



## Geography and Globalization

GEOG 1200: Introduction to World  
Regional Geography / Global Societies



### Geography and Globalization

- This course is an introduction to a geographic perspective on major world regions
  - An overview of the practical meaning of geography for understanding our world and its peoples and cultures
- Information that is helpful for living, working, and planning for the future




### Geography and Globalization

- Two main areas of emphasis
  1. introduction to foundational concepts that define a geographer's perspective on the world
  2. a survey of issues related to the major world regions, beginning with the Americas and covering the globe




### Instructor

- Dr. Murray Rice
  - Associate Professor, UNT Geography
  - Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics
  - Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy, Urban/Economic Geography
  - 10 years of consulting experience with Altavision Geographics, a Canadian geographic consulting firm



### Instructor

- My dog, Nox, a vicious chihuahua-miniature pinscher



**UNT** Instructor

- My dog, Maggie, a terrifying beagle



**UNT** The Course

- Key resource for this class: my course website
  - [www.murrayrice.com/teaching.html](http://www.murrayrice.com/teaching.html) (look for the GEOG 1200 link)
- I post all lectures in the “lecture slides” folder (this folder will be filled through our course)
- Also see the project evaluation and expectations documents posted in the “syllabus and handouts” and “assessment materials” folders at the bottom of the main 1200 webpage

**UNT** The Course

- What you will do to earn your grades
  - Individual Exercise**, 10% of your course grade
  - Group Research Project**, 40% of the course grade (groups of 2 people preferred)
    - Project Proposal, 5%
    - Project Core: Abstract/Report/Presentation, 40%
  - Group Discussion Exercise**, 5%
  - Mid-Term Exams**, 45% of the course grade
    - Mid-term #1, 15%
    - Mid-term #2, 15%
    - Mid-term #3, 15%

**UNT** The Course

- Exams
  - Midterm #1**: June 12 (all content in modules 1-6)
  - Midterm #2**: June 19 (all content in modules 7, 9, 10, and 11)
  - Midterm #3**: July 2\* (major themes for the course as a whole, including the final teaching modules and presentations)

\* The schedule for the last week of this course is subject to confirmation once all project groups have been formed (this schedule will be finalized and announced next week)

**UNT** The Course

- Group Project: a couple of general topic ideas
  - 1. it could be about a particular world region: an overview of the history, development, economy, society, and challenges associated with a world region of interest to your group
  - Do not make your project a simple listing of facts: put the facts together to answer actual questions about the region
    - What are the region’s prospects for the future? What could keep the region back? Be innovative

**UNT** The Course

- Group Project: a couple of general topic ideas
  - 2. it could be about a specific issue connected to the globe in general: outline a cross-cutting theme of importance to regions around the world and what will happen in the future
  - Consider the broad categories on our course schedule as a starting point: the physical environment, human activities, cities, ...
  - Again, answer at least one actual question about your issue (don’t just list facts)

 **The Course**

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- Group Project: key thing to remember
  - Regardless of what topic you choose, your project must focus on answering a question
  - Address a problem, make recommendations, give your (fact-based) perspective on an issue...
  - Do not just report a list of trivia/facts

 **The Course**

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- Group Discussion Exercise: see module 13 (South Asia) in the course schedule
  - I am asking our project groups to take on a greater role in defining the discussion that day
  - A couple of tasks for each project group:
    - 1. Review the resources for that day and create a brief, one-page document that summarizes the key issues and questions you see as being important for the South Asia region
    - 2. Come to class ready to talk about what your group saw, and to discuss the issues and questions you have highlighted as important

 **The Course**

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- Group Discussion Exercise: see module 13 (South Asia) in the course schedule
  - Hint: the many resources outlined in your syllabus and on the "syllabus and handouts" page provide a fine foundation for this exercise
    - 1. Review the module's readings and resources for key ideas and issues
    - 2. View the module's video ("Urban and Rural Contrasts") with your group as you prepare your one-page document, and come to class with comments and questions from all that you have reviewed

 **The Course**

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- The course is short (see schedule in course package), so you need to get going with your group
  - Note the group project proposal is due on June 9

 **The Course**

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- Also note the breakout of group project tasks (due dates are listed in your syllabus)
  - **Paper:** worth 15% of your final grade
    - Approximately 1200-1400 words
    - See my paper expectations document online
  - **Abstract:** worth 5% of your final grade
    - 200 word summary of your project
    - See sample abstracts online
    - To be e-mailed to rice@unt.edu
  - **Presentation:** worth 15% of your final grade
    - 15 minutes, including 5 minutes for questions and/or discussion

 **The Course**

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- **Last course item: the individual exercise**
  - This exercise is worth 10% of your course grade
  - Your work will focus on a concept called an "ecological footprint"
  - I will introduce that topic to you, and give you the actual exercise, on Wednesday this week
  - The brief exercise report is due on Monday next week

**The Course**

- Now: get to know each other for 5 minutes
- Primary purpose: start to form groups and think about possible project topics
- Suggested discussion questions as you meet your classmates
  - What's your background? (where are you from, what's your major, what are your career goals)
  - Why are you in this class?
  - Which world region would you most like to visit – and why?

**Introduction**

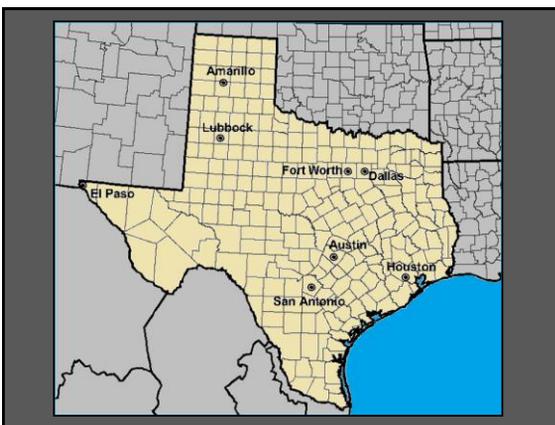
A Geographic Perspective on the World

**A World of Regions**

- A knowledge of regional geography is important if we are to understand our changing world
- **Q**: Who needs to understand the world today, and why?

**A World of Regions**

- In-class exercise: thinking about how regions are defined and characterized
  - First step: let's list some regions of Texas – how many can we name?
  - Second step: on the blank Texas maps I'm providing, label and define the regions we've named (use your best judgment on where each region starts and stops)



**A World of Regions**

- One definition of "region": geographic areas that have one or more common characteristics throughout that give them a measure of unity and make them distinct from surrounding areas
- **Q**: Why do people (even non-geographers!) create and name regions?
  - Regions are created by people to more easily define places that share similar characteristics

**UNT** A World of Regions

- **Q:** What words do you think “define” the regions we have listed?
  - Examples of kinds of words to think of might include music, food, accents in speech, physical features – can you think of other categories?
  - When we’re done, let’s assess how accurate our words are – how much are we dealing with stereotypes for each region?

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- “Region” is just one word that geographers use to communicate something about the world
  - “Place” is another of these words
  - We can identify at least three reasons why the “place” concept (and geography more generally) is important in our lives

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

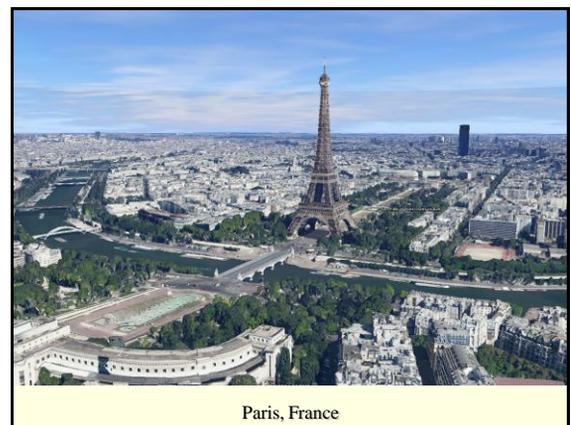
- Reason #1: Places are Unique
  - Each place is a unique combination of
    - People (individuals and groups)
    - Cultures
    - History (events and long-term trends)
    - Physical features (soils, topography, etc.)
    - and many other factors

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #1: Places are Unique
  - What combination of features make up the place we call “Texas”?

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #1: Places are Unique
  - Key point: you can’t take the features of one place and duplicate them in another
  - Example: the Eiffel Tower (Paris, Las Vegas)





Las Vegas, Nevada



Texas has a Paris too ...

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #1: Places are Unique
  - An understanding of places gives us context to understand people and societies who are different from ourselves

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #1: Places are Unique
  - Q: Have you ever seen a "burning in effigy" on TV (or in person)? What do you think when you see something like that?



**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #1: Places are Unique
  - Is a "burning in effigy" appropriate activity for Denton's courthouse square? Why/why not?
  - Is a "burning in effigy" appropriate activity for downtown Kabul, Afghanistan? Why/why not?

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #1: Places are Unique
  - Context can make the difference between a good decision and a bad decision

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #2: Places Have Meaning
  - Q: What words/images come to mind when you see the following place names
    - Ground Zero, New York City
    - Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
    - The West Bank, Middle East
    - Graceland, Memphis
    - Golden Triangle Mall, Denton

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

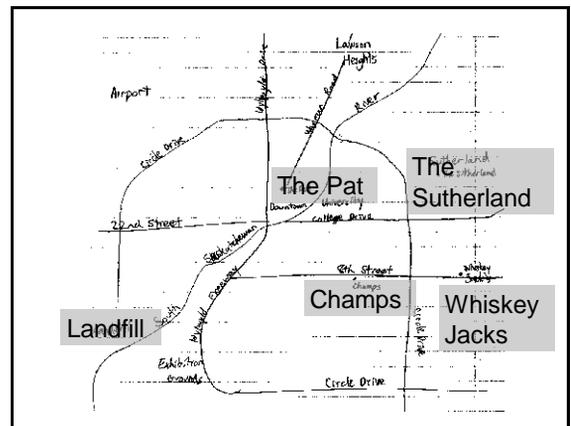
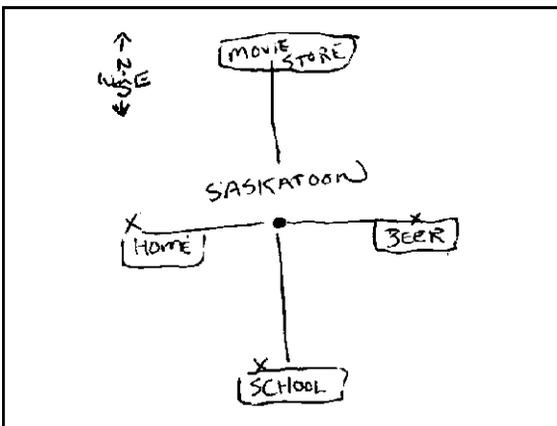
- Reason #2: Places Have Meaning
  - Bundled with each place is our perceptions, memories, and associations with the place

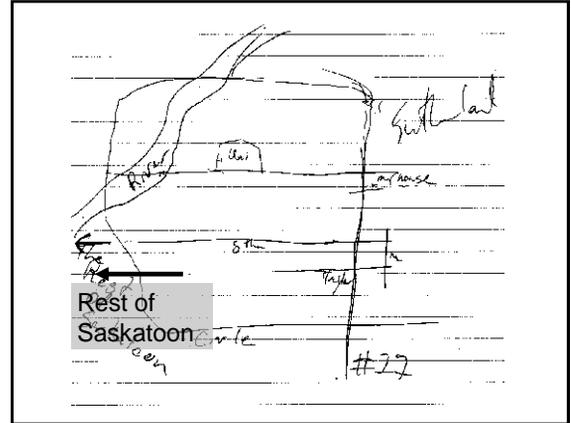
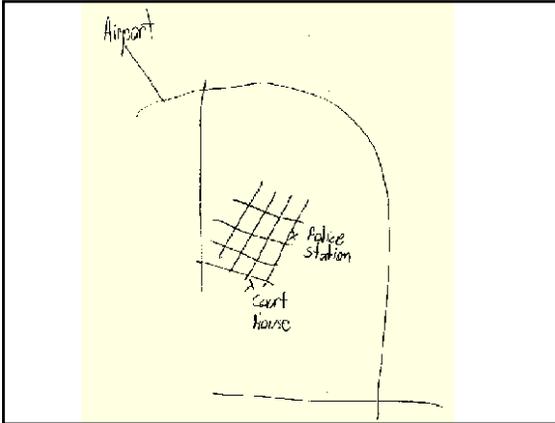
**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #3: Places are Important Ingredients in our Perception of the World
  - Request: please take out a blank sheet
  - On this page, please draw a map of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex

**UNT** A Geographic Perspective

- Reason #3: Places are Important Ingredients in our Perception of the World
  - What did you draw on your "mental map" of Dallas-Fort Worth?
  - These maps are a representation of how we see our world: what's important in the world to us





**UNT**

## A Geographic Perspective

- **Q:** Are mental maps important, or just some kind of game? Could they be meaningful in some way?
  - Consider the following situations:
    - The mental map of the President of the United States
    - The mental map of the President of Walmart
    - The mental map of the Mayor of Denton

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## Summing Up

- **Next class:** the concept of “globalization” – a foundational idea for the rest of the course
  - **Homework:** read all of chapter 1, especially (but not only) pages 4-12 of your textbook
  - Be able to list at least one argument for and at least one argument against globalization, and think of a practical example of each argument
- **In the time remaining today:**
  - Take the opportunity to meet with your project group and to ask me any questions you may have about the course or your project ideas