

Geography Honors Seminar

Instructor: K. Allison Lenkeit Meezan **Course times/location:** 12-1:50 every other Monday (see below)
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Office Hours Spring 2006: 11-1PM Tu, 10AM-Noon W, and by appointment

Class web site: www.foothill.fhda.edu/fac/klenkeit/courses.htm

The honors seminar in Geography for Spring 2006 will have a focus on the ethics of human/environmental interaction. First, we will examine scientists obligations associated with natural hazard prediction and evacuation by looking at case studies of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as the eruptions at Galeras and Nevado del Ruiz in Columbia. Next, we will look at water resources and their relationship to urbanization and agriculture in the American west.

This course will give you new tools with which to look at and understand the world around you, and give you a renewed appreciation for the landscape that you call your home. The material that we will be covering is at times very controversial. The assigned readings will help provide a scientific foundation for more informed, though still passionate, discussions.

This class will meet for two hours every other week, which gives us only six class meetings. Because the readings are the foundation upon which we will build class discussions it is essential that you keep up to date with your reading. Therefore we will start each class meeting with a short (10-15 minute) multiple choice quiz on the reading for the week. You will need to bring one scantron to each class meeting. Next, one group of students each week will make a 15 minute presentation on the week's reading and lead a 30-45 minute discussion. Finally, I will give you a short introduction to the geographic issues surrounding the following class's reading.

Texts

Required

Cadillac Desert (Reisner)

No Apparent Danger (Bruce)

Recommended

Goode's World Atlas 21st edition

Course Outline

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|-----------------|---|
| April 10 | Introductions, basics of geography |
| April 24 | Nevado del Ruiz: <i>No Apparent Danger</i> pp. 1-88 |
| May 8 | Galeras: <i>No Apparent Danger</i> pp. 89-226 |
| May 22 | Water in the West: <i>Cadillac Desert</i> pp. 1-51 |

June 5 Creating an Eden Out of Dust: *Cadillac Desert* pp. 332-378

June 19 A Civilization, if You Can Keep It: *Cadillac Desert* pp. 477-518

Teaching Methods, Projects, Exams and Grading

This course will incorporate a variety of teaching methods including class lectures, supplemental readings, web-based activities, and one exam. You will be challenged to think critically and independently through a variety of methods including case study evaluation, data interpretation and analysis.

Course grades will be determined using the following point values:

100-93 points	= A	79-77 points	= C+
92-90 points	= A-	76-70 points	= C
89-87 points	= B+	69-60 points	= D
86-84 points	= B	Less than 60 points	= F
83-80 points	= B-		

There will be no extra credit in this course.

Reading quizzes

There will be five 12 point quizzes based on the assigned reading for the week. The quizzes will be given from 12 to 12:15PM. Make-ups for missed quizzes will only be given in extenuating circumstances (e.g. auto accident, extreme illness, family crisis etc). You must call or email me the same day of the missed quiz to schedule a make-up. Make-up quizzes are worth 75% of the original quiz.

Note: Accommodations will be made as necessary for students with disabilities. Please speak to me at the beginning of the course to make me aware of extenuating circumstances.

Group presentations

Each student will work in a group of 3-5 students to make a presentation on one of the week's reading topics. The presentation is worth 40 points. The 15 minute presentations should begin with a summary of the major points of the assigned reading then explore a major question or issue surrounding the reading. The group is also responsible for coming up with 4-6 discussion questions and leading the following 30-45 minute discussion. Students will be assigned both a group and an individual grade for the presentation. Students who miss their group's presentation will be graded at 50% credit.

Attendance and withdrawal policy

You are responsible for all of the material presented and announcements made in class. While class attendance is not required (this is college), it is essential to your success in this course. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. If you do not attend class for two meetings without contacting the instructor you will be dropped.

NOTE: If you wish to drop you need to contact Admissions and Records at Foothill and do so. Do not rely on me to drop you!

The withdrawal policy is in accordance to the official Foothill withdrawal policy <http://socrates.fhda.edu/reg/todrop.html>

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism (see Foothill college definition of plagiarism at: <http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/news/honor.html>) on any assignment or exam in this course will result in an F on that assignment/exam for the first infraction, and an F for the course for subsequent infractions. All incidents of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Disclaimer

The above schedules and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.