

GEO150 GEOGRAPHY (Physical and Human) (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Norie OSHIMA, PhD

Office hours: TUE & THU 13.00-14.30

Office: A3-10

Website: -

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Semesters: Fall 2009

Meeting times: -

DESCRIPTION: Geography is the study of the earth's surface as the space within which the human population lives. The word 'geo' comes from Greek '*geo*', the earth, and '*graphein*', to write. By 'earth surface' is meant that rather thin shell, only one thousandth of the planet's circumference thick, that forms the habitat or environment within which the human population is able to survive. In this course students will study a number of concepts, theories, and topics that broadly constitute the discipline of geography. This course will provide knowledge of both physical and human geography. The class will go off interactively and sometimes will have discussions, small works, presentations, and so on.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course is to provide students with

- * Knowledge and understanding of geographic concepts, theory, and geographical perspectives in order to understand the world around you and interpret the diverse and complex human factors that shape our society;
- * Knowledge and understanding of the relationship between nature and human being;
- * The ability to collect relevant information on a topic, to process and critically assess information in order to make a research paper, and to introduce the research to other students both orally and in writing;
- * The ability to develop logical way of thinking.

STUDY MATERIALS:

<Textbooks>

- * none

<Reference books, sources of readings and other information>

- * Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

ASSESSMENT:

10%:Class attendance

10%: A report on a fieldwork

20%: A research paper

- 10% is for a research paper

Students can choose research theme freely, but the research should be a geographical study. Students can visit the instructor's office by appointment, when one need advice for a research paper.

- 10% is for a presentation in a class

Students have a presentation that will be scheduled in the later stage of the course.

30%: Midterm exam

- A midterm in-class examination (1.25 hours) will be given in the middle of the course.

30%: Final exam

- A final exam of 1.25 hours will be given during the regular examination period.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION: The instructor strongly recommends students to discard an image of geography at junior and high school.

POLICIES: -

COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES: Lecture, fieldwork, and presentation

SCHEDULE:

<Week 1>

Theme: Introduction of the Course and Systematic Geography

Readings: None

<Week 2>

Theme: Evolution of the Geography

Readings: None

<Week 3>

Theme: Making, Manipulating and Interpreting Maps

Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.1-9.

< *Week 4* >

Theme: A geographical fieldwork

Readings: None

< *Week 5* >

Theme: Layers of Tradition

Tracking the AIDS Epidemic in the United States: Diffusion Through Space and Time

Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): *Human Geography in Action*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.33-38.

Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): *Human Geography in Action*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.61-66

< *Week 6* >

Theme: Newton's First Law of Migration: The Gravity Model

One Billion and Counting: The Hidden Momentum of Population Growth in India

Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): *Human Geography in Action*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.85-92.

Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): *Human Geography in Action*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.109-116.

< *Week 7* >

Theme: Help Wanted: The Changing Geography of Jobs

Rags and Riches: The Dimensions of Development

Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): *Human Geography in Action*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.133-143.

Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): *Human Geography in Action*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.175-191.

< *Week 8* >

Theme: Tutorial Week for Research Paper

Readings: None

< *Week 9* >

Theme: Food for Thought: The Globalization of Agriculture

Take me Out to the Ball Game: Market Areas and the Urban Hierarchy

Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.213-220.

Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.247-251.

<Week 10>

Theme: Reading the Urban Landscape: Census Data and Field Observation

The Disappearing Front Range: Urban Sprawl in Colorado

And Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.275-284.

Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.299-308.

<Week 11>

Theme: Do Orange and Green Clash?: Residential Segregation in Northern Ireland

Breaking Up Is Hard to Do: Nation, States, and Nation-States

Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.329-335.

Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.351-358.

<Week 12>

Theme: Preserving the Planet: Human Impact on Environment Systems

Readings: Kuby, M., Harner, J. and Gober, P. (2004): Human Geography in Action. New York: John Wiley and Sons, p.419-432.

<Week 13>

Theme: Presentation Week 1

Readings: None

<Week 14>

Theme: Presentation Week 2

Readings: None

<Week 15>

Theme: Final Exam

Readings: None

HUM 180-1 INTRODUCTION TO TOHOKU CULTURE 1 (3 credit hours)
HUM185-1 INTRODUCTION TO AKITA CULTURE 1 (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Norie OSHIMA, PhD

Office hours: TUE & THU 13.00-14.30

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Website: -

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Semesters: Fall 2009

Meeting times: -

DESCRIPTION: Akita is one of prefectures in Tohoku region. As well as other prefecture in Tohoku region, Akita is rich in local culture that still remains as a precious event/ custom/ lifestyle/ form in an area. Students start studying with finding the answer for 'Where is Tohoku/Akita?' and 'what is culture?'. This course provides introduction to Akita culture through studying various kind of culture that are maintained by local people. You may see the local culture that inherit from their ancestors and will leave to future generations in fieldtrips.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course is to provide students with

- * Understanding of richness and diversity of Akita culture;
- * Understanding of particularity and universality of Akita culture;
- * The ability to collect relevant information on Akita culture, to process and critically assess information in order to make a research paper, and to introduce the research to other students both orally and in writing;
- * The ability to develop a logical way of thinking.

STUDY MATERIALS:

<Textbooks>

None

<Reference books, sources of readings and other information>

Ferraro, G. (2006): Chapter 2, The Concept of Culture in 'Cultural Anthropology'. Thomson Wadsworth, pp26-47.

Fukuda, T. (2005): Theorizing Local Culture: Cultural Turns in Contemporary Japanese Society and Current Studies on Local Culture. *Human Geography*, 57-6, pp. 3-15.

Mitchell, D. (1995): There's No such Thing as Culture: Towards a Reconceptualization of the Idea of Culture in Geography. *Transaction of the Institute of British Geographers*. 20-1, pp102-116.

ASSESSMENT:

10pts: Class attendance

30pts: 2 reports on excursions (20pts is for the 1st excursion, 10pts is for the 2nd one)

10pts: A reading assignment

10pts: Group Presentation

20pts: Group Research Paper

20pts: 2 Response Papers for Student's Presentation

ACADEMIC PREPARATION: None

POLICIES: If you can't attend with unavoidable reason such as funeral, you should inform secretary.

COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES: Lecture, Presentation and Excursion**SCHEDULE:**

<Week 1>

Theme: Introduction of the Course

Readings: none

<Week 2>

Theme: Tohoku in Japanese Cultural Realm

Readings: none

<Week 3>

Theme: What is culture?

Readings: Ferraro, G. (2006): Chapter 2, The Concept of Culture in *'Cultural Anthropology'*. Thomson Wadsworth, pp26-47.

<Week 4>

Theme: Current Studies on Local Culture

Readings: Fukuda, T. (2005): Theorizing Local Culture: Cultural Turns in Contemporary Japanese Society and Current Studies on Local Culture. *Human Geography*, 57-6, pp. 3-15.

<Week 5>

Theme: Excursion 1: Osarizawa Mine

Readings: None

<Week 6>

Theme: Excursion2: Arawa Shrine

Readings: None

<Week 7>

Theme: Religion in Tohoku/Akita

Readings: Byron Earhart, H. (2004): *Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity*. Thomson.

<Week 8>

Theme: Castle Town Akita

Readings: Yamori, K. (1990): *The Regional Structure of Japanese Castle Towns*.
Taimeido, pp.417-421. None

<Week 9>

Theme: Presentation Week 1

Readings: None

<Week 10>

Theme: Presentation Week 2

Readings: None

<Week 11>

Theme: Festivals in Akita

Readings: None

<Week 12>

Theme: Agriculture in Akita

Readings: None

<Week 13>

Theme: Emishi People

Readings: None

< *Week 14* >

Theme: Dietary Culture in Akita

Readings: None

< *Week 15* >

Theme: No Final Exam

Readings: None