

## **GEOG 165 Intro to Human Geography, Fall 2018**

Instructor: Dr Thomas Ptak, [tptak@uidaho.edu](mailto:tptak@uidaho.edu)

TA: Alex Nagel, [nage2619@vandals.uidaho.edu](mailto:nage2619@vandals.uidaho.edu)

Class Times: MWF 10:30-11:20am, Teaching Learning Center 222

Instructor Office Hours: Mon & Wed 11:30am – 12:30pm, McClure 405B



**WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?** Human Geography is centered around understanding how space shapes—and is shaped by—human behavior, across the surface of the earth. Another way of framing Human Geography is to examine: what people do, where they do it and why, and how implications of human behavior influence and shape various social, political, economic and environmental consequences. Through an examination of the diverse phenomena occurring in our contemporary world, participants in this course will develop an understanding of interconnections and interdependence between people, places, environments and systems. Developing this understanding foundational for ‘geographic awareness’ and the basis of Human Geography.

## **COURSE ACCESS AND COMMUNICATION:**

This course will utilize two distinct online platforms for course content and grading. The first; [bblearn](#), is a platform existing Uidaho students are already familiar with. The second; [Tophat](#) is an Open Education Resource platform that will host an Electronic Textbook and will also be used as an interactive learning tool to encourage participation, and most importantly—learning.

For most weeks of the semester, Tophat will be required to access chapters of the E textbook, specific content that we will examine and discuss in lecture and to complete assignments.

For other weeks, we will rely on bblearn to access readings, and to keep up to date with the gradebook. Please note, all course communication outside of lectures will come through emails sent via bblearn.

With the exception of the required novel, all course material such as lectures, exams, and various exercises or assignments will be available through tophat or bblearn.

### **Tophat information:**

“The Human Planet” E-text available through [Top Hat](#). \* [Sign up](#), using code # [245544](#). Refer to these [resources](#) if you have any difficulty signing up for your account. If you have trouble with Top Hat, whether logging in for attendance or for responding to a question or discussion, please contact [Top Hat Support](#).

**\*Very important: Students must use the same name/email address uses with your Uidaho account to sign up with Top Hat. If you fail to do this your grades may not transfer from Top Hat to Uidaho bblearn and you will receive an incomplete grade until remedied.**

### **bblearn information:**

bblearn can be accessed at the following web address: <https://bblearn.uidaho.edu/> (Login: UI Account & Password). BB Learn is available to keep up to date with the gradebook, course content and communication. Please note: This is not the appropriate place to ask questions regarding grades.

If you have trouble accessing or using bblearn, technical help is available through the UI bblearn FAQs for students. <https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/bblearnhelp/student-help/> You can find in-person bblearn assistance on the UI campus at the TLC Center, room 128.

**Please make use of these resources prior to contacting the instructor for any form of assistance.** The instructor is available to address any questions about course concepts and content such as lectures, readings, assignments. I can't diagnose/assist with technical issues.

## Course Schedule:

### Part one: Broad Themes

Week 1, Aug 20-26: Introduction to Human Geography and course outline

Required reading: Awash in a Sea of Geographical Ignorance (On bblearn)

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Week 2, Aug 27-Sept 2: The Anthropocene and Human Geography

Required reading: The Human Planet module one: The Anthropocene

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### Part two: Topics

Week 3, Sept 3-9: Culture **No Class on Monday (Memorial Day) or Friday (conference)**

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 1-2

Required reading: The Vanishing (On bblearn)

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Week 4, Sept 10-16: Identity

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 3-4

Required reading: The Human Planet module two: Identity

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Week 5, Sept 17-23: Geopolitics

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 5-6

Required reading: The Human Planet module three: Geopolitics

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Week 6, Sept 24- Sept 30: Population Dynamics

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 7-8

Required reading: The Human Planet module four: Population

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Week 7, Oct 1-7: Migration

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 9-10

Required reading: The Human Planet module five: Migration

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Week 8, Oct 8-14: Environment

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 11-12

Required reading: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jun/16/saving-the-world-promise-not-fear-nature-environmentalism>

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Week 9, Oct 15-21: Agriculture & Food

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 13-15

Required reading: The Human Planet module six: Agriculture & Food

Additional reading: The Great Forgetting (On bblearn)

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Week 10, Oct 22-28: Urbanization and Development

Required reading: The Good Earth Chapters 16-18

Required reading: The Human Planet module seven: Urbanization and Development

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Week 11, Oct 29-Nov 4: **Economy and Trade**

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 19-21**

Required reading: **The Human Planet module eight: Economy and Trade**

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Week 12, Nov 5-11: **Energy**

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 22-24**

Required reading: <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/what-energy-security-looks-21st-century>

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Week 13, Nov 12-18: **Health and Well Being** **No Class on Friday (Conference)**

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 25-27**

Required reading: **The Human Planet module nine: Health and Well Being**

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Week 14, Nov 19-25: **No classes due to mid-term break**

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### **Part three: The Future and Sustainability**

Week 15, Nov 26-Dec 2: **Sustainability**

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 28-31**

Required reading: **The Human Planet module ten: Sustainability**

Additional reading: The Boiling Frog (**On bblearn**)

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Week 16, Dec 3-9: **Home**

Required reading: **The Good Earth Chapters 32-34**

Required reading: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170418-how-western-civilisation-could-collapse>

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#### **Assessment Criteria**

E text reading and assignments 40%

Writing response one 5%

Lecture attendance and participation 10%

Writing response two 5%

Writing response three 5%

Assignment Proposal 5%

Term Assignment 30%

#### **Course Text Book:**

This course uses an electronic text book in the Top Hat platform, and students will also be required to read a novel over the duration of the term. Novel: *The Good Earth*, Pearl S. Buck, is available on Amazon.com. The novel is compulsory reading and must be purchased before week three.

Any additional readings will either be posted to bblearn or accessed through a hyperlink. All readings must be completed during or before the week they are assigned.

## **Course Expectations and Guidelines:**

**Academic Integrity Policy:** I have uploaded this as a separate document to the bblearn website. Please make sure you are familiar with it. Not knowing what constitutes plagiarism, cheating or academic dishonesty is not an excuse.

The perpetrator of any action deemed as academic misconduct will receive a zero for the assignment or test and also potentially fail the course. Additionally, students may also face University sanctions. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Student Code of Conduct, located at <http://www.uidaho.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/student-conduct/student-code-of-conduct>

**Students with Special Needs:** The University of Idaho encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. Contact the instructor promptly at the outset of the course if you need any type of accommodation. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306 in order to notify your instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course: Phone: (208) 885-6307, Email: [dss@uidaho.edu](mailto:dss@uidaho.edu), Web: [www.uidaho.edu/dss](http://www.uidaho.edu/dss)

**Writing Assistance:** One of the most important skills you need to leave college with is the ability to write effectively. The University of Idaho has an outstanding writing center, located at Idaho Commons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 323. Web: <https://www.uidaho.edu/class/writing-center>

**Deadlines:** Failure to turn in work on the date it is scheduled will result in a reduction of 25% per day missed. Please do not contact the instructor after work is missed to explain a missed deadline without a compelling reason. If you anticipate in advance that you cannot take an exam on the day and time outlined because: (1) You are traveling to an official university-sponsored event; or (2) You have a prescheduled medical appointment. (3) observed religious holiday. If you foresee an absence due to one of the reasons described above, you must contact the instructor a minimum of two weeks in advance of the anticipated absence with appropriate documentation. Appropriate documentation includes a Dean's letter or letter from your coach, doctor (on official letterhead), etc. that provides me with the details of the pre-existing time conflict and is signed by the appropriate party.

**Incompletes and Extensions:** As all due dates and exam dates are provided in advance, no 'make-ups' will be allowed for any of the required course components, except in the case of documented emergencies.

**Retaining copies of all coursework:** Please retain copies of all work submitted and the original copy of all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these copies as documentation.

**Individual Differences:** If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your education process. The university offers a wide range of services to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements.

**Computers and other electronic equipment:** To complete this course, you will need reliable access to a computer and internet service.

**Please be aware that this syllabus is subject to change. Therefore, it is imperative students stay up to date with all course communication through the bblearn platform regularly.**