



GEO 3421

Cultural Geography

Section: RVC

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2026

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Ricardo Gonzalez

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: rmgonzal@fiu.edu

Response Time: 48-72 hours, except on weekends and holidays

Phone: 3053482247

Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:30 to 9:30 AM and 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM;

Thursdays 8:30 to 10:30 AM

Office Location: SIPA # 301

Website: <https://sipa.fiu.edu/people/faculty/global-and-sociocultural-studies/gonzales.ricardo.html>

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Global and Sociocultural

Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

What is “culture”? Why is it so important to how we understand and live in the world around us? Is culture a thing, an idea, a set of practices, or a myth? Is culture connected to people and places, or is it mobile? Does culture unite or divide us? Does it bring peace or conflict? How do cultures mix? How does culture change? What does geography have to do with how culture works, and does thinking about culture geographically give us a different understanding of it?

GEO 3421 addresses these and other questions about something called culture. It will introduce students to the field of cultural geography and to the ways that a geographic approach helps us make sense of cultural politics in the world around us. In this course, we will examine how questions of culture are always already questions of politics, economics, history, and place and how a geographic approach to such questions helps us understand the world in more critical ways. This course focuses on the changing and multifaceted relationships between people and the environments in which they reside. This course provides knowledge of and about the creation of places and regions, an understanding of both the interdependence of places and regions in a globalizing world, and the major changes that have taken place in global, regional, and local landscapes.

Textbook and Course Materials

Contemporary Human Mosaic

Subtitle: Culture, globalization, landscape. 2nd edition.

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Neumann, Roderick and Patricia Price

Publisher: W.H. Freeman and Company

Publication Date: 2019

Copyright Date: 2019

ISBN 10: 1319059813

ISBN 13: 13: 9781319059811

Chapters/Pages: All

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Define the complexities of culture as both place based and mobile, historically enduring yet constantly changing, simultaneously local, global, and transnational.
- Explore the differences and similarities, connections and gaps, among people around the world – differences often read through a framework of culture.
- Analyze what a geographic approach to culture gets us in understanding its complexities.
- Examine key debates, developments, and themes in cultural geography

through conceptually oriented lectures and contemporary and historical case studies.

- Develop and improve map-based knowledge of key location in world regions.**

- Develop and improve ability to write and think critically about the world.**

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students. When you sign up for this online course you are expected to be sufficiently computer savvy to keep your computer in a condition that can well support the software used in this course. You are responsible for having access to a well-functioning computer. This is of the outmost importance, especially with regards to the online quizzes.

If you have computer problems while taking a quiz, you **must** contact [FIU Online Support Services](#) **immediately** by calling FIU Online at (305) 348-3630 or by clicking on the “Technical Support” link in the Course Menu, **not the professor or your classmates**. If such issues occurs while taking a quiz, you must gather as much evidence of the issue you are confronting (i.e., take pictures) and include it in the message sent to Technical Support, otherwise, unfortunately, we will be unable to provide you with the opportunity to re-take the missing or incomplete assessment.

If you are not sufficiently computer savvy to meet these conditions, or do not have access to a good computer, you should reconsider taking an online course. You must take the Practice Quiz (the questions have nothing to do with the material taught in this course, and count nothing) and the Syllabus Quiz to make sure you know how the process works and that your computer is compatible with

FIU's CANVAS system. It is also important to note that students must take and pass with perfect score the Syllabus Quiz in order to get access to the course materials.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the How to Get Started Information located in the Course Content**
- **Take the Syllabus Quiz during the first week of the term. Students will not be allowed to access the course until they take this quiz and pass it with perfect score (20/20).**
- **Introduce yourself to the class during the first week of by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum**
- **Take the Practice Quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.**
- **Interact online with the instructor and peers, and keep up with all assignments**
- **Review and follow the course calendar.**
- **Log in to the course at least three times per week**
- **Respond to discussion questions and posting within two days**
- **Respond to messages within two days**
- **Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline**

The instructor will:

- **Log in to the course twice per week**
- **Respond to discussion questions and journal postings within one week (except on weekends or holidays)**

- **Respond to messages within 48-72 hours (except on weekends or holidays)**
- **Grade assignments within two weeks of the assignment deadline unless otherwise noted**

Assignments & Assessments

Discussion Forums

What will make this class interactive is everyone's active participation in class discussion. Therefore, a number of discussions will take place throughout the course. There are spaces for you to ask your classmates for help with studying for quizzes, for discussing and posting current events, and navigating the logistics of an online course. While the instructor will monitor the discussion forums and post replies, the answers will be given more quickly and thoroughly if the entire class agrees to communicate with each other. The chat feature is also enabled if anyone wants to communicate with each other in real time. Be courteous and respectful to your peers. Failing that, the instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are aggressive or offensive, and dock participation points from the offender.

Assignments

Reading Comprehension Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

- **All quizzes will be online, and will be available from Sunday's at 2:00 PM, and until Wednesday's at 10:00 PM. If your schedule prohibits you from being**

available at these times, then unfortunately you probably should not take this class.

- Please note that **no make-up quizzes will be given.**
- There will be three, non-cumulative reading comprehension quizzes in this course based on the readings, outlines, and other materials covered in this course. Students will be allowed to take the quizzes two times during the testing period, and only the best grade earned will be used to calculate your final grade in our course.
- In addition to these (3) quizzes, students will have the opportunity to take an Optional Quiz at the end of the term. This quiz will replace the lowest grade earned in the first three quizzes, unless you earn a lower grade, and will include all the material covered in the course (cumulative).
- Each quiz will cover the assigned chapters of the textbook and other assigned articles, videos, etc., and have 20 multiple-choice and true-false questions worth 5 points each for a total of 100 points.
- The quizzes will have a duration of 30 minutes (past experience with a number of online courses has shown that this is sufficient time for the student who knows the material). Hence, just as you have experienced with on-campus classes, you “must be on time for the quiz”; if you are late opening the test, you will lose valuable time. It is important to mention that, in order to have all the available time, students must start taking a quiz on the last day of the testing period (Wednesday's) no later than at 9:30 PM to have all available time to complete this task (30 minutes).
- It is impossible to find a time that suits everyone, and tests cannot be timed for the convenience of every individual student. If this schedule is impossible for you, then unfortunately it is probably better for you not to take this class. It is simply impossible to find a time that suits everybody, but, at the same time,

it is my responsibility as a professor to try to maintain the academic integrity of the course.

- Results will be available after the testing period has ended. You will be able to see the total score only.

All quizzes will be made available from Sunday's at 2:00 PM, and until Wednesday's at 10:00 PM

- Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1: Chapters 1 to 3.
- Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2: Chapters 4 to 7.
- Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3: Chapters 8 to 10.
- Optional Quiz: Chapters 1 to 10.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#)

Reflection Essays

- There will be five reflection essays, which require you to apply concepts learned in our course, and only the best four grades earned will be used to calculate your final grade.
- Each essay/discussion topic is worth 10% each of the final grade in the course.
- Students must post well thought-out comments based on the assigned topics – the corresponding textbook chapter/s of the week –, showing knowledge of the subject by using key definitions used in the textbook, and upload them through the plagiarism detector Turnitin. Both the quantity and the quality of your posts will contribute to your grade.

- Students will have to comply with all requirements of this activity, including the minimum required number of words, show knowledge of the topic, originality, and to format their work following the Technical Aspects (see next section: Important Note On Written Assignments, Turnitin, And Plagiarism) and upload their posts through Turnitin.
- The reflection topics will be available for the entire week (from Sunday to Saturday) only. Late work will be accepted but will incur in a 10-point discount for each week they are late. **The weekly point-deduction will be applied starting on the sixth day after the deadline (Saturday's at 12:00 AM). No late work will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.**

Dates for the reflection essays are as follow:

- Reflection Essay # 1; due: Saturday, September 12
- Reflection Essay # 2; due: Saturday, September 19
- Reflection Essay # 3; due: Saturday, October 11
- Reflection Essay # 4; due: Saturday, October 24
- Reflection Essay # 5; due: Saturday, November 8

***No late work will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.**

Term Paper

You will be assigned individually a research article from a major geography journal in which the research focus on any of the topics covered in the course textbook. You will then summarize the elements of that paper, including the argument, methodology, literatures and conclusions based on the summary format provided in the Term-Paper Instructions.

- Please note that works that are submitted late will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount. The point-deduction will be applied starting on the next day after the deadline. No late work will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.
- For the paper, you will need to **strictly** follow the format provided in the Instructions file analyzing and summarizing the components of the research article about which you are writing. Remember that you are only using ONE article in this project. In completing the following format, you will need to read each section of the article you are using very carefully, possibly more than once. **Your paper should be at-least 6 pages in length (not including the Cover Page);** you must follow the formatting procedure listed at the beginning of this section.
- **Selecting an Article (due: Saturday, October 3):** The first step in completing this assignment is finding an article. The article you use must comply with the overall assignment – it must be a geography article, the research must be related to one of the topics covered in the course textbook, it must be a full-length, research article (not book reviews, editorials, commentaries, country reports, or special issue entries), and it must be from one of the peer-reviewed geography journals listed in the Term-Paper Instructions file. They must also be published in the year 2001 or later.
- Only one person will be allowed to review an article, so it is a good idea to pick out a few that interests you. To submit your article preferences, send the Instructor a message with a list of three articles you have picked out in order of preference – your list should consist of full citations for the articles selected formatted following the samples included in the Instructions file. You must also attach the PDFs for the articles to your message; web links are not acceptable. If you fail to submit an appropriate article by the due date, not only will you lose points towards the final grade of this task (10 points), but I

will assign an article to you – I can't promise it will be interesting or easy to read. A list with the assigned articles will be posted at the end of Week # 6 of the semester.

- Students must submit a rough draft of their paper, which must include all required sections and formatted according to the Term-Paper Instructions, **no later than Saturday, April 1.**
- Once you complete your paper, you must submit your work to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due date.

Important note: do not plagiarize any part of the paper or you will receive a failing grade in the course.

Dates for the completion of the Term-Paper are as follow:

- Term-Paper Article Selection; due: Saturday, October 3.
- Article Assignment (by your professor); due: Tuesday, October 6.
- Term-Paper Rough Draft; due: Saturday, November 14 **[no late work accepted after Monday, November 16].**
- Term-Paper Final Project; due: Saturday, December 5.

No late work will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.

Grading

Sample Tables

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Reflection Essays (4@ 10% each)	5	50	250	40%
Term Paper	1	100	100	40%
Reading Comprehension Quizzes (3@6.65% each)	4	100	100	20%
Total	10	—	1,000	100%

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Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Proctored Exams

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Schedule of Topics

DATE	TASKS
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Week 1: August 24 - 29	Chapter 1: Human Geography: <i>A Cultural Approach</i> • Review the Start Here folder located in the course content. • Review the Policies Page as is important to the quality of your education. • Complete the Syllabus Quiz on the first week of the term: the end of Saturday, August 29. This must be passed with perfect score to gain access to the course materials. • Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum under the “Discussion Board” tab. • Take the practice quiz under the Start Here folder to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.
Week 2: August 31 - September 5	Chapter 1: Human Geography: <i>A Cultural Approach</i>
Week 3 September 6 - 12	Chapter 2 Geographies of Cultural Difference: One World or Many? • Reflection Essay # 1; due: Saturday, September 12.
Week 4: September 13 - 19	Chapter 3 Population Geography: A Demographic Portrait • Reflection Essay # 2; due: Saturday, September 19.
Week 5: September 20 - 26	• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1: chapters 1 to 3 (From Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 PM, and until Wednesday, September 23 at 10:00 PM).

Week 6: September 27 – October 3	Chapter 4 The Geography of Language: Locating the Spoken Word • Term-Paper article selection; due: Saturday, October 3
Week 7: October 4 - 10	Chapter 5 Geographies of Race and Ethnicity: Melting Pot or Salad Bowl? • Reflection Essay # 3; due: Saturday, October 11.
Week 8: October 11 – 17	Chapter 6 Political Geography: A Divided World
Week 9: October 18 - 24	Chapter 7 The Geography of Religion: Spaces and Places of Sacredness • Reflection Essay # 4; due: Saturday, October 24.
Week 10: October 25 – 31	• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2: chapters 4 to 7 (From Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 PM, and until Wednesday, October 28 at 10:00 PM).
Week 11: November 1 - 7	Chapter 8 The Geography of Agriculture and Food: Shaping the Land, Feeding the World • Reflection Essay # 5; due: Saturday, November 8
Week 12: November 8 – 14	Chapter 9 Development Geography: Transforming Landscapes of Well-Being • Term-Paper rough draft; due on Saturday, November 14 [No late work accepted after Monday, November 16].
Week 13: November 15 - 21	Chapter 10 Urban Geography: A World of Cities
Week 14: November 22 – 28	Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15: November 29 – December 5	• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3: chapters 8 to 10 (From Sunday, November 29 at 2:00 PM, and until Wednesday, December 1 at 10:00 PM). • Term-Paper – Final Project; due: Saturday, December 5. • No late written assignments will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.
Week 16: December 6 - 12	• Optional Quiz: chapters 1 to 10, including assign readings. From Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM, and Wednesday, December 9 at 10:00 PM.

Canvas Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Academic Honesty Policy	Quiz	0
	Academic Honesty Policy	Quiz	0
	Extra Credit	Assignment	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Open Forum	Discussion	0
	Open Forum	Discussion	0
	Open Forum	Discussion	0
	Open Forum	Discussion	0
	Practice Quiz	Quiz	0
	Practice Quiz- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser	Quiz	0
8/29/26	Reflection Essay #1	Assignment	100
8/29/26	Syllabus Quiz- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser	Quiz	20
9/5/26	Reflection Essay #2	Assignment	100
9/12/26	Term Paper - Article Selection	Assignment	
9/16/26	Reading Comprehension Quiz #1- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser	Quiz	100
9/21/26	Team Exercise - Selection of Team Leader	Assignment	

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
9/26/26	Team Exercise - Submission of Selections	Assignment	
10/3/26	Reflection Essay #3	Assignment	100
10/17/26	Team Exercise - Rough Draft	Assignment	100
10/24/26	Reflection Essay #4	Assignment	100
10/28/26	Reading Comprehension Quiz #2- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser	Quiz	100
10/31/26	Assessment of Individual and Team Member Contributions	Quiz	0
11/7/26	Term Paper - Rough Draft	Assignment	100
11/14/26	Reflection Essay #5	Assignment	100
11/14/26	Team Exercise - Final Project	Assignment	100
11/25/26	Reading Comprehension Quiz #3- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser	Quiz	100
11/28/26	Term Paper - Final Project	Assignment	100

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
12/2/26	Optional Quiz-Requires Respondus LockDown Browser	Quiz	100

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas messages Inbox ONLY. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial or Canvas Guide to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond within 48-72 hours (except on weekends or holidays).

The message feature is a private, internal Canvas only communication system. Users must log on to the Canvas system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Canvas to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

In addition, **your professor will post course announcements, alerting students of important deadlines, feedback on assignments, and other important information. Please make sure to read them carefully and get back to your professor immediately if you have any questions or concerns. Please make sure to include detail questions or explain your concerns so your professor is better prepared to answer them on a timely-manner.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT, INCLUDING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

You are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. All work is to be appropriately cited when it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and/or unacknowledged collaboration on any work, or the presentation of someone else's work, is plagiarism. Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AIgenerated content) without proper attribution or authorization is another

form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me to discuss it as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, TURNITIN, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PLAGIARISM

Students must submit all written assignments in a word document.

Works that are submitted late will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount for each week they are late. The weekly point deduction start on the sixth day after the deadline (Saturday's at 12:00 AM).

No late work will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.

Each written assignment must include references from the course textbook, including but not limited to key definitions and other important aspects related to the topics covered in each project. Students must include in text citations of the course textbook in their essays, as well as complete reference of this source in a Bibliography page. You can find a complete reference of our course textbook below. Use the following format for the in-text citation: (Neumann and Price 2019). You may also introduce this source at the beginning of a sentence following this example: According to Neumann and Price (2019), ... In case you are including a quote from this source, you must include the page number/s where we can find this information following this example: "The spatial distribution of ..." (Neumann and Price 2019: 35).

- Neumann, R. and P. Price. 2019. *Contemporary human mosaic: Culture, globalization, landscape*. 2nd edition. New York: W. H. Freeman and Company.

Students are **not allowed to use WIKIPEDIA** in this course and will result in a significant point deduction if this source is use in any written assignment.

All written assignment must conform to the following formatting - Technical Aspects: 12-point font (Arial, Times New Roman, Garamond, or Book Antiqua), one-inch margins all around, double- spaced, and number the pages. **Any written**

assignment that does not include all the required technical aspects will receive a 10-point deduction in their grade.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Your work must be your own, original thoughts. If you plagiarize your thoughts from a website, journal, or any other source, not only you will be sad because you cannot write the small number of words on your own, but you will earn a failing grade in our class.

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas, which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies, such as:

- **University Policies**
- **Accessibility and Accommodations**
- **Online Etiquette**
- **Technical Requirements and Skills**
- **Computer & Digital Literacy Skills**
- **Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies**
- **Academic Integrity**
- **Copyright Statement**
- **Nondiscrimination Statement**
- **Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**
- **Fair Use Policy**

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the [Zoom Student Tutorials](#) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the [Zoom Test Meeting Room](#) to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](#). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.