EXAM REVIEW SHEET

Exam specifics and structure

2 hours, 50 minutes
Bring a pink parscore sheet, a bluebook, a pen and a pencil

20% from midterm, 80% after midterm

Pre-midterm material (20%):
• Review Geography Themes and Concepts (short answers, definitions),
• Be prepared to write an essay on any of the three essay questions posted on-line after the midterm.

Post-midterm material (80%):
• Multiple choice based on de Blij and Kuby et al., Review the book websites and the sample multiple choice questions.
• Essay: Focusing on the general topics of settlement systems/agriculture or economic growth/development.
• Some short answer / definitions.

Geography Themes and Concepts

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?
Spatial Demography: Patterns and Processes

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 instance 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_o) 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)?

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?
Human settlement systems

Reading:
- De Blij, Ch. 9 Urban Geography – Exclude pages 276-286. Read the material prior to 276 most closely. Skim the material 286 to the end.
- De Blij, Ch. 11 Agriculture – This set of lectures focused on material from pages 328-342.
- Kuby, Ch. 11 Sprawl

Major concepts and emphases from lecture:

History of settlement systems: I devoted a large proportion of the lectures to the history of human settlements including why mobile hunter-gatherers would have chosen to adopt a sedentary lifestyle. Remember “urban” or “city” refers to the density of population with the threshold of “How dense?” being culturally determined. Also remember that I emphasized that urbanization and agriculture are flip sides of the same process and that those developments should be viewed as an interrelated set of innovations in response to the need for control over the human and natural environments.

- What were Carl Sauers’s locational principles?
- What factors were associated with the first urban/ agricultural revolution? To what extent are those factors causes or effects of the revolution?
- Where were the agricultural hearths? What was unique about those locations? Was the occurrence of agriculture/urbanization an independent innovation or innovation diffusion?
- What are some of the roles / functions of early cities?
- What was the role of Greek and Roman civilizations in terms of the history of urbanization?

Urbanization and development: The observed patterns since the industrial revolution reveal a strong relationship between level of development (as shown by certain indicators) and level of urbanization. The basic pattern is a logistic curve (slow-fast-slow – in terms of the speed of urbanization) but this has to be the case when urban is defined as a proportion of population in urban areas (bounded by 0 and 1).

- What are the push and pull factors underlying rural-to-urban migration?
- What is the basic shape of the urbanization trajectory (logistic) and how does the same differ by country? Does it differ?
- How is urbanization related to the agricultural sector and other sectors in the economy? What does modernization have to do with urbanization?
- What are some of the negative issues associated with rapid urbanization and how do those problems come about?
- What are some of the negative issues associated with mature or advanced urban areas (such as Los Angeles, or New York)? How do those problems come about?

Theories of settlement system structure: Modern and ancient settlement systems have a regular size distribution of cities that are related to trade, power, and other characteristics. We discussed two models in class and noted the relationship between the two.

- What is the rank size rule? Is it a reasonable empirical model of actual settlement systems?
- If a country’s or state’s settlement system does not have a rank size distribution what might that indicate about the economy and the history of economic development of the settlement system?
- Remember the example: Ivory Coast and Cocoa plantations.
- How does the Ivory Coast example relate to later discussion of development and globalization and to former discussions of migration?
- What is central place theory and how is it related to the rank size distribution? (we spent little time on this).

Urbanization, agriculture, and ethics of the food system: This was a set of bonus lectures that allowed me to get on my high horse and talk about the bizarre contradictions of the global food production system. We
discussed the antagonistic nature between agriculture/rural and industry/urban that has been present since the industrial revolution.

- Remember moooo-phies.
- How many agricultural revolutions are discussed in de Blij and what was the fundamental innovation or set of innovations that characterized each (allowing them the moniker of “revolution”).
- What are some of the positive attributes of global agri-industrial food production?
- What are some of the negative attributes of global agri-industrial food production?
- How did this discussion relate to the guest lecture in the next section on food security?
- In what ways are sprawl and urban living more generally related to food production? Does the settlement system structure and characteristics constrain food production?

**Economic growth, development, and food security**

**Reading:**
- De Blij, Ch. 10 Development – Emphasis was on material from pages 300-315. Skim the remaining material.
- De Blij, Ch. 11 Agriculture – Material for this set of lectures was from pages 349 to the end of the chapter.
- Kuby, Ch. 8 Globalization of agriculture

**Major concepts and emphases from lecture:**

**Growth versus development:** Growth is more of the same, development is evolution towards a better future. There is still tension in development planning within the U.S. (regional development) and in world development where growth and development are confused or used synonymously. According to Kolbert (2006), the Bush Administration sees economic growth as a fundamental strategy to address global warming.

- How are indicators used to assess economies and development status?
- Can you provide examples of indicators that are more appropriate for measuring growth and some that a better for measuring development? How would they differ?
- Can you provide examples of economic and non-economic indicators and why they are appropriate for measuring either growth or development?
- I made a point of given particular attention to commodity chains (book terminology) also known as input-output tables (or analysis) in economics.

**Theories of development:** I devoted a large proportion of the lectures to the history of human settlements including why mobile hunter-gatherers would have chosen to adopt a sedentary lifestyle. Remember “urban” or “city” refers to the density of population with the threshold of “How dense” being culturally determined.

- The development theories discussed in the book represent only a small sample of the thought on that subject. Which theories are discussed in the book?
- What are some of the other development theories that were discussed in lecture and how did they relate to those in the book?
- What are some of the problems associated with Rostow’s stages theory and how is it similar to theories of development and urbanization and to theories of development and demography?
**Agriculture and food security in development:** The “Basic Needs” approach in development suggests that any country, state, or group of people should have certain basic human requirements met, such as, access to food (minimum calories) and access to basic medicine (especially safety from preventable diseases). Food security refers to the level of risk in a population that people will not have the minimum daily calories and will be at risk of starvation or nutrition related diseases (scurvy and several childhood diseases). You should review the slides from the guest lecture on Food Security and the Famine Early Warning System. The guest lecturers, Chris Funk and Greg Husak, did a great job of explaining the issues and giving a particular example, Zimbabwe.

- What is the role of food aid in preventing starvation? Are there positive and negatives associated with food aid? If so, what are the negatives – the positives are obvious.
- How can land tenure decisions impact food production and food security? What happened with land tenure in Zimbabwe and how did it impact food production?
- What is the larger political context of land tenure in development?

**Development and disease:** This section also relates to the basic needs approach but also to another development transition – the epidemiological transition. A major difference between developed and developing countries is how the population dies. Developed countries die from chronic diseases whereas infectious diseases take a much larger toll in developing countries.

- What are examples of chronic and infectious diseases?
- Remember the example from Kenya. What were the issues discussed in that video clip related to medical provision and disease prevention?
- How is geography related to disease spread? What types of geographical changes are related to the changing context of infectious disease and disease spread? What about chronic diseases – any geography there?

**Global cultures and global industries**

**Reading:**
- De Blij, Ch. 12 Industry and services—Emphasis was on industrial geography. You do not have to read the sections on services.
- De Blij, Ch. 14 Globalization and network—Emphasis was on material from 418-427, skip the section on identities.
- Kuby, Ch. 7 Rags and riches: The dimensions of development

**Major concepts and emphases from lecture:**

These lectures stayed very close to the material from the book (de Blij) except for the example from the surf industry. Also remember that the book concepts were illustrated using the video segment on Nike and economic growth in China. In the discussion following the video we focused on where the Nike headquarters was located and why it was economically efficient to build manufacturing plants in China. We also discussed the impacts on the environment, labor, and local communities in China.

**Human-environment interaction**

**Reading:**
- De Blij, Ch. 13 Human environment. Read the whole chapter once. This material will only appear in the form of multiple choice questions.
- Kuby. Ch. 14

**Major concepts and emphases from lecture:**

This material was not a major emphasis this year. There will be relatively few multiple-choice questions from this chapter. Put your time into studying the other material.