

## Global Learning Semesters

### Course Syllabus

Course: THOM-310 Cultural Geography

Department: Humanities

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
THOM-310	Cultural Geography	3
Subject	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Geography	42-45	Junior Standing
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
Humanities	Upper-Division	English

### Course Description

This course examines human activity as it relates to the geographic landscape and spatial distribution. The course attempts to understand the causative forces at work within the fundamental spatial concepts of both Place and Position. Topics are drawn from: human landscape and the spatial distribution of physical geographic and human activity phenomena.

An underlying notion is that humans adapt to their total environment by adapting themselves and their systems. Humans also change their environment. Of course the environment also changes human and their systems by forcing them to adapt.

The geographic orientation is contemporary in that issues related to the present world are critically covered from a geographic perspective. A largely systematic topical approach is taken with an intermittent descriptive regional focus to exemplify the general ideas and models.

The course highlights the amazing dynamic local and global trends and correlations across many geographical phenomena, for example among:

- Climate, population density and development
- Level of development and population trends
- Religion and democracy

### Prerequisites (if applicable)

Junior Standing

### Instructor Information

Dr. James Leigh is a specialist in Cultural Geography, culture and communication, and multicultural education. He is a Life Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS). Dr. Leigh completed both undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Wollongong, and graduate studies at the University of Newcastle (New South Wales). He has BA and MA(Hons) degrees in Geography, and a PhD in Intercultural Studies drawing on Geography, Linguistics and Multicultural Education.

Dr. Leigh has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals in the USA, England, India, Sweden and Australia. James' recent books *Outer Limits: A Reader in Communication Across Cultures* (2004), and *Safari through Culture, Behavior and Communication* (2006), are but forerunners. The next book will be titled, *Death of the Nations in Civilization Clash* (2007). He is also working on a manuscript for another book, *Travel with Geography* (2008).

Dr. Leigh is a visiting professor at Zadar University (Croatia), Middlesex University (England) and the Cyprus Police Academy. He has worked for the State University of New York and the University of Wollongong (Australia) and Wollongong Institute of Education. He is Assistant Professor, Intercollege, and teaches European Geography, Cultural Geography, Travel Geography. He is bilingual in English and Greek, and has lived and worked, or visited, on various consultative missions, England, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Libya, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the USA. Dr. Leigh is also a reviewer for *Globalization and Health* journal and the *Journal of Historical Geography*.

## Learning Outcomes

It is hoped that the course will be successful in encouraging students to:

- Love geography
- Think like geographers with the principles and content of geography

## Course Outline

Topic areas to be covered are selected from the following depending on the needs and characteristics of the class:

1. Nature and definition of Geography
2. Geography fundamentals
3. Population
4. Migration
5. Language
6. Religion
7. Culture
8. Political Geography
9. Development
10. Agriculture
11. Industry
12. Urban patterns
13. Resources
14. Descriptive regional studies

## Tasks and Assignments

There will be regular class and scheduled activity, as well as assignments that will be assessed. Students must attend the course sessions, workshops and labs and are responsible to sit for the exams (and quizzes). Additionally, students will be required to prepare presentations. Students must achieve a satisfactory level in each of the evaluation criteria to successfully complete the course.

## Evaluation and Grading

## Grading

Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	40%
In-class workshops/labs:	20%
Paper and presentation:	20% (2,500 words)

## Readings and Resources

**Books and Reading Materials** \*Bold items cover most of the course content.

Leigh, J. TRVL-310 Course Pack

Rubenstein, J. (2005), The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, Latest Edition, Saddle River, Prentice Hall.

Fellman, J. Getis, A. and Getis, J. (2005), Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities, Latest Edition, New York, McGraw-Hill.

Leigh, J. and Hill, S. (2006), Safari though Culture, Behaviour and Communication, Limassol, Kyproepeia.

Knox, P. and Marston, S. (2007), Places and Regions in Global Context: A Human Geography, Latest Edition, Upper Saddle River, Prentice Hall.

## Journal Articles

Leigh, J. (1999), The Origin, Nature and Survival of Language: An Inter-cultural and Inter-environmental View, Language, Society and Culture, University of Tasmania, Issue 5, September, online  
<http://www.educ.utas.edu.au/~Thao.Le/JOURNAL/Journal.html>

Leigh, J. (2000), Humans in Culture and Culture in Humans: Origins of Human Behaviour, Language, Society and Culture, University of Tasmania, Issue 6, March, online  
<http://www.educ.utas.edu.au/~Thao.Le/JOURNAL/Journal.html>

## Other Academic Policies

To qualify for a make-up exam, or quiz, or be given any other dispensation, the student must submit a doctor's certificate or other formal document of equivalent authority. Also wherever the student feels that he has been significantly disadvantaged by absence from an assessed activity, or lackluster performance in an assessed activity, he may submit a doctors/police certificate or other document of equal authority to qualify for special consideration.

Completion of all activities to be graded (e.g. exams, quizzes, exercises, assignments, workshops and labs etc) is a serious and important matter, and will be treated as necessary for successful completion of the course. Please note cheating from someone else's work, or allowing someone to cheat from your own work is an academic crime for this course and both are subject to corrective action - even possibly complete failure of the course. Likewise plagiarism is NOT allowed as it is an academic crime. Students will risk complete failure of the course if they plagiarize, or in any other way cheat. Whenever you use other written material (that is not common knowledge) in your assignments, you should reference the sources of that information.

Students are expected to present to the lecture on time. Only students who are on time are eligible to attend the lecture or class. Late students may not enter the lecture. There is also a good "unwritten law" in communication to produce real in depth discussion and results. That is, one person speaks at a time, and when that person is finished the other person then gives his response. This will be practiced in class.

The course professor however reserves the right to make special dispensation in favor of the student where the professor deems it fair or necessary to do so.

## Materials and Supplies

No additional materials or supplies are required for this course.