

**GEOG 1101 Trauger Test # 1**

**Human Geography**

**Tuesday**

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**

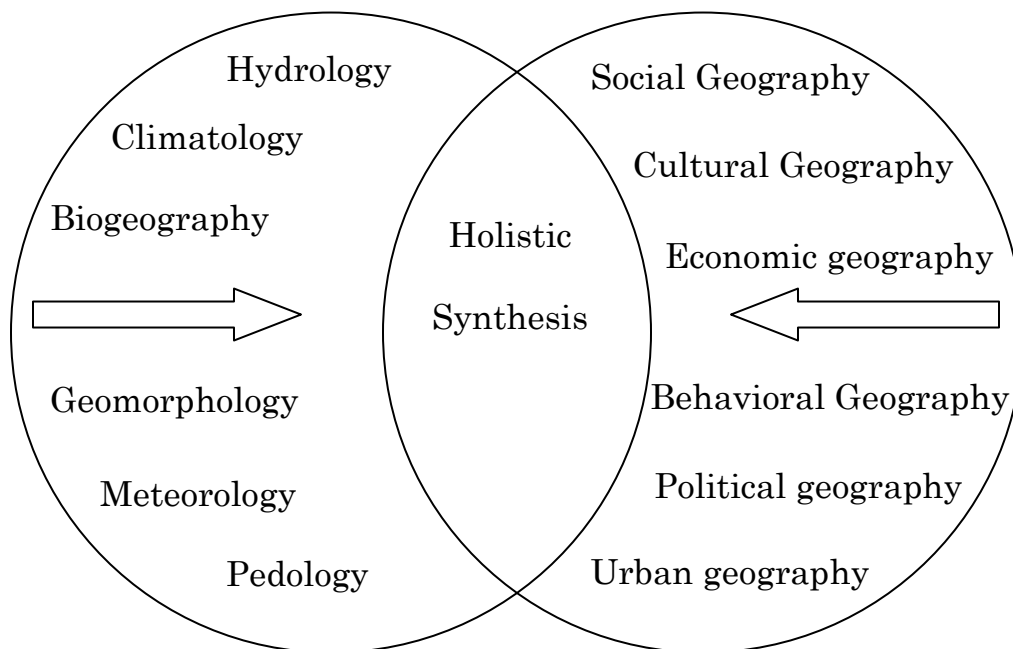
*Reviewed syllabus, no new notes*

**Thursday**

**January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Geography: Concepts and Tools**

- What is Geography?
  - Geography is the study of Earth as created by natural forces and modified by human action.



- Human Geography
  - Definition: the study of the spatial organization of human activity and of people's relationships with their environments.
  - Topics in human geography include: distance, space, networks, globalization, place, landscape, regions, scale, borders, and territory
  
- Key Themes In Human Geography
  - Landscapes, modernity, and globalization
    - Economic processes are key
  - Place, culture, and livelihoods
    - People make up places which in turn brings in more people
  - Human action in society
    - Human action is the ability to resist or conform to society
  
- Spatial Analysis
  1. Location
    - Absolute, relative, cognitive
    - Baselines include:
      - Latitude: Equator
      - Longitude: Prime Meridian
  2. Distance
    - Absolute, relative, cognitive
    - Types of maps can be controversial in the way they portray distance.
      - The Mercator projection is a standard map based on proportions of countries relating to each other as way as the Earth's lines of longitude and latitude.
      - The Peters projection is based on the area of countries and continents and how they relate to one another.

- Friction of Distance – Costs and tensions are associated with distance.
- 3. Space
  - Absolute, relative, cognitive
  - Space is all around us.
  - There are always places in space.
- 4. Accessibility
  - Accessibility describes how easy it is to interact with communities and land.
- 5. Spatial Interaction
- Regions
  - A **formal region** means that there is a high degree of homogeneity for particular traits.
    - Examples of formal regions: Language, race/ethnicity, geomorphology, agriculture
  - A **functional region** means that there is variability in traits, but there is an overall coherence of structure.

Tuesday

January 14<sup>th</sup>

- Landscape
  - All landscapes are constructed by people, serve specific functions, and all have symbolic values.
    - Landscapes have functions in reflecting our values as well as telling us who we are and where we belong.

- Example of Landscape: Crop circles found in England
  - Crop circles are okay in the environment because they do not do damage to crops or economy. If they did, then crop circles would be shut down.
- **Vernacular Landscapes** are everyday, mundane, lived-in landscapes.
- **Symbolic Landscapes** are a representation of values, inspiration, and imagined communities.
  - For example: Palm Islands in Dubai (but rich people live there so it can also be considered vernacular)
- Symbolic landscape can also be vernacular landscape.
- There is always someone somewhere creating a landscape.
  
- Places...
  - ...structure the daily routines of economic and social life.
  - ...provide opportunities and constraints for long-term social well-being.
  - ...provide a context for gathering knowledge and information about the world.
  - ...provide a setting for socialization.
  - ...provide an arena for protesting social norms.
  - Places are defined by the demographic that lives there.
- Scale
  - **Scale** – the partitioning of space within which certain processes play out
  - Geographers divide up space to understand on a smaller scale.
    1. World – climate change
      - Subdivided into core, semiperiphery, and periphery

2. World Regions – treaties, trade agreements
    - Major clusters of humankind with broadly similar cultural attributes
      - Example: North America, the Middle East
  3. National States – federal policy, economies
    - Subdivided into de jure regions or functional regions
  4. Human Settlements – work, play, family
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- The World of Experience
    - Community – towns, villages
    - Home – family base, culture
    - Body – self, identity
  - The partitioning of space is determined by what kinds of activities happen in that space.
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- Territory and Sovereignty
    - **Territory**: area claimed by or dependent on a sovereign power
      - Geographic space of the state of nation
      - Example: Space claimed by a certain group like a tribe or gang
    - **Sovereignty**: supreme power; self-governance
      - Former colonies are not usually formal culture regions
      - Struggle for sovereignty
  - Boundaries/Borders
    1. Define limits of territory
    2. Important element of place-making
    3. Create/reinforce spatial differentiation
    4. Constructed to regulate and control people and resources within them
    5. Control flow of people/resources into and out of a territory

- Globalization
  - Increasing interconnectedness through common processes of economic, environmental, political, and cultural change/processes
    - Shared culture, economy, etc.
    - Difference is speed and scope in which we are interconnected
- Some “Laws” of Geography
  1. Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things.
    - Caveat – distance can be trumped by connectivity
  2. What happens in one place is related to what happens in another place
    - Places are interdependent.

Thursday

January 16<sup>th</sup>

### **A (Short) History of Geographic Knowledge**

- Geography is essential to our economy.
- Silk Road
  - The Silk Road connected China to the Mediterranean in 200 BC.
  - It was built for transporting silk, spices, and slaves.
  - It was connected across space for economic reasons
    - Geography is not only affects economy, but also political conflicts.
- **Geography Knowledge** is knowing where stuff is.
  - We need this kind of knowledge for our economy, political geography, and social geography.