

# Course Syllabus

## GEOG 202: Introduction to Human Geography

### Summer II 2022

#### Instructor Information

#### Contact Information



**Name:** Joy K. Adams, Ph.D.

**Forms of address:** Joy, Professor Adams, or Dr. Adams

**Pronouns:** She/her(s)

**Email:** Send via ELMS Inbox (preferred) or directly to [joyadams@umd.edu](mailto:joyadams@umd.edu)

**Office location:** Remote (Boulder, Colorado)

**Time zone:** [Mountain Daylight Time](#)

**Office hours:** By appointment via phone or videoconference. Email me to schedule.

**Phone:** 303-332-3936 (mobile)\*

*\* Please use with discretion as this is my personal number. Do not share with anyone outside of this class. Email is **strongly preferred** and is usually be the fastest way to reach me.*

#### Response times

Email/phone messages: One business day

Assignment feedback: Three business days from due date

#### Instructor Bio

Joy Adams has been an adjunct instructor in the Department of Geographical Sciences at UMD since 2014. She is a broadly trained human geographer with research specializations in ethnicity and race, geotourism, and the North American culture region. She received her BA and PhD (both in geography) from The University of Texas at Austin and her Master of Applied Geography from Texas State University-San Marcos. She has held full-time faculty appointments at The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Texas State University, and Humboldt State University (Arcata, CA). After eight years as a geography professor, Joy joined the staff of the American Association of Geographers in Washington, DC, where she was a senior researcher for NSF-funded projects that investigated non-academic career paths for geography graduates and sought to promote diversity and inclusion within the discipline.

Since 2013, Joy has worked as an instructional designer and educational consultant, helping university faculty from a range of disciplines to teach effectively online. She has a certificate in e-learning instructional design from The University of California-Irvine and is a certified peer reviewer for [Quality Matters](#).

To learn more about Joy's publications and professional activities, visit her [Academia.edu](#) profile page and [LinkedIn](#) profile page.

## Course Information

**Summer II Session Dates:** July 11-August 19, 2022

### Catalog Course Description

Introduction to what geographers do and how they do it. Systematic study of issues regarding social and cultural systems from a global to a local scale. Looks at the distribution of these variables and answers the question "Why here, and not there?"

### Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define **human geography**, describing its major content areas and themes;
2. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of key topics in contemporary human geography;
3. Apply geographic terms and concepts to describe and analyze cultural patterns, processes, and phenomena;
4. Describe the influence and interplay of sociocultural, political, and economic forces across geographic scales;
5. Develop learning, communication, and critical thinking skills that will support their future academic and professional pursuits; and
6. Value the holistic and integrative perspective of human geography as a lens for examining and understanding real-world phenomena.

### Instructional Technology & Technical Requirements

Enterprise Learning Management System (ELMS) is UMD's instance of the Canvas learning management system. Participants will use their UMD credentials to log in at <http://elms.umd.edu/>. [Technical specifications and requirements for Canvas](#) are available online. All course materials, assignments, and activities will be housed in the online course site.

To be successful in this online course, students must be able to:

- Use a web browser
- Send and receive email
- Download and view files and images from the web, including PDFs and screenshots
- Submit a file as an assignment via ELMS
- Write and format digital documents, including hyperlinking text and embedding images

For general technical assistance, contact [UMD's Division of Information Technology](#).

## Textbooks and Materials

To reduce the financial burden on students, there is **NO required textbook** for this course.

If you prefer a traditional textbook, I strongly encourage you to purchase or rent the recommended text, **in any edition, in any format** (e-book, print, or loose-leaf). The third edition is the newest version; however, the essential information is the same in the older editions, at a significantly reduced cost.

**Recommended text:** *Visualizing Human Geography* by Alyson L. Greiner (Wiley Publishing)

Other assigned materials will be provided (as files or links) within the ELMS course site.

## Guidelines and Expectations

### Course Format

This is a fast-paced online course, not a self-paced “independent study.” You will have weekly course assignments that must be completed by the posted due dates. Failure to participate in real time throughout the summer session will significantly impact your overall understanding of the course material and, ultimately, your final course grade.

Recommendations for managing your time, structuring your approach, and improving your online learning experience are provided in the ELMS course site (**About This Course: Guidelines**). You can also register for a free one-hour [Online Student Success Orientation](#) course for additional guidance.

### Course Structure

Our online course site has been structured into weekly modules. The lessons within each module include required readings and media (embedded or linked). Therefore, you must work through each lesson in order to access all of the assigned course material.

Most weeks of the course will begin on Monday at 12:00 am and conclude on Sunday at 11:59 pm. Assigned work for each module is due by **11:59 pm on Sunday**, unless otherwise specified. All dates and deadlines for the course are based on [Eastern Daylight Time](#).

Because **the summer session ends on Friday, August 19**, the standard schedule will be adjusted for Week 6, which includes the final exam. See the **Course Schedule** section of this syllabus for a complete listing of due dates.

I reserve the right to extend deadlines for the class, depending on students’ progress and needs. Any extensions will be announced via ELMS. Refer to the course site for specific details and the latest information about due dates and deadlines.

### Course Participation

[Per the Undergraduate Catalog](#): “Students are expected to take full responsibility for their own academic work and progress. Students, to progress satisfactorily, must meet all of the requirements of each course for which they are registered. Students are expected to attend classes regularly.

Consistent attendance offers students the most effective opportunity to gain command of course concepts and materials.”

As an online course, physical “attendance” is not required. However, you are expected to actively and consistently participate in the online course throughout the session. You will have graded work due each week, so it is imperative that you adhere to the course schedule and complete all assessments on time.

### **Time Commitment**

Be advised that you will be expected to complete the same amount and level of work for this summer course as you would for a three-credit course offered during the regular spring or fall semester. According to the U.S. Department of Education, a credit-hour is defined as follows:

*One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or 10 to 12 weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or **at least the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.***

In plain language, a three-credit course consists of 45 hours of instruction, plus a minimum of 90 hours of student work (135 hours of total effort). Based on this formula, you should plan to spend about **seven to eight hours per week** reviewing the online course materials **AND at least 15 hours per week** completing course assignments during the six-week summer session.

If you have never taken an online course before, you might be surprised by the amount of time and effort required, particularly during the compressed summer session. If you will be unable to participate in the course for an extended period (including any times when you will not have reliable internet access) and/or if you cannot dedicate at least **20 to 25 hours of effort** to the course each week, I strongly suggest that you consider enrolling during the regular fall or spring semester.

### **Course Communication**

All course-related information will be disseminated via ELMS. I will communicate with you individually via email. It is your responsibility to stay informed of course announcements by logging in to the ELMS course site several times each week and checking your designated email account regularly throughout the duration of the course. See the **Email and Communication** section of this syllabus (under **University Policies**) for further information.

### **Copyright Notice**

My course materials are protected by copyright, and I am the exclusive owner of copyright for those materials I create. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may not and may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly, whether or not a fee is charged, without my express written consent. Similarly, you own copyright for your original papers and essays. If I am interested in sharing your work on the course website or another public venue, I will ask for your written permission.

Persons who publicly distribute or display or help others publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor's course materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct and may face legal or disciplinary action.

## Grading and Assessment

### Assessment Strategy

A significant body of academic research demonstrates that learning is optimized when students construct their own meaning and knowledge versus passively receiving information. Assessment in this course will therefore encourage and emphasize your active participation in the learning process, including your contributions to the class members' collective learning experience. In accordance with UMD policy, exams will be administered to assess your acquisition and mastery of content knowledge, but they will account for only 30% of your final course grade.

Assessment	% of course grade
Application exercises (weekly)	30%
Collaborative learning: Crowdsourcing and discussions (weekly)	20%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	15%
Comprehension checks (weekly)	15%
Metacognition activities (weekly)	3%
Feedback survey completion (weekly)	2%

### Assessment Types

Each assessment is explicitly aligned with one or more course learning outcomes. There is no "busy work." Everything in this course has been intentionally structured to help you acquire the knowledge and skills essential for introductory-level mastery of human geography.

**Application exercises:** Weekly application exercises provide opportunities to apply and analyze course concepts, deepen your learning, and engage in spatial and critical thinking. Additionally, they allow me to gain insight into your learning process so I can facilitate the course more effectively. Application exercises will assess course learning outcomes 1, 2, and 3.

**Collaborative learning:** Crowdsourcing activities and discussion forums provide the interaction with peers that you would typically encounter in a face-to-face course. A significant body of research demonstrates the positive impacts of peer-to-peer learning on student performance and engagement. Furthermore, communication and collaboration skills are in high demand across all employment sectors so it's important to develop them before entering the workforce. Collaborative learning activities will assess course learning outcomes 3, 4, and 5.

**Exams:** Exams will assess your mastery of content knowledge introduced in this course (learning outcomes 1 and 2). One of these exams will be a final exam, administered on the last day of the session in accordance with [UMD policy](#).

**Comprehension checks:** These short, multiple-choice quizzes are intended to help you assess your own understanding and recall of information presented in each week's assigned readings and multimedia. Your performance on the quizzes will help you identify specific material you should review when completing your assignments and preparing for exams. Educational research has demonstrated that practicing information retrieval is significantly more effective for long-term retention than traditional "studying" (i.e., re-reading course material) ([Brown et al. 2014](#)). I will provide *unlimited attempts* (anytime before the posted deadline) on the comprehension checks as an opportunity to reinforce your learning. Your highest score will be recorded. Comprehension checks will assess course learning outcomes 1 and 2.

**Metacognition activities:** Metacognition is a fancy way to say "thinking about thinking." It is one of the most important habits of mind you can develop as a college student. Each week, I'll assign one or more short activities in which you will reflect upon your learning process and practice learning strategies that have the potential to significantly improve your performance. I will review your submissions in order to monitor the class's overall progress and to provide each of you personalized feedback and coaching. Engaging in reflection, self-assessment, and other metacognitive practices supports learning outcomes 5 and 6.

**Course feedback surveys:** Evaluation is a critical component of the instructional design process as it helps to ensure that courses are achieving their intended outcomes. Periodically, I will ask you to complete short, anonymous surveys to provide feedback about the course. Points will be awarded solely on a completion basis. Providing the instructor with constructive critique and feedback supports learning outcomes 5 and 6.

## Grading and Grade Reporting

In my courses, grades are not "given" – they are earned. If you want to achieve a certain grade, plan your approach to the course accordingly. All assessments will have detailed instructions in the ELMS course site and will be scored using the rubrics provided. To receive maximum credit for your work, you should carefully review the instructions and rubric before submitting any graded assignment or activity. There will be no "extra-credit" assignments offered in this course.

Grades for assignments will be posted in ELMS. If you have any questions or concerns about your performance, you should contact me **as soon as you have a concern**. Final grades are **non-negotiable!**

Final course grades will be based on the following scale. All grades will be rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Excellent Mastery & Outstanding Scholarship		Good Mastery & Good Scholarship		Acceptable Mastery		Unsatisfactory Progress	
A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	93-96%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
						F	Less than 60%

Grades may be viewed online via [Testudo](#) and will be available approximately one week after the end of the summer session. Course grades earned appear on your University of Maryland transcript and are included in your Maryland GPA.

### Late Work Policy

Given the fast pace of the summer session, it's essential that we all adhere to the course schedule. The deadlines are not just there to keep you on track – they also help me manage my workload so that I can facilitate the course effectively. As online students, you are responsible for managing your time and obligations so that you can handle unexpected situations. Don't plan for *if* you get sick; plan for *when* you get sick.

To offer some flexibility, each student may request one deadline extension of 48 hours for one assessment, for any reason. This extension must be requested ***in advance*** of the posted due date by completing the **Request a Due Date Extension** form, available in the ELMS course site under **Course Policies**. Requests that adhere to all policies will be automatically approved – you do not need to disclose, explain, or document the reason for your request. **This policy does not apply to exams, which *must always* be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date.**

Beyond the one pre-approved extension, late submissions will **NOT** be accepted for any assignment. Exceptions will be made for students with [documented absences excused in accordance with UMD policy](#) (see pp. 8-10).

### Incompletes

Per [UMD policy](#), “The mark of 'I' is an *exceptional* mark that is an instructor *option*.” An incomplete (grade of “I”) may be given “only to a student whose work in a course has been qualitatively satisfactory, when, because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control, he or she has been unable to complete *some small portion* of the work of the course. In no case will the mark 'I' be recorded for a student who has not completed the major portion of the work of the course.” [my emphasis]

As an adjunct instructor, my employment contract and my access to UMD systems, including ELMS and email, expires at the end of the summer session. Regretfully, I am therefore unable to assign a grade of incomplete for any student who has outstanding assignments that are administered via ELMS (such as discussion forums, quizzes, or exams), **for any reason**.



## Course Schedule

Week	Topics	Due dates
1: July 11-17	Course Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Is Geography?</li> <li>• What Is Human Geography?</li> <li>• Thinking Like a Human Geographer</li> </ul>	All submissions are due no later than 11:59 pm Eastern on Sunday, July 17
2: July 18-24	Globalization of Culture Population Geography	All submissions are due no later than 11:59 pm Eastern on Sunday, July 24
3: July 25-31	Geographies of Identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Race and Ethnicity</li> </ul>	All submissions are due no later than 11:59 pm Eastern on Sunday, July 31
<b>Midterm Exam: To be submitted via Canvas no later than Monday, August 1, by 11:59 pm</b>		
4: August 1-7	Economic Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Food Production</li> <li>• Global Economy</li> <li>• Human Well-Being</li> </ul>	All submissions are due no later than 11:59 pm Eastern on Sunday, August 7
5: August 8-14	Political Geography Urban Geography	All submissions are due no later than 11:59 pm Eastern on Sunday, August 14
6: August 15-19	The Value of Geography Course Conclusion	All submissions are due no later than 11:59 pm Eastern on <b>FRIDAY</b> , August 19
<b>Final Exam: To be submitted via Canvas on Friday, August 19, by 11:59 pm NO EXCEPTIONS FOR ANY REASON</b>		



## Student Support

### Technical Support

In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty that prevents a student from completing a time-sensitive assessment activity, your instructor will extend deadlines and provide appropriate accommodations based on the situation.

**ELMS Support:** UMD's Division of Information Technology Learning Technologies provides live Canvas support Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–5 pm, through two support forums: email sent to [itsupport@umd.edu](mailto:itsupport@umd.edu) or phone calls made to 301-405-1500.

**General Canvas Support:** Instructure, the parent company of Canvas, offers 24/7 general support. Call 877-399-4090 or click on the [ELMS Support](#) link after logging in to [elms.umd.edu](https://elms.umd.edu) to chat with a support technician or report an issue. Instructure also offers many self-service guides and information in its [Canvas Student Guide](#).

### Student Support Services

The University of Maryland offers all the technology and services you need for your academic journey. Laboratories, studios, libraries, and technology tools are among the latest and most sophisticated available at any major research university. Staff and faculty are here to assist you along the way. Visit the [Campus Resources web page](#) to access further information.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Per UMD policy, individuals with a disability are eligible to receive the accommodations necessary to ensure equal access to campus programs. To receive these accommodations, you are required to register with the University of Maryland's [Accessibility & Disability Service \(ADS\)](#) with your documentation.

I am personally committed to providing instructional support for **all** students, including those with visible or invisible disabilities and as well those with diverse learning preferences. If there are other things I can do to improve your learning experience in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. While I cannot guarantee that I can immediately implement all suggestions, I will gladly consider any input you wish to share.

## University Policies

### Academic Policies

A complete listing of [Summer Session Academic Policies](#) is available on the UMD website. A few key policies are highlighted below for your convenience. However, it is your responsibility as a student to become familiar and comply with them.

### Academic Integrity Code

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized [Code of Academic Integrity](#). This code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism.

### Non-Academic Student Conduct

The purpose of the student discipline process is to maintain the behavioral standards set by the campus community and to provide all students with a fair, administrative adjudication process. Informal hearings and other proceedings at educational institutions do not follow the same procedures used in courtrooms. The University does not employ lawyers to “prosecute” students or apply the rules of evidence used in a civil or criminal trial. Instead, charges are investigated and resolved in an atmosphere of candor, truthfulness, and civility.

Students accused of violating University disciplinary regulations are encouraged to discuss the allegations with their parents or guardians, legal counsel, and with appropriate University staff members. Students are also encouraged to read the [Code of Student Conduct](#) in its entirety.

### Dropping the Course

During the 2022 Summer II session, the schedule adjustment deadline is **July 14**. The last day to withdraw from the course with a grade of W is **August 8**. [See the Session II Academic & Financial Calendar for details](#).

This information is provided by your instructor as a courtesy. **It is your responsibility to understand and comply with all registration and enrollment policies.**

### Email & Communication

Email is the official medium used by the University to disseminate information. Students are responsible for reading all email messages, keeping their email addresses up to date, or for redirecting or forwarding email to another address. Failure to check email, errors in forwarding email, and returned email (from "full mailbox" or "unknown user" errors, for example), will not excuse a student from missing University announcements, messages, deadlines, etc., including communication regarding this course.

## Discrimination & Harassment

The University of Maryland is an equal opportunity institution with respect to both education and employment. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities as required by federal (Title VI, Title IX, Section 504) and state laws and regulations. For further information, review the full [Non-Discrimination Policy](#) on the UMD website.

## Emergency Preparedness

**Because this is a fully online course, you will be expected to adhere to all deadlines and due dates, even in the event of a campus closure or delayed opening.** If interrupted access to UMD services, such as email or ELMS, affects your or the instructor's ability to participate in online course activities, accommodations will be offered, such as extended due dates. Any accommodations will be announced in the ELMS course site.

For the most up-to-date status on weather conditions or emergency situations at the University of Maryland, visit the [Emergency Management website](#) or call 301-405-7669.