

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**GEOG-104  
Introduction to Human Geography**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title: GEOG 104 Introduction to Human Geography

B. New or Modified Course: New

C. Date of Proposal: Spring 2023

**D. Effective Term: Fall 2023**

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, and Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: **3**

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3

Lecture: 3

Laboratory:

Out of class student work per week: 6

H.  Prerequisite (s):

Corequisite (s):

Prerequisite (s) and Corequisite (s): Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

I. Additional Fees: None

J. Name and E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Department Chair: Dr. Isabel T. Gutierrez-Bergman, [isabel.gutierrez@raritanval.edu](mailto:isabel.gutierrez@raritanval.edu)

Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks, [patrice.marks@raritanval.edu](mailto:patrice.marks@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

Human geography introduces students to the concept of spatial organization and encourages geographic analysis to understand processes in a changing world. Geographic

concepts that emphasize location, place, space, scale of analysis, pattern, regionalization, and globalization are essential to understanding spatial interaction and spatial behavior. A special emphasis is placed on understanding complex environmental relationships and interconnections among places and across landscapes.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. The course is one of two general introductory courses in geography and is one of two standard courses in the field of geography.
- B. Please describe the transferability of this course.
  - 1. This course generally transfers as a Social Science, or Global and Cultural Awareness general education course.
  - 2. This course generally transfers as a Geography program requirement.
  - 3. This course generally transfers as a Liberal Arts elective.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- 1) A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Social Sciences or can be used to satisfy the Global and Cultural Awareness.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the AA in Education P-12 degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the Individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. The Science of Geography
  - a. What is Geography
  - b. Spatial, Temporal, and Interdisciplinary perspectives
  - c. Representations and Projections
  - d. Methods
- B. World Population
  - a. Population Changes
  - b. Demographic variables
  - c. Transition models
  - d. Migration patterns
- C. World Cultural Patterns
  - a. Cultural Landscapes
  - b. Race and Ethnicity

- c. Geography of Languages
- d. Geography of Religions
- D. World Economy and Politics
  - a. Economic activities
  - b. Global poverty
  - c. Agriculture
  - d. Industry
  - e. Services
  - f. Political borders and governments
- E. Global Urban Patterns
  - a. Urban vs. Rural
  - b. What is a city?
  - c. Sustainable Cities
- F. Global Environmental Issues
  - a. Climate Change
  - b. Air and Water Pollution
  - c. Natural Resources
  - d. Waste Flows

**VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Link global human patterns with geographic conditions from which they arose using an interdisciplinary, spatial, and temporal perspective. (GE 8)
2. Use important geographic tools (e.g. maps) to communicate verbally and graphically. (GE 5)
3. Explain how the spatial organization of people, places, and environments are interlinked and give rise to distinctive cultural landscapes (GE 5, 8)
4. Critically assess and identify the spatial dimensions of contemporary global issues. (GE 5, 8 \*)

\* Embedded Critical Thinking

**B. Assessment Instruments**

1. research paper
2. projects
3. exams
4. presentations
5. discussion questions
6. quizzes

7. class participation
8. response papers

## VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. quizzes
- C. discussions
- B. projects/independent study
- C. tests
- D. presentations

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. guest speakers
- E. laboratory
- F. student oral presentations
- G. simulation/role playing
- H. student collaboration
- I. independent study

## VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. primary sources
- B. interviews
- C. journals
- D. reviews
- E. student writing
- F. film and video
- G. audio sources
- H. web sources
- I. OER-Open Educational Resources

Sample of possible textbooks:

- a. Rubenstein, J. (2013). *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* (11th Edition).
- b. Dorrell D. Henderson J. P. & Open Textbook Library. (2018). *Introduction to human geography*. University of North Georgia Press. Retrieved November 29 2022 from <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/870>. (OER)

- c. Dastrup R. A. & United States. (2015). *Introduction to human geography* (Adapted for Pasadena City College: February 2017). Pressbooks (OER)

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

**IX. Resources**

- a. Computer access
- b. Library reserves

**X. Honors Options N/A**