



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 25	Instructor Name:	Austen Thelen, Ph D
Course Title & #:	Cultural Geography: GEOG 102	Email:	austen.thelen@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10410	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Canvas	Office #:	203 F
Class Dates:	October 6 – December 5 2025	Office Hours:	Wednesdays 10:00 am-2:00 pm (Zoom)
Class Days:	Asynchronous (always available)	Office Phone #:	760-355-6537
Class Times:	Asynchronous (always available)	Emergency Contact:	Elvia M. Camillo, Staff Secretary Behavioral & Social Science Department Imperial Valley College 380E. Aten Rd. Imperial, CA 92251 (760) 355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Asynchronous Online

Course Description

An introduction to the regions and cultures of the world. Emphasis on the contemporary demographic, linguistic, religious, and economic characteristics of major regions in the world. May be taken before GEOG 100. (CSU,UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

GEOG 102 has no prerequisites, nor corequisites.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Analyze and compare cultures in terms of global population patterns. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO5)
2. Analyze current spatial geographic events using the Five Themes of Geography (ILO1, IOL2, IOL4)
3. Evaluate human migration patterns using push and pull factors as a tool (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Five Themes of Geography and be able to apply them to class projects.
2. Identify and explain the beginnings of mankind, how they interact with their environment and how and where agricultural activities began and spread.
3. Explain push and pull factors and how they influence the decision to migrate as well as different types and patterns of migration.

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4. Identify population growth patterns based on demographic transition models and population pyramids.
5. Discuss world language families including their origins and dispersal and major religious entities around the world including their impact on society.
6. Identify different cultural and ethnic groups including folk and popular patterns, the ethnic landscape, and ethnic diversity.
7. Explain and identify economic levels of geographic development including the distribution and impact of the changing primary, secondary, and tertiary production cycles as seen on the cultural landscape.
8. Demonstrate a knowledge of urban systems and structures, political ordering of space, and how human actions have impacted the natural landscape.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Introduction to Human Geography, by Dorrell, D., and Henderson, P. 1st Edition, 2018
1940771609, 978-1940771601

This is an OER textbook, students can download it in .pdf form directly from the course Canvas shell, free of charge.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

In this course, we will utilize several methods of instruction, including lectures, the textbook, and discussions boards, which students will access through Canvas.

Lectures: PowerPoint slides of lecture are available and are required reading for each module. Video lectures are optional and provided for each lecture PowerPoint.

Textbook: All assigned readings from this course come from the required text, see above section.

Learning activities and quizzes in each module are based on assigned readings.

Multi-Media Presentations: Videos and films will appear from time to time throughout the course.

Publicly available video content ("YouTube" videos for example) as additional content in each module.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Midterm Exam: 80 points.

Final Exam: 80 points.

Quizzes: 12 quizzes worth 10 points each – 120 points.

Learning Activities: 2 activities worth 50 points each – 100 points.

Discussion Forums: 12 discussion boards worth 10 points each – 120 points.

Students' Final Grades are based on 500 total points, figured by the following breakdown:

450-500 points – A.

400- 449 points – B.

350 – 399 points – C.

300 – 349 points – D.

299 points or fewer – F.

Late Work Policy: Any late assignments may be turned in for partial credit (up to 80%) before the end of the semester.

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Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Communication Policies:

I believe that communication between students and their professor, and among students, is a critical element of learning success. One of the great advantages of taking online classes is that we can engage in communication at times that are convenient for us. I want to be very clear about our course communication policies.

Primary form of contact = Canvas Inbox

When contacting me, your first action should be to send me an email. I will respond to your email within 24 hours. If you don't see a response, you need to assume that the email did not go through, and you should send it again. Please observe the following two policies when sending me email:

1. Use the Canvas Inbox.
2. If you need to send an email, other than with the Canva Inbox, the subject line needs to include your name, along with the name of this class. Professors get a lot of emails, and I need to be able to prioritize my students. It is very important to let me know who you are and that you are taking this class, so I know the context of your email.

Other Forms of Contact = Telephone

My office telephone number is 760.355.6537. Again, feel free to call any time. This is my office phone, so if I am there, I will answer. You can reach me during office hours, but I tend to be in and out all day.



Online Drop Policy:

As you may expect, attendance in an online class is a little bit different than in a live section. However, this class observes all the IVC attendance policies related to enrollment and financial aid. Please refer to the IVC General Catalog to review those policies.

First Day Drops:

Because we do not have a firm meeting schedule in online classes, I consider you having attended the first day of class by accessing Canvas shell within the first 48 hours of the semester. If you do not access the site, or contact me by this time, then unfortunately you might be dropped from the course.

General Drop Policy:

Other than “First Day Drops,” please know that I do not plan to drop anyone from the course. Disenrollment from this course is solely the responsibility of each student. I will assume that you intend to complete the course if you do not drop on your own. As far as the last day of attendance is concerned (financial aid implications), I will count the day you last logged in as your last day of attendance. Please keep in mind that IVC is dealing with a fictitious enrollment scam, targeting financial aid. Therefore, if you are disenrolled from the class in error, at any time, please contact me as soon as possible.

Late Work Policy:

Per the course syllabus, a student’s grade is derived from points earned via the following assessments: Exams, Assignments, Reading Quizzes, and Discussion Posts.

Exams: Exams (midterm and final) MUST be taken within their respective availability timeframes to receive credit. Please review the syllabus course road map (last page) for these times.

Assignments and Reading Quizzes:

All assignments and reading quizzes may be completed up until the last day of class to be counted for points in the course.

Discussion Forum Posts:

Activity on the course’s discussion forums must be completed by the end of the semester to be considered for credit.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.



IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 9 Oct 4 - 10	Syllabus & Introduction	Acquire course materials, become familiar with Canvas.
	Module 1: Introduction and Basic Concepts	Read Chapters 3 and 4 Module 2 Discussion and Quiz due Oct 10
	Module 2: Population and Health	Read Chapters 3 and 4 Module 2 Discussion and Quiz due Oct 10
Week 10 Oct 11-17	Module 3: Migration and Movement	Read Chapter 5 Module 3 Discussion and Quiz due Oct 17
	Module 4: Folk and Popular Culture	Read Chapter 6 Module 4 Discussion and Quiz due Oct 17
Week 11 Oct 18-24	Module 5: World Languages	Read Chapter 7 Module 5 Quiz and Discussion, Learning Activity 1 due Oct 24
	Module 6: World Religions	Read Chapter 8 Module 6 Discussion and Quiz due Oct 24
Week 12 Oct 25-31	Mid-Term Exam	Mid-Term Exam Due at 11:59 pm Oct 31
Week 13 Nov 1 – 7	Module 7: Identity	Read Chapter 9 Module 7 Discussion and Quiz due Nov 7
	Module 8: Political Geography	Read Chapter 10 Module 8 Discussion and Quiz due Nov 7
Week 14 Nov 8 – 14	Module 9: Food and Agriculture	Read Chapter 11 Module 9 Discussion and Quiz due Nov 14
	Module 10: Economic Geography	Read Chapters 15 and 16 Module 10 Discussion and



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
		Quiz; Learning Activity 2 due Nov 14
Week 15 Nov 15-21	Module 11: Urban Geography	Read Chapters 13 and 14 Module 11 Discussion and Quiz due Nov 21
	Module 12: Development	Read Chapter 18 Module 12 Discussion and Quiz due Nov 21
Week 16 Nov 22 - 28	Thanksgiving	
Week 17 Nov 29 – Dec 5	Final Exam	Exam due at 11:59 pm on Dec 5

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****