GEOGRAPHY 5
MIDTERM REVIEW SHEET

Geography Themes and Concepts

Reading:
- De Blij, Ch.1, Read the whole chapter carefully.
- Key Terms (subset of those on page 32): human geography, physical geography, spatial distribution, pattern, spatial perspective, five themes, location, location theory, region, place, perception of place, movement, spatial interaction, distance, connectivity, cultural landscape, thematic maps, absolute location, relative location, activity space, formal region, functional region, perceptual region, culture, culture trait, culture complex, cultural diffusion, time-distance decay, cultural barrier, expansion diffusion, contagious diffusion, hierarchical diffusion, relocation diffusion.

Major concepts and emphases from lecture:

**Integrative nature of geography:** Geographers specialize (physical, human, regional) but they all share a common set of concepts and themes that give coherence to the discipline. One part of the spatial perspective is attempting to see disparate processes as part of a large “system” of interactions. Thus, a major role for geographers is to synthesize or integrate knowledge from the natural, physical, and social disciplines.

- Can you define the subject matter and approach of each of the three specializations?
- Can you think of examples from the book or other experience where the systems perspective and an integrative view is the best approach to understanding and resolving a problem?

**Fundamental spatial concepts:** The shared set of concepts and themes can be grouped hierarchically. At the most general level these include: Place, Scale/Resolution/Detail, Distance/Direction, Relationships among places, Movement, and Region.

- Can you provide a basic definition of these major concepts and explain why they are so central to geography?
- Could you use the terminology correctly in an essay focused on a particular issue?
- Can you identify (among choices) or describe the difference in meaning among the concepts in the more detailed levels of the concept map?
- Can you correctly identify the concept that is relevant to a particular context? If I give you a scenario, can you recognize that it is an instance of concept x?

**Basics of map reading:** Appendix A of the De Blij text provides a basic overview of maps. You should have some familiarity with the material in the appendix since it is remedial (something you should know entering a university). You do not need to know the specifics of map projections.

- A map is a generalized view of reality that alters scale/resolution, relative distances/locations (through projection), and content (selects on a small set of reality to display).
- Geographers use the selective reality of maps to identify patterns operating at a particular resolution or in a particular content domain. The generalization of a map is an aid in pattern recognition.
- Patterns on maps arise from underlying social and natural processes; they might be spatial processes but they don’t have to be spatial.
- Know the following terms: graticule, longitude, latitude, prime meridian, hemisphere (northern, southern), and map scale.
Spatial Demography: Patterns and Processes

Reading:
- De Blij, Ch. 2 Population – Read it all carefully, less attention to “How do governments…” Have some familiarity with the maps in this chapter especially as they relate to the patterns shown in lecture.
- De Blij, Ch. 3 Migration – Read it all carefully noting some of the distinctions between de Blij’s definitions and my own. My notes are more detailed than the text on some topics but there are others than only de Blij covers.
- Kuby Ch. 5 (Population momentum) and Ch. 3 (AIDs epidemic)
- Review exponential growth sheet handed out in class and available on the course website.
- Key Terms from De Blij (subset of those on pages 66 & 96): population density, arithmetic pop density, physiological pop density, population distribution, census, doubling time, natural increase, crude birth rate, crude death rate, demographic transition, stationary population level, population composition, population pyramids, infant mortality rate, child mortality rate, life expectancy, chronic diseases; Remittances, cyclic movements, periodic movements, migrant labor, migration, internal migration, international migration, forced migration, voluntary migration, laws of migration, gravity model, push & pull factors, distance decay, intervening opportunity, chain migration.

Major concepts and emphases from lecture:

Population processes and patterns are imbedded in a system (P/D/U/E): population processes give rise to the spatial pattern we observe, and those processes are highly dependent on the local context determined by settlement structure (U), development level (D), and the natural environment (E).

- Can you identify and discuss instances of P/D/U/E interaction from the news, examples from class, movies from class of other sources?
- What is the nature of the interactions – how would you characterize the element, links, and bounds of the system – and feedback loops?

Human population processes can be characterized as a ‘survival strategy’: we are no different than other biological creatures on the earth in that we are dependent on the earth (as a system) and pursue the basic objective of species survival. We differ in that we have large brains capable of: innovations that protect us from the environment, innovations that efficiently harness energy from the environment, and choices that allow almost complete dominion over the planet (for better or worse).

- Can you use the space of growth graph (TFR, e_c) to represent and contrast differences among historical populations and current populations.
- Can you identify the locations of early human populations, discuss aspects of their societies (cultures, economies, settlement forms), and why we think early inhabitants moved to permanent settlements thus ushering in multi-millennia of accelerating population growth?
- Can you discuss the connection between survival strategies in the abstract to their resolution in different places and time periods? For example, why do survival strategies vary from one country to another?
- Can you identify regions in the world or in the U.S. that follow certain survival strategies? (from the maps shown in class)
Age-dependence is important in demography: age dependence and progression is fundamental to understanding demographic processes. Age-adjusted measures such as TFR and \( e_o \) are always preferred to unadjusted measures such as CBR and CDR.

- How is age-dependence revealed in a population pyramid? Can you provide a basic interpretation of an age-pyramid, discuss the implications for the future, and the historical legacy?
- What is the basic interpretation of age-adjusted (e.g. TFR) versus age-unadjusted measures (e.g. CBR) in demography?
- Can you interpret survival curves and relate them to an age-pyramid? How might survival curves relate to fertility curves (in a choice context)?

Projections, demographic accounts, and demographic transition: we discussed how the four variable model is related to the demographic accounting equation, the use of simple exponential growth projections, and their limitations.

- Given any three elements of the four variable model can you derive the fourth? Make sure that you can at least do a forward projection and solve doubling time problems (or tripling time).
- What are the assumptions embedded in the exponential growth model? When would they hold and when wouldn’t they? Can you relate those assumptions to historical populations and to issues of regional variation?
- Can you explain why the demographic accounting equation is a representation of a system. From a geographic perspective, when is the system open and when is it closed?
- What type of model (on the continuum of realism-abstraction) does the model represent?
- Does one form of demographic transition fit every country? If a demographic transition occurs does the exponential model fail?
- Why are population projections important?

Migration is of fundamental importance in understanding population processes: one of the enduring features of human populations is that they move from one place to another. Thus, all attempts to understand population geographies should proceed from an “open” system perspective. Throughout history human mobility has increased, not decreased, so it is even more important to current understandings of population patterns and processes.

- Can you describe the basic micro- and macro- approaches to understanding human migration?
- How is age-dependence expressed in human migration?
- What are the basic types of migration as discussed in class?
Cultural landscapes

Reading:
- De Blij, Ch. 4 Culture – Read the chapter once front to back. There will be less weight on this chapter since it was only given one lecture.
- Kuby, Ch. 2 Layers of Tradition
- Key Terms from De Blij (subset of those on page 124): culture, folk culture, popular culture, local culture, material culture, nonmaterial culture, hierarchical diffusion, hearth, assimilate (assimilation), commodification, distance decay, time-space compression, cultural landscape, placelessness, diffusion routes.

Major concepts and emphases from lecture:

Culture is important: Culture and the cultural landscape has pervasive effects on human and physical geography. Throughout the population lectures I referred to cultural norms as confounding efforts to decrease country birth rates. The surfing history example was in lecture to demonstrate how the natural environment influences culture.