

**Midterm Exam #1  
Key Points to Know**

- This Thursday, June 12, 10:00 to 10:45am (45 minutes)
- Two questions in total, covering modules 1 to 6
- Questions require sentence and paragraph answers
- **Also possible:** rough sketches (full labelling required)
- All answers will be completed in exam booklet provided
- Refer to review document to guide your studying
- **Part A: Mandatory Question** (half the point value for the exam)
  - Focus: a **key** course concept we have discussed
- **Part B: Choice Question** (the other half of the exam)
  - Do one of the two questions provided

**Do not leave after the exam: a video case study will be shown beginning at 10:45am**



**Q:** What do we gain when we look at North America as an entire continent, and not just one country or state at a time?



# North America

Survey of World Regions

## UNT North America

- North America is our home, which makes it a tough place for us to objectively assess
  - The way things are done here is normal to us
  - But the way things are here is not normal for the world as a whole
  - It is important to be able to take a step back and take another look at the continent we call home

## UNT North America: What's Different?

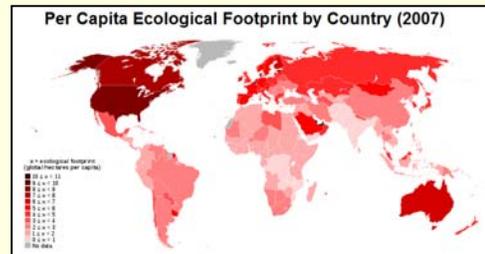
- **Q:** What do you see as different about life in North America, versus life in other major world regions?
  - In some dimensions, other world regions are not that different
  - In other dimensions, other world regions are very different

## UNT North America: What's Different?

- **One dimension we've already discussed: resource use**
  - These were the basic figures I already shared with you (per capita footprint figures as of 2007)
    - USA: 19.7 acres
    - Canada: 17.3 acres
    - India: 2.2 acres
    - World: 6.7 acres
  - Our resource usage in North America is very high, no matter whom you compare us with

## UNT North America: What's Different?

A world map that makes that makes this point (darker = bigger ecological footprint)



## UNT North America: What's Different?

- **North America really stands out on the world resource use map**
  - As we began to discuss last week, this status raises questions about sustainability and long-term consequences for us and for the entire world
  - **Q:** What would happen if everyone tried to live like North Americans?

## UNT North America: What's Different?

- **Another dimension: the realm of religious belief and practice**
  - We can look at religious belief in a number of different ways
  - For purposes of our discussion here, let's break religious belief into a couple of factors:
    - major religious families, and
    - fervor of religious practice

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Another dimension: the realm of religious belief and practice**
  - First factor: *religious families*
  - There are two major families that dominate world religious thought and belief
    - **Abrahamic:** including *Christian, Islamic,* and *Jewish* belief (all share a common root); belief in one God, time as advancing in one direction
    - **Dharmic:** eastern beliefs, including *Hindu, Buddhist,* and *Taoist* belief; time is thought of as a cycle, overall focus on serenity and acceptance

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Another dimension: the realm of religious belief and practice**
  - We can map these belief families to help us understand countries, societies, and their fundamental ways of approaching the world
  - Your textbook gives a detailed view of religion in North America (almost at the county-by-county level): see **figure 3.28**
  - For our purposes here, let's keep our discussion fairly general

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Another dimension: the realm of religious belief and practice**
  - Thinking globally, what major religious family dominates in each country?
  - Let's look at a world map...

UNT North America: What's Different?

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**What Major Religious Family Dominates?**

ABRAHAMIC AND DHARMIC RELIGIONS  
PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRY FOLLOWING THAT DOCTRINE

Legend:  
 Abrahamic: 100% (dark blue), 50% (medium blue)  
 Dharmic: 100% (dark red), 50% (medium red)  
 No data (black)

What's the pattern?

Source: Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Another dimension: the realm of religious belief and practice**
  - Second factor: *religious fervor*
  - The degree to which the public practice of faith pervades an entire society, including business and government
    - **High fervor:** theistic societies, where a specific religion is explicitly encoded in law
    - **Low fervor:** secular societies, where the practice of a specific religion is removed from law and commerce

UNT North America: What's Different?

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**How Religiously Fervent is Society Overall?**

GLOBAL RELIGIOUS FERVOUR 2006-2008  
COUNTRIES AND THEIR RELIGIOSITY FROM A PEW SURVEY

Legend:  
 Most religious (dark blue)  
 More religious (medium-dark blue)  
 Average (medium blue)  
 Less religious (medium-light blue)  
 Least religious (light blue)  
 No data (black)

What's the pattern?

Source: Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Conclusion on religion**
  - North America occupies a specific place on the two scales we have examined
    - Religious Families: dominated by Abrahamic faiths
    - Religious Fervor: somewhere in the middle (other places are both *more* and *less* fervent in their practice)
  - Combined, there are very few other places that are quite like North America in this combination of religious views

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Another dimension for comparison: technological availability**
  - We are accustomed to having massive technological infrastructure as part of our daily lives
  - This ranges from the fairly simple (clean tap water and electricity available everywhere) to the more complex (high speed internet and mobile data access)

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Another dimension for comparison: technological availability**
  - Having these luxuries (by world standards) commonly available has an impact on our lives
  - One way we might measure and map this: Google Street View (GSV)
  - **Q:** What is GSV? What's it good for?

North America: What's Different?

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**Basic point: GSV is not available for every street in the world**

UNT North America: What's Different?

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So where is Google Street View available?



How would you describe the map pattern here?

UNT North America: What's Different?

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- **Overall conclusion on differences**
  - North America is not completely unique in any individual dimension
  - But, when you consider the continent's combination of characteristics all together, North America emerges as a place unlike any other on the planet
  - It is important that North Americans realize this when we think about world issues and problems: we come from a very specific perspective and context

UNT North American Urban Places

- Cities are another theme that is important to discuss when we are trying to truly understand North America
  - North American society and culture is dominated by what happens in its cities
    - Q: what do cities contribute to our lives as North Americans?
  - Urban places make North America what it is today

UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- There are a few key things to understand about our cities
  - Cities (and their urban populations) depend on each other for their continued existence
    - Q: can you think of an example of this?
  - In depending on each other, cities reach out to other places to develop complex national and global urban systems

UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

Spain's Urban System



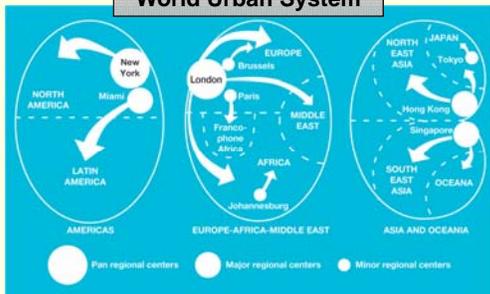
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US Urban System



UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

World Urban System



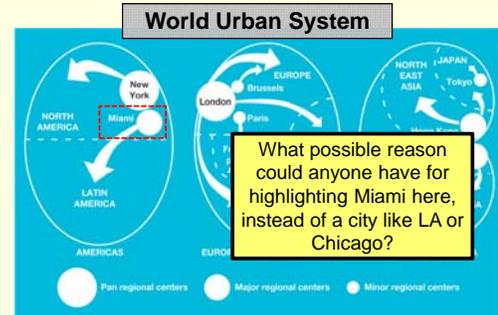
UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- Points to note about the world urban system
  - Dominated by a few very large and important cities
    - **New York, London, and Tokyo** are among those that are very prominent in the global system
  - Organized by major world region
    - A city like New York has worldwide influence, but it also plays an important role in a specific region (in the case of New York, the Americas)

## UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- Points to note about the world urban system
  - Cities that are important in this system are all large, but they are not necessarily the largest
  - Case for us to consider for a few minutes here: **Miami**
    - Highlighted in the world urban system graphic I showed you, along with New York
    - US cities not highlighted: Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston (all bigger and in many ways more important)

## UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems



## UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- Miami is a great example of what the concept of a “global city” is all about
  - Global cities are big cities, and important because they have some size
  - But size is not the only reason for their importance
  - Global cities have an importance that is more about influence than sheer size

## UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

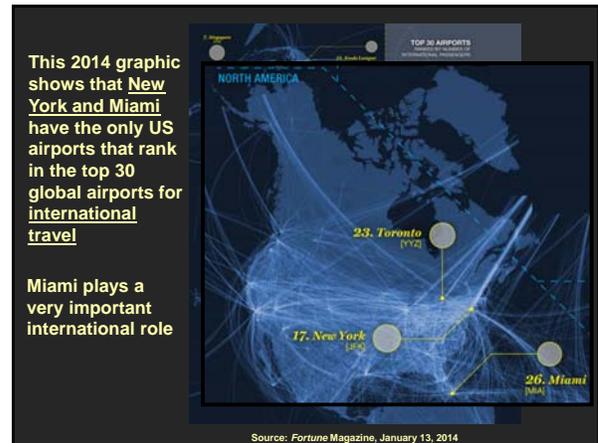
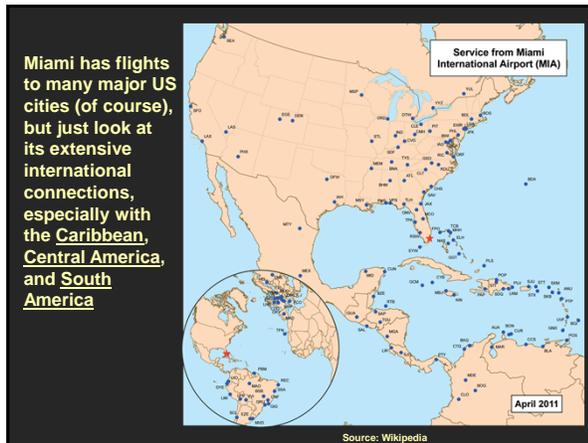
- **Q:** What's the connection between a city's influence and size?
  - How connected is population size with importance? Very? Not so much?
  - Is it possible for a city to have a large population but not be so important?
  - What about the other way: a smaller city that has disproportionate importance?
  - What are some ways we might measure a city's importance?

## UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- Global cities can be important in several ways
  - Business importance: corporate headquarters and executives
  - Media importance: television, radio, news, and movie production hubs
  - Government importance: major capital city (national, state)
  - Organizational importance: non-profit, non-governmental organizations
  - Cultural importance: museums, theatres, retail

## UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- Miami is an interesting, vibrant, and ultimately very important city because of its role as a connecting point: a transportation hub
  - Connecting the US with the rest of the world
  - One important and very visual way of seeing this: direct flight connections



UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- So it is clear that Miami functions as a gateway city for travel between the US and a host of international cities
  - Q: in what ways is this important?

International connections have important implications for national and regional economies, cultures, health, and security, among other dimensions

UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- Q: Can you think of other cities (anywhere in the world) that are somewhat big but have a very big importance/reputation?

UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- The “NBA goes global” case study from your reading today gets at this idea of influence, together with culture
  - What does the map of international NBA players look like?
  - Why do people come from around the world to play in the NBA? Is it all a one-way street (people coming from around the world to the NBA)?
  - What does the example of the NBA contribute to our idea of globalization?

UNT Urban Places and Urban Systems

- Thanks for participating today
  - Please read ahead for our next regional focus: Latin America and the Caribbean
  - Please ensure you do all of the assigned reading, including the brief background reading on Haiti (there will be some class discussion based on this reading)