

GEOG1017 Human Geography in a Globalizing World (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Prof George C S Lin

Objectives

To assist students to better understand the patterns, processes and problems of human-environment interaction in our globalizing world.

Course Synopsis

This is an introductory course about the processes and spatial patterns of human population, settlements, and culture in a globalizing world. Important subjects to be discussed will include the main themes of human geography as a spatial science, geography of population and migration, technological innovation and cultural diffusion, the changing cultural landscape, human impacts on the natural environment, and changing geography in major world regions. Emphasis will be placed on the interaction between human society and the natural environment.

Lecture Topics

- Themes and fundamentals of human geography
- Human geography in a globalizing world
- Human population and migration
- Human settlements: Location and distribution
- Human culture: Languages and religions
- Human development: Measurement and explanation
- Human impacts on the natural environment

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 50%; coursework 50% (consists of an essay)

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Appreciation of the distinctiveness of geography as a scientific discipline
- Awareness of the competing interpretations of the causes and consequences of globalization
- Assessment of the theories and models of the growth and spatial distribution of population
- An understanding of the regularity and logic of the growth and locations of human settlements
- Knowledge of the distribution of human culture and its relationship with the environment

Skills:

- Ability to identify and explain the spatial patterns of human population and settlement
- Ability to compare and contrast human culture between different places
- Critical thinking in the theorization of human-environment relationships
- Basic skills in the reading of maps, tables, and graphs

Recommended Reading List

1. Fellmann, J., Getis, A. & Getis, J. (2007) *Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities*. New York, USA: McGraw-Hill.
2. Knox, P.L. & Marston, S.A. (2007) *Places and Regions in Global Context: Human Geography*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.