Geography 120: Environment and Culture
Montana State University-Billings
Fall 2005

Instructor: Susan J. Gilbertz
Hours:  T 9:00-10:30
                         R 3:40-5:10
Office:  LA 211       W 9:00-12:00

Course Description: Analyzes the interrelationships between humans and their environments, including such topics as race, origin and dispersal of technology, livelihood patterns and settlement.

Course Objectives: Successful completion of the course should prepare students to:

   a) Recognize and understand key conceptual notions used by geographers to explain the human/environment interrelations.
   b) Identify geographical scholars and their specific contributions to understanding the human/environment interrelations.
   c) Recognize and explain contemporary tensions involved in managing environmental issues at the national and international levels.
   d) Identify and illustrate local and/or place specific examples of human/environment interrelations based on the concepts of the course.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Evaluation Components:</th>
<th>Semester Grade Categories:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1: 20%</td>
<td>A= 90- 102%</td>
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<td>Exam 2: 20%</td>
<td>B = 80- 89.9 %</td>
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<td>Exam 3: 20%</td>
<td>C = 70- 79.9 %</td>
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<td>Exam 4: 20%</td>
<td>D = 60- 69.9 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 5(Final-not comp.): 20%</td>
<td>F = 0 - 59.9 %</td>
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<td>Merit Project (EVST Req.)* 2%</td>
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<td>Total: 102%</td>
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*Merit Project: The Merit Project is required of EVST majors, but all students are encouraged to complete the project. The project is a pictorial essay (notebook) wherein students provide photos (from personal collections) and/or clipped pictures (from magazines or internet—appropriately cited) to illustrate specific course concepts from 10 different lectures. Each pictorial entry must be accompanied by a paragraph description, written by the student, which explains how each entry illustrates specific details of course content. This project can earn each student as much as 2% toward their semester grade. Only projects void of typographical, mechanical and grammatical errors will be considered for full credit.
**Student Accommodations:** Every effort is made to insure students’ abilities to perform at their best. Students should inform the instructor within the first week of the semester of any special accommodations that will be needed in order to insure their success, including any necessary or suggested accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students whose grades on the first examination are below 70% should schedule an appointment to see the instructor during office hours.

**Missed Exams:** Students are not allowed to take “make-up” examinations unless prior arrangements have been made, or unless proper documentation of a University Excused absence is presented within one week of the missed examination.

**Academic Dishonesty:** All forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating on examinations and plagiarism, are forbidden. Students caught engaged in such actions will be immediately dismissed from the course and grade of “F” will be assigned for the semester.

**Cell Phones:** Please turn off your cell phone ringers during class lectures.

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**Tentative Course Schedule**

**Week 1: September 6 and 8**

*Unit One: Chapters 1-3*

**T-** No Class: Campus Move-In Day  
**R-** Course Introduction

**Week 2: September 13 and 15**

**T-** Taking an Historical Perspective on Human Geography:  
Social Darwinism & Environmental Determinism (Late 1800s)  
The Morphology of Landscape; C. Sauer (1925)  
Terrae Incognitae: The Place of Imagination; J.K. Wright (1947)  
**R-** The Changing Global Context; Geographies of Population

**Week 3: September 20 and 22**

**T-** Cadillac Desert: Part 1 (Mulholland’s Dream) (F:85)  
Open Discussion: Test Review  
**R-** *Exam # 1*
Week 4: September 27 and 29

**Unit 2: Chapters 4-6**

T- Re-Tracing the Rodian Shore  
   *Traces on the Rodian Shore*; C. Glacken (1967)

R- Re-Tracing the Rodian Shore, Cont.

Week 5: October 4 and 6

T- Examining the American Scene  
   *The American Scene*; D. Lowenthal (1968)
   *FILM*: Landscape: A New Story of Possibility in the Changing Am. West (30 min)

R- Power of Ordinary Landscapes  
   *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes*; Meinig and Lewis (1979)
   *FILM*: For the love of gold by Clark-Fork Coalition (12 min)

Week 6: October 11 and 13

T- *FILM*: An injury to one [Butte] (53 Min)  
   Open Discussion: Test Review

R- **Exam #2**

Week 7: October 18 and 20

**UNIT 3: Chapters 7 and 9**

T- Culture as the Superorganic: Theories

R- Culture as the Superorganic: Theories, Cont.

Week 8: October 25 and 27

T- Culture as the Superorganic: Ethnic India

R- Culture as the Superorganic: Horn of Africa  
   *The Superorganic in American Cultural Geography*; J. Duncan (1980)

Week 9: November 1 and 3

T- *FILM*: Cadillac Desert: Part 4 (Last Oasis) (55 min)  
   Open Discussion: Test Review

R- **Exam #3**
Week 10: November 8 and 10

*Unit 4: Chapters 8 and 12*

*Also see:* The Family Farm Myth: [www.themeatrix.com](http://www.themeatrix.com)

T- Rural Geographies
W- Urban and Rural Interpretations of Life in a Watershed

Week 11: November 15 and 17

T- Human Impacts:
   *Man’s Role in Changing the Face of the Earth;* W.L. Thomas (1956)
R- Milltown Reservoir & the Superfund Clean-up
   *FILM:* Remove the dam, restore the river (Milltown) (11 min)
   Open Discussion: Test Review

Week 12: November 23-25

**T- Exam #4**
R- No Class: Thanksgiving Vacation

Week 13: November 29 and December 1

*Unit 5: Chapters 10-11*

T Urban Centers
   “Medieval Europe and the City State”; (Misc. Sources)
   *Cities and Buildings;* L. Ford (1994)
R- Urban Centers, Cont.
   *FILM:* Great Street: New York’s 5th Avenue (F:50)
   Course Evaluations

Week 14: December 6 and 8

T- Living No Place
   *Place and Placelessness;* E Relph (1976)

**R- Merit Projects Due**
   *FILM:* Land of Plenty, Land of Want (Journey to Planet Earth: #3) (57 min)
   Open Discussion: Test Review

Week 15: December 12-15 (Finals Week)

**Exam #5**
Tuesday, December 13th from 2:00-3:50