SYLLABUS

Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Geography & Anthropology
GEOG 1101: Introduction to Human Geography –
Discovering Cultural, Economic, and Political Globalization in Italy
Summer 2025: Montepulciano, Italy, Session 1, May 22 to June 26, 2025

Course Information

Class meeting time: TBD
Modality: Face-to-Face
Location: Fortezza di Montepulciano, KSU's Facility in Montepulciano, Italy, and via field trips and site visits.

Instructor Information

Name/Title: Dr. Paul N. McDaniel, Associate Professor of Geography
Pronouns: He/Him/His
E-mail: paul.mcdaniel@kennesaw.edu
Faculty Web: Visit Dr. McDaniel's FacultyWeb page
Office Location: Sturgis Library Building (LB) 4217 (a SafeSpace)
Phone: 470-578-2373
Drop-In Office Hours & Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Department of Geography & Anthropology Main Office:
Social Sciences Building (Kennesaw Campus) room 4042. Phone: 470-578-2373.

Preferred Method of Communication

If you have questions or concerns about our course, please send your messages to Dr. McDaniel at paul.mcdaniel@kennesaw.edu. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, Monday to Friday, during regular business hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM). For messages that arrive over the weekend (after 5:00 PM on Friday) or during holidays/breaks, I will respond the next business day. While I will also respond to messages sent through the D2L email message platform within the online course, it may take longer for me to respond than via regular KSU email. Email is a primary form of communication for businesses and other professional settings such as at a university. Knowing when and how to write effective emails is critical because email often provides the first impression of you and your communication skills (i.e., sending a professional email within a professional setting is not the same as sending a text message to a friend). As such, please refer to the KSU Writing Center's Guide on Writing Professional Emails.

Course Description & Purpose

Official Course Catalog Description: This course is a survey of global patterns of resources, population, culture, and economic systems. Emphasis is placed upon the factors contributing to these patterns and the distinctions between the technologically advanced and less advanced regions of the world. No prerequisites.

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following <u>Learning Outcome</u>:
- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following <u>Career-Ready Competencies</u>:
- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Note: After completing GEOG 1101, consider the variety of upper-division regional and systematic geography courses, many of which may be taken as upper-division electives in a variety of majors, and are also part of the BA in Geography (has both a fully online option and a traditional face-to-face option), BS in Geospatial Sciences, and Minor in Geography. Learn more about Department of Geography & Anthropology degree, major, minor, and certificate programs at the [Department of Geography & Anthropology website](#).

Specific Course Section Description for Study Abroad: We live in a dynamic world! Geography and Geospatial Sciences equip us with the perspectives, skills, and tools to apply knowledge to better understand the world and its many diverse physical and human processes, and to contribute to sound decision-making about those processes, from the local to the global scale. Geography and maps are a fundamental language for understanding the world. They provide a framework for organizing and communicating our knowledge. Increasingly geography is used in virtually every field of human endeavor, providing a universal language for understanding, communicating ideas, and providing insights. Geography asks the big questions—Where? How? Why? What if?—and gives you the perspective to answer them with advanced technology and a solid knowledge of the world in which we all live. Through this human geography course, we'll explore global geographic patterns of resources, population, culture, economic, political, and urban systems and their local level impacts while being immersed in a foreign culture and landscape. We will explore defining concepts in geography by focusing on the stories of real people, global trends, topics that transcend borders, and how these patterns affect local places. In essence, how do global patterns shape local lives, near and far? While in Italy, we'll observe broader concepts as they occur on the Italian landscape, allowing us to compare and contrast these patterns with our home culture.

Course Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify, describe, and compare the basic patterns related to and the diversity of the environment, culture, population, economic, urban, and political geography found globally and locally through the usage, interpretation, and analysis of data represented on maps.
2. Apply knowledge of basic geographic processes and concepts to the study of the themes of population, culture, environment, development, and economy.
3. Identify, describe, and analyze current events related to the thematic study of topics such as population, culture, economy, environment, and development.
4. Compare and contrast global patterns and broad geographical concepts and how these patterns affect environments and people at the local level, whether in a foreign landscape or their home culture.
5. Identify the importance of geographic knowledge in understanding the everyday functioning of our planet, and its crucial role in informing policy decision-making.
6. Develop abilities to think critically about how various parts of the planet are connected spatially.

Optional Textbook/Supporting Materials

The course structure and content are based on the following textbook (optional for this study abroad course):
Human Geography: A Short Introduction, 2nd edition, by John Rennie Short, Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN: 9780190928926. Available in print (new or used) and electronic formats.

Recommended Reading: To add further context to textbook concepts, class discussions, field trips in Italy, and ongoing current events, a select set of supplemental readings *may* be made available at the discretion of the instructor. These readings may be drawn from newspapers, magazines, academic journals, book chapters, etc., and would be made available to students online via D2L. Please note that every attempt will be made to include the research and work done by researchers and scholars who have contributed to geographic thought who are often underrepresented in academia.

Course Policies

Attendance

Class Participation. For this class, you should be diligent about reading the required textbook as class activities (lectures, quizzes, exams, discussions) are based on content directly from the textbook. Regular participation and meeting course graded activity deadlines are an essential component to succeeding in this class. Consider our class meetings an assemblage of individuals that is unique and irreplaceable. Irregular participation not only hurts a student's course work, but it weakens the class as a whole. For all KSU in Italy Courses: "Studying abroad offers the unique and exciting experience of taking classes and participating on field trips in another country. Because of this, it is vital that you attend all pre- and post-session classes offered by your instructor along with all in-country classes and field trips. Attendance is imperative and mandatory for you to benefit fully from the experience. Any unexcused absence from an assigned class or field trip will result in a drop of one letter grade for that class. You are required to comply with the KSU Student Code of Conduct in all classes and field trips associated with this program. Students who engage in disruptive behavior or otherwise appear to be in violation of the KSU Student Code of Conduct will be referred to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Additionally, if such behavior results in the instructor asking you to leave class or an activity, you will be counted as absent, and the unexcused absence policy above will apply."

Financial Aid Attendance Compliance: You are responsible for determining your enrollment status in all classes to protect your financial aid monies. NOT ATTENDING A CLASS FOR WHICH YOU ARE REGISTERED IS NOT THE SAME AS **WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE.** You must complete an online withdrawal to be removed from a course. If you stop attending class but do not complete an online withdrawal BEFORE the last day to drop without academic penalty, you will receive a grade of WF, which counts as an F in calculating your grade point average and counts as a completed course for determining your financial aid award.

Grading & Evaluation Policies

All graded activity due dates are clearly listed in multiple locations to help you stay organized and on schedule for successful complete of all course components. Due dates are clearly listed in the course grade activity chart below, in the module schedule further below in this syllabus, in D2L on each individual activity page, and in the online D2L course calendar. Typically, I will do my best to grade items and return feedback to you in the grade item submission area within D2L within one week of the due date for the item.

Final Course Grading Scale

500 Total Possible Points. Final course grades will be assigned based upon the total points from the items above out of 500 total possible points, computed to a percentage according to the grade guideline below.

A = 90% to 100%   B = 80% to 89%   C = 70% to 79%   D = 60% to 69%   F = 0% to 59%

I will round up final course grades if they are > or = .5 or above, for example, an 89.6 is an A, but 79.2 is a C.

Participation (100 points)

Active participation in class including attending class (attendance will be taken at each class meeting and field trip) and participating in class discussions and all other components of the course is important, especially in this study abroad program. Consider our class meetings an assemblage of individuals that is unique and irreplaceable. Irregular attendance not only hurts a student's course work, but it weakens the class as a whole. Please see the Attendance Policy earlier in this syllabus.

Quizzes (100 points)

There will be five multiple choice quizzes throughout the course, each with 10 questions worth 2 points each for a total of 20 points for each quiz and an overall total of 100 points for the total quizzes grade for the course. The overall total quiz grade is 20 percent of the final course grade.
- Quiz 1: May 16
- Quiz 2: June 5

- Quiz 3: June 12
- Quiz 4: June 19
- Quiz 5: June 25

Travel Journal Discussions (300 Points)

There are 6 online travel journal discussion forums throughout the course. Each is worth 50 points for a total of 300 points. You must respond in detail (at least 200 words) to the travel journal discussion topic prompt/question and respond in one paragraph (at least 50 words) each to at least 2 other classmates' responses to create a dialogue around the topics that the entire class is participating in. For each travel journal discussion activity, you should engage the learned course content with your experiences among the landscapes of Italy. It is expected that these entries will tie specifically to our fieldtrips, class discussions, and course readings. Such journal entries should make cohesive connections to the content and concepts we are discussing in class each week and observing on the landscapes of Italy. The discussion assignment grading rubric below contains detailed information about what is required for the discussions and how points are awarded for different items required within the discussions. See schedule overview for discussion due dates and related course modules.

- Journal 1 (Introduce Yourself): May 16
- Journal 2: May 29
- Journal 3: June 5
- Journal 4: June 12
- Journal 5: June 19
- Journal 6 (Reflection): June 25

Grading Rubric for Each Discussion Activity

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
Content appropriately Responds to Discussion Instructions / Questions / Prompts 20 points	Fully addresses all aspects of the discussion prompt. Delivers a clear and focused post that directly answers the question(s) / prompt(s) and demonstrates critical thinking. May introduce relevant outside information or personal experience(s) to enhance the discussion. Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is insightful and well-developed. Uses relevant geographical concepts and terminology accurately. Provides strong supporting evidence (data, examples) to back up claims.	Addresses most aspects of the discussion prompt, but may miss some minor details. Response may be somewhat focused, but might deviate slightly from the main question(s) / prompt(s). Demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is somewhat developed but may lack depth. May use some geographical concepts and terminology, but may not always be accurate. Provides some supporting evidence, but it may be weak or irrelevant.	Does not fully address the discussion prompt. May misunderstand key elements of the question(s) / prompt(s). Response is not focused and may stray significantly from the intended topic. Demonstrates a weak understanding of the topic under discussion. Analysis is lacking or underdeveloped. Does not use geographical concepts or terminology. Lacks supporting evidence.
Length (Main Discussion Post) 10 points	Meets or exceeds the minimum 200-word requirement. Content is well-distributed and provides a substantial contribution to the discussion.	Length is between 100 and 199 words.	Length is less than 100 words.
Grammar and Spelling 5 points	Writing is free of grammatical errors and typos. Sentences are varied and well-constructed.	Writing contains some grammatical errors and typos, but they do not hinder overall understanding. Sentences may be repetitive or unclear at times.	Writing contains frequent grammatical errors and typos that significantly hinder understanding. Sentences

Criteria	Exemplary	Midpoint	Unsatisfactory
			are poorly constructed and difficult to read.
References / Citations 5 points	Includes relevant reference citations using a consistent style guide (e.g., APA, MLA) to support claims made in the discussion post. The [KSU Writing Center](#) provides style-specific resource guides for citations, references and other aspects of the writing process.	May or may not include citations or references. If included, there may be inconsistencies in style or some missing citations.	Does not include any citations or references, even when relevant information is clearly sourced from outside materials.
Meaningful Responses to At Least Two Other Students' Discussion Posts 10 points	Identifies and responds thoughtfully to at least two classmates' posts (minimum 50 words per response). Responses demonstrate active reading of others' posts, build upon others' ideas, and contribute meaningfully to the overall discussion. May ask insightful questions to stimulate further discussion.	Only one response to another student discussion post. Or, responds to at least two classmates' posts, but responses may be short or brief (less than 50 words) or generic or lack depth. May not demonstrate a clear connection to the classmate's original post.	No responses to other students' discussion posts.
Total	50 points	15 points	0 points

Other Course-Specific Policies

Late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor through either making pre-arrangements for a late submission with a valid excuse with documentation or for an unplanned missed due date with a valid excuse and documentation. Simply submitting a graded activity late without communicating with the instructor as to the reason why it was submitted late is unprofessional. Also, late work most likely will not be accepted more than one week after the stated due date. However, "life happens" and so it may be necessary for you to submit something late due to an unforeseen circumstance. Such issues are taken into account, but please communicate with the professor. So that final course grades can be submitted to the university on schedule, no late work will be accepted after the last official day of class for the term as stated in the official university calendar unless there is a valid reason with documentation (such as pre-arranged accommodations or a valid excuse such as a doctor's note).

Communication Rules/Online Course Etiquette

In any classroom setting there are communication rules in place that encourage students to respect others and their opinions. In an online environment the do's and don'ts of online communication are referred to as **Netiquette**. This [netiquette resource](#) may prove useful to students.

How to Succeed in this Class

To succeed in this class, you will need to log on daily, and refer to the detailed schedule in this syllabus which lists the course modules week-by-week and the due dates for discussions and quizzes. The D2L course calendar also specifies due dates for all course items. An online class can be both challenging and exciting. You need to have and make the time to complete all the activities, participate in discussions, and be proactive and open-minded to learning. You also need to be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. If you are unaware or uncertain about how to properly cite a particular source, check out the RCHSS ODE's Plagiarism Resources (for [MLA](#) and [APA](#)) for more information.

Institutional Policies

Federal, BOR, & KSU Course Syllabus Policies

There are numerous federal, University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR), and KSU course syllabus policies that outline students' rights and responsibilities. Students are responsible for visiting the KSU website that lists these and for being familiar with all of the policies listed. For detailed information, visit the Course Syllabus Policies page:

Federal, BOR, & KSU Required Syllabus Policies and Student Resources

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Policy

Kennesaw State University provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended. Students who require accommodation in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the Assistant Director for Disabled Student Services to arrange an individual assistance plan. Accommodations may include classroom accessibility, modified computer equipment, disability-accessible parking, assistance with note-taking sign language interpreting or captioning services, class materials in alternate format, library and laboratory assistance, and other accommodations. Determination of appropriate accommodations to be provided will be based upon documentation of the disability. Members of the public who require specific accommodations in facilities, services, programs or activities should contact the office sponsoring the service, program or activity at least five days in advance to arrange individual accommodations. Should a student require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact either the ADA Compliance Officer for Students at 770-423-6443; the ADA Compliance Officer for Facilities at 470-578-6224; or the Director of Human Resources, ADA Compliance Officer for staff and faculty at 470-578-2666. For more information, visit KSU's Institutional Policies page.

KSU Non-Discrimination Policy

Kennesaw State University (KSU) is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work and study. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, Board of Regents policy, and University policy, the University prohibits harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status by any member of the KSU Community on campus, in connection with a University program or activity, or in a manner that creates a hostile environment for members of the KSU community. For more information, visit KSU's Office of Institutional Equity page.

Codes of Conduct

All students are responsible for knowing the information, policies and procedures outlined in the Kennesaw State University Codes of Conduct. The KSU Codes of Conduct include: the general Student Code of Conduct, the Residential Code of Conduct, and the Code of Academic Integrity. Kennesaw State University reserves the right to make changes to this code as necessary and once those changes are posted online, they are in effect. Students are encouraged to check online for the updated versions of all policies. For more information, visit KSU's Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity page.

KSU Student Resources

A wealth of resources is available on campus for students. Visit the KSU Student Resources page and KSU Required Syllabus Information page for detailed information about: Coronavirus (COVID-19); Technology Assistance; Student Support and Wellness; Academic Resources (including Grade Appeals). You can also access information regarding Financial Aid, the Registrar, and the Bursar by visiting their websites. KSU's Online Learning Support division is also available if you need assistance with online courses.

Course Schedule

Below is an outline of the content and activities in each module of the course. Dates below indicate the date the module begins. Due dates are listed within this schedule below, in the Grading and Evaluation Policies section earlier in this syllabus, and are also clearly listed in the online D2L course calendar and on each graded activity item within D2L. All due dates for activities are in Eastern Time and are due by 11:59 PM on D2L on the specified due date.

Week	Topics & Content	What's Due
Saturday, March 29	Location: Kennesaw Campus 9:30 – 12:00 Program Orientation (Preparing for Travel, Italy/Montepulciano, Expectations) 1:00 – 1:50 First class meeting with morning class 2:00 – 2:50 First class meeting with afternoon class Course introduction and overview of course requirements and activities	
Saturday, April 12	Location: Virtual 10:00 – 12:00 Program Orientation (Health & Safety; Team building for each session) 1:00 – 1:50 First class meeting with morning class 2:00 – 2:50 First class meeting with afternoon class **Module 01: Introduction** **The Context of Human Geography and the various sub-fields of Human Geography (Population, Economic, Cultural, Political, and Urban Geography)** Chapter 1: The Home Planet (Overview of Physical Geography as the stage upon which Human Geography takes place) Read Geography.com website for general overview of the discipline of geography.	
Friday, May 2	Location: Virtual class meeting **Module 02: Discipline of Geography** Chapter 2: The Intellectual Context	
Friday, May 16	Location: Asynchronous virtual **Module 03: Population Geography** Chapter 3: Population Dynamics Chapter 9: The Geography of Population	Journal 1 Quiz 1 (Chapters 1 and 2)
Week 1 Abroad: May 21-29	**Module 04: Population and Food** Chapter 4: Population and Food **Module 05: Population and Resources** Chapter 5: Population and Resources **Module 06: Population and Environment** Chapter 6: People and the Environment	Journal 2
Week 2 Abroad: May 30-June 5	The Economic Organization of Space (Economic Geography) **Module 08: Economic Geography** Chapter 7: The Geography of Three Economic Sectors Chapter 8: The Economic Geography of Uneven Development Chapter 12: Creating a Global Economy	Journal 3 Quiz 2 (Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 9)
Week 3 Abroad: June 6-12	**The Global Organization of Space (Cultural Geography)** **Module 09: Cultural Geography** Chapter 11: The Geography of Language Chapter 10: The Geography of Religion Chapter 13: The Global Geography of Culture	Journal 4 Quiz 3 (Chapters 7, 8, and 12)
Week 4 Abroad:	**The Political Organization of Space (Political Geography)** **Module 10: Political Geography**	Journal 5

Week	Topics & Content	What's Due
June 13-19	Chapter 14: World Orders Chapter 15: The Nation-State	Quiz 4 (Chapters 10-14)
Week 5 Abroad: June 20-24	**The Urban Organization of Space (Urban Geography)** **Module 12: Urban Geography** Chapter 16: The Urban Transformation **Module 13: Urban Networks** Chapter 17: Networks of Cities **Module 14: Urban Structure** Chapter 18: The Internal Structure of the City Course Wrap-Up Discussions and Observations	Journal 6 Quiz 5 (Chapters 15-17)

Itinerary/Field Trips

Date	Location	Bus Times	Activities/Tickets	Meals	Class Time	Notes
Thursday, May 22, 2025	Atlanta		Flight ATL > Rome (FCO), Delta 214, depart 4:10 pm			Students fly out of Atlanta
Friday, May 23, 2025	Rome / Montepulciano	11:00	Arrive FCO 7:35 am, Bus to Montepulciano, Apartment Check in	Trattoria Dinner		Bus to Montepulciano
Saturday, May 24, 2025	Montepulciano		Orientation (10 am), Historic City Tour (3 pm)	T. Breakfast, Pizza in Fortezza		
Sunday, May 25, 2025	Montepulciano		Apartment Inspections	Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, May 26, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Cooking Class Group 1 (3:30 pm)		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	Orvieto	8:00	Field Trip - Duomo, Underground (10:30, 10:45), St. Patricks Well	Trattoria Dinner		Bus there and back
Wednesday, May 28, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Survival Italian (4:00 pm)	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Pisa	7:00	Field Trip - Tower (12:30pm), Baptistry			Bus there and back
Friday, May 30, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, May 31, 2025	Montepulciano					
Sunday, June 1, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 2, 2025	Montepulciano		Class		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 3, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Survival Italian (4:00 pm)	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Wednesday, June 4, 2025	Florence	7:00	Field Trip - Market, Faculty Choice (Class 1)			Bus there
Thursday, June 5, 2025	Florence		Field Trip - Uffizi (10 am), Faculty Choice (Class 2)			20 euros for transportation
Friday, June 6, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, June 7, 2025	Montepulciano					

Date	Location	Bus Times	Activities/Tickets	Meals	Class Time	Notes
Sunday, June 8, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 9, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Cooking Class Group 2 (3:30 pm)		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 10, 2025	Rome	7:00	Field Trip - Colosseum (10 am), Faculty Choice (Class 1)	Trattoria Dinner		Bus there and back
Wednesday, June 11, 2025	Montepulciano		Class	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Thursday, June 12, 2025	Rome	7:00	Field Trip - Vatican (10 am), Faculty Choice (Class 2)			Bus there and back
Friday, June 13, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, June 14, 2025	Montepulciano					
Sunday, June 15, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 16, 2025	Montepulciano		Class, Cooking Class Group 3 (3:30 pm)		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 17, 2025	Montepulciano		Class	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Wednesday, June 18, 2025	Bologna	6:00	Field Trip - Markets (w/classes), Faculty Choice (Class 1)			Bus there
Thursday, June 19, 2025	Bologna		Field Trip - Santo Stefano (w/classes), Faculty Choice (Class 2)			20 euros for transportation
Friday, June 20, 2025	Montepulciano					
Saturday, June 21, 2025	Montepulciano					
Sunday, June 22, 2025	Montepulciano			Trattoria Dinner		
Monday, June 23, 2025	Montepulciano		Class	Trattoria Dinner	8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Tuesday, June 24, 2025	Montepulciano		Class		8-10; 10:30-12:30	
Wednesday, June 25, 2025	Montepulciano		Free Day in MP - Apartment inspections, packing, etc.	Trattoria Dinner		
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Montepulciano / Rome	5:30	Flight Rome > Atlanta, Delta 67 depart 11:35 am arrive 4:35 pm			Bus to Rome