Geography 120: Environment and Culture
Montana State University-Billings
Spring 2006

Instructor: Susan J. Gilbertz

Hours: M 11:45-12:45
T 10:00-12:00 + 2-3:30
W 11:45-12:45

Office: LA 211

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.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

*Due to research obligations this semester, Dr. Gilbertz will not attend a number of class sessions. Some of these sessions are dedicated to educational films, and others are dedicated as examination days. Students must anticipate that some test questions will be based on the videos watched in class.*

**Week 1: Jan 16-18**

*Unit One: Chapters 1-3*

- **M:** No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- **W:** Lecture 1: Course Introduction

**Week 2: Jan 23-25**

- **M:** Lecture 2: 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)
- **W:** Lecture 3: The Changing Global Context; Geographies of Population

**Week 3: Jan 30-Feb 1**

- **M:** Lecture 4: Cadillac Desert: Part 1 (Mulholland’s Dream) (F:85)
  (Gilbertz Collecting Research Data)
- **W:** Exam # 1
  (Gilbertz Collecting Research Data)
Week 4: Feb 6-8

**Unit 2: Chapters 4-6**

**M-** Lecture 5: Re-Tracing the Rodian Shore

*Traces on the Rodian Shore*; C. Glacken (1967)

**R-** Lecture 6: Re-Tracing the Rodian Shore, Cont.

Week 5: Feb 13-15

**M-** Lecture 7: Examining the American Scene

*The American Scene*; D. Lowenthal (1968)

**W-** Lecture 8: *FILM*: Cadillac Desert: Part 4 (Last Oasis) (55 min)

(Gilbertz Collecting Research Data)

Week 6: Feb 20-22

**M-** No Class—President’s Day

**W-** Lecture 9: 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 7: Feb 27-Mar 1

**M-** Lecture 10: Ordinary Landscapes, Cont.

*FILM*: Landscape: A New Story of Possibility in the Changing American West (30 min)

**W-** *Exam #2*

Week 8: Mar 6-8

**M-** Spring Break—No Class

**W-** Spring Break—No Class

Week 9: Mar 13-15

**Unit 3: Chapters 7 and 9**

**M-** Lecture 11: Culture as the Superorganic: Theories

**W-** Lecture 12: *FILM*: Land of Plenty, Land of Want (Journey to Planet Earth: #3) (57 min)

(Gilbertz Collecting Research Data)

Week 10: Mar 20-22

**M-** Lecture 13: Culture as the Superorganic: Theories, Cont.

**W-** Lecture 14: Culture as the Superorganic: Ethnic India

Week 11: Mar 27-29

**M-** Lecture 15: Culture as the Superorganic: Horn of Africa

*The Superorganic in American Cultural Geography*; J. Duncan(1980)

**W-** *Exam #3*
Week 12: Apr 3-5

*Unit 4: Chapters 8 and 12*

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

- **M-** Lecture 16: Rural Geographies
- **W-** Lecture 17: Urban and Rural Interpretations of Life in a Watershed

Week 13: Apr 10-12

- **M-** Lecture 18: Milltown Reservoir & the Superfund Clean-up
  *FILM:* Remove the dam, restore the river (Milltown) (11 min)

- **W-** Lecture 19: Human Impacts:
  *Man’s Role in Changing he Face of the Earth;* W.L. Thomas (1956)

Week 14: Apr 17-19

**M-** *Exam #4*

*Unit 5: Chapters 10-11*

- **W-** Lecture 20: Urban Centers
  “*Medieval Europe and the City State*”; (Misc. Sources)
  *Cities and Buildings;* L. Ford (1994)

Week 15: Apr 24-26

- **M-** Lecture 21: Urban Centers, Cont.
- **W-** Lecture 22: Living No Place
  *Place and Placelessness;* E Relph (1976)

Course Evaluations

*Merit Projects Due*

**Exam #5**

*Tuesday, May 2nd from 2:00-3:50*

*See Dr. Gilbertz by April 26th to Discuss Conflicts with this Time and Date*