focused upon the spatial interrelationships which exist between man and his environment, the geographic region and selected geographic skills to include latitude and longitude, earth-sun relations, time, map scale, graphs and the use of road maps and the atlas. Credit 3.

2. **Class Meeting Times:** Online, there are NO class meeting times scheduled

3. **Method of Instruction:** Online

4. **Class Instructor:** Jim Tiller

5. **Office Information**

Office Location: LDB 324

Office Hours: I am not in my office during the summer semester. If you need to discuss an issue with me, email me.

Office Phone: 936-294-1455

Office Email: [geo\\_jwt@shsu.edu](mailto:geo_jwt@shsu.edu)

SHSU Website: [http://www.shsu.edu/~geo\\_jwt/OnCampus](http://www.shsu.edu/~geo_jwt/OnCampus)

Course Website: <http://bearkatsonline.com>

6. **Class Textbook.** Bergman and Renwick, *Introduction to Geography*. Most recent edition. It is your responsibility to arrange for a textbook. It is recommended that you get your textbook early and avoid any problems that might come later in the semester when textbooks may not be available. NOTE: While it would be nice for you to have the most recent edition of the text, such is not necessary. If you can locate an earlier edition (say within one or two editions at the most), you should be fine. Because of the very high cost of textbooks, and the fact that publishers change editions about every year or so, I have set this course up where you can use an earlier edition and not suffer as a result. The only inconvenience to be encountered will be that I do not make reference to book CHAPTERS, but rather attempt to only reference course chapters/topics. It will take a little effort to coordinate your use of the course submenus that deal with the individual topics and the outline below, but this is something that should not be too difficult. Just use the outline below as a guide to your test taking.

7. **Course Objectives.** In this introductory class in Geography, the student will develop a general knowledge and basic understanding of

how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information

how to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface

the physical and human characteristics of selected places

that people create regions to interpret Earth's complexity

how culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions  
the physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface

the characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface

the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on the Earth's surface

the characteristics, distributions, and complexity of Earth's cultural landscape

the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface

the process, patterns, and functions of human settlement

how forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface

how human actions modify the physical environment

how physical systems affect human systems

the changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources

how to apply geography to interpret the past

to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future

## **8. Course Outline**

I. Material for Unit Exam #1 (see the following course chapter/topic menu sections)

A. Introduction Geography

B. Weather and Climate

C. Landforms

D. Biochemical Cycles and the Biosphere

E. Unit Exam #1

II. Material for Unit Exam #2 (see the following course chapter/topic menu sections)

- A. Population, Population Increase and Migration
- B. Cultural Geography
- C. The Geography of Languages and Religions
- D. The Human Food Supply
- E. Unit Exam #2

III. Material for The Final Exam (see the following course chapter/topic menu sections)

- A. Earth's Resources and Environmental Protection
- B. Cities and Urbanization
- C. A World of States
- D. National Paths to Economic Growth
- E. Political Regionalization and Globalization
- F. Unit Exam #3 (The Final Exam)

## 9. Course Requirements

**Exams.** Three exams will be given in this class. Individual exams are not comprehensive. Exams 1 and 2 will each account for 33% of your initial final course grade, and Exam 3 will account for 34% of your initial final course grade.  
**Grading Curves.** No grading "curves," either upward or downward, should be expected.

**Extra Credit.** Extra credit is absolutely OUT OF THE QUESTION!

**Unable to Complete the Course.** If you are not able to complete the course requirements, you have several options:

- you should expect to receive a grade of "F" for the course unless one of the options below is available to you
- you drop the course by the date required. See the University Catalog for specifics.
- you resign from the University by the date required. See the University Catalog for specifics.
- you receive a grade of "X" for the course. See the University Catalog for specifics.

**Re-Grading Privileges.** There is no re-grading privilege. This is not elementary or high school. You have one shot to make a grade on an exam. If you take the exam, you will receive the grade you make. If you are not prepared to take the exam -- DO NOT TAKE THE EXAM.

**Posting of Grades.** Grades will NOT be posted online. Check your Blackboard Student Grade Book

**10. Letter Grade Scale.** Your final course grade will be based on the Exams above described.

- A - Final Class Average of 90 to 100
- B - Final Class Average of 80 to 89.99
- C - Final Class Average of 70 to 79.99
- D - Final Class Average of 60 to 69.99
- F - Final Class Average of 59.99 or less

**11. Academic Honesty.** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on examinations or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Cheating includes:

Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings and/or programs.

Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.  
Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.

Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.

Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test.

Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.

Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.

Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

Abuse of resource materials means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

In a word or two: If I catch you engaged in any form of academic dishonesty, I will pursue the matter to the bloody end and do all in my power to not only remove you from the class and give you the grade of "F" that you so richly deserve, but I will also do all that I can to have you removed from the University.

**12. Classroom Rules of Conduct.** (not applicable for the online class) Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**13. Visitors in the Classroom.** (not applicable for the online class) Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current, official SHSU identification card in order to remain in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons.

**14. Religious Holy Days.** (not applicable for the online class) Students that are absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day are allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within reasonable time after the absence. The period of time during which assignments and exams will be excused includes travel time associated with the observance of the religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she will be absent from class for religious reasons with a written statement concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments. In such cases, the student will be required to take the test or submit the assignment early-unless there are good reasons for not being able to do so and the instructor has agreed to those reasons.

**15. Americans with Disabilities Act.** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students

may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 294-1720. Any student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities in a timely manner and complete a form that will grant permission to receive special accommodations.

**16. Letters of Recommendation.** I only write letters of recommendation for students who make an "A" in the class.

**17. Class Evaluations.** You may be asked toward the end of the semester to complete a course/instructor evaluation.