

Model Course Development Proposal

Course Information

1. Course Title

Cultural Geography

2. Course Prefix

GEOG

3. Course Number

1012

4. Credit Hours

3

5. Academic Division

Social Science and Education

6. Dept. or Academic Program

Social Sciences

7. Online Percentage

100%

8. Face to Face Percentage

0%

9. Dept. Chair/Program Dir's First and Last Name

VolState Chairperson

10. Is this course required as part of any programs, an elective, or both?

Elective only

11. List the Program(s)

Course can be used to meet Minimum General Education Core requirements.

12. Is this course part of a Tennessee Transfer Pathway?

Yes

13. Catalog Description

This course is an introduction to the geography of human cultures. Course topics focus on human/environment interaction; demographics; distribution patterns and interactions of such cultural characteristics as language, religion, politics, urbanization, and economics. Field trips are required. [This course was previously GEOG 108.]

14. Prerequisites

Acceptable placement scores or completion of all Learning Support Competencies in Reading and Writing or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 0810 and READ 0810 as determined by placement.

15. Stand-alone in a sequence?

Stand-alone

16. Proposed first semester and year offered (Spring 25)

Fall 23

17. Course Length (weeks)

15

[Course Developer\(s\) Information](#)

18. Name of Lead Developer

Van Humboldt

19. V Number

V00000001

20. Phone Number

(615) 230-0001

21. Does this developer have experience teaching this course?

Yes

22. Please list the names of any additional course developers along with the percentage of their responsibility/compensation.

n/a

Development Details

23. Attach the syllabus. Be sure that it includes textbooks, course objectives, the assessment plan, and grading details. *File number limit: 1 Single file size limit: 10MB Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio*

[Sample Model Course Development Syllabus](#)

24. Will students be required to use any software or publisher platform in addition to eLearn?

Yes

25. What external software/platform will students be required to use?

ArcGIS

26. Describe how student will access the software/platform

Students will access ArcGIS in two ways:

- Downloading and installing ArcGIS on their computer using the free 1-year authorization code provided by their instructor.
- Using ArcGIS installed on campus computers.

27. List the course materials you (or the team) will personally create.

- Rewrite the catalog course description noting the use of computer mapping applications (ArcGIS) and omitting the statement, “Field trips are required.”
- Write and revise Course Student Learning Outcomes in the syllabus to incorporate the use of ArcGIS.
- Write and revise module learning objectives to incorporate the use of ArcGIS.
- Write instructions for accessing/installing ArcGIS.
- Write four new assignments using incorporating ArcGIS:
 - Assignments will include data acquisition, management, mapping, and analysis.
 - Assignments are multi-media, minimally including both maps created by students and their textual analysis.
 - A rubric will be created for these assignments.
- Write four new discussions, each incorporating work by students in the four new ArcGIS assignments.
- Write module overviews for all modules (13 or 14, depending on final design).
- Create new learning resources addressing difficult topics/concepts, at least one per module.
 - Some of these resources will be videos produced with the support of Media Services and the balance will be text/image course pages.

28. Describe the instructional plan. How will content be presented to students beyond the textbook? How will instructors and students engage with one another about course content beyond giving assignment feedback?

- The instructor will provide students with an introductory announcement at the beginning of each module. These announcements will briefly:
 - Describe the main topic of the module and its importance.
 - Look ahead at the following week’s tasks, emphasizing that students reference the Course Schedule.
 - Urge students to use the “Ask a Question / Answer a Question” discussion to discuss difficult concepts and seek assistance with assignments.
- While participation is not mandatory, the instructor will be available to students via Zoom during online office hours.
- Students will have readings and learning resources to master along with the textbook (both curated by the instructor and created by the instructor). Students will be required to use information from these additional resources in their discussion posts, assignments, and exams.
- While the current course already emphasizes discussions to encourage peer-to-peer learning, in this new iteration of the course, students will be critiquing each other’s maps for the first time in any VSCC geography class. Map critique by cartographic peers is a vital part of the map making process and will be emphasized in this model course.

29. Describe the student-to-student engagement plan. How will students build a connection with one another as they complete the course?

Student-to-student engagement will be a central feature of the new model course:

- A required “Introduce Yourself” discussion will be used for attendance reporting and as an ice-breaker.
- Students will be encouraged to help each other using the “Ask a Question / Answer a Question” discussion.
- The four new ArcGIS assignments will be used to create highly interactive student-to-student discussions that include both:
 - Aesthetic discussions with no “correct” perspectives.
 - Data analysis that drives questioning and debate.

Justification

30. Estimated hours you will spend developing this course

Rewrite the catalog course description:	1 hours
Write Course Student Learning Outcomes:	4 hours
Write module learning objectives:	4 hours
Write instructions for installing ArcGIS:	2 hours
Write four new assignments:	10 hours
Write four new discussions:	8 hours
Write module overviews for all modules:	20 hours
Create and curate learning resources:	20 hours
Miscellaneous editing/research:	16 hours
Meetings with ID:	3 hours

Total estimated hours: 88 hours

31. What is the yearly enrollment projection for this course in an online format?

50 students

32. Please provide justification for why this course should be developed at this time.

ArcGIS is the industry's leading map making software (over 90% market penetration in various industries that rely on mapping). While mapping is the primary tool of the geographer, interpreting maps and creating maps using computer applications is cross disciplinary. Students entering fields ranging from environmental science to social work to logistics will be users and makers of maps. This course, which can be used to meet minimum General Education Core requirements, is a great vehicle to introduce Vol State students to mapping and its application in different careers.

33. If this proposal is to redevelop an existing course or to convert one course format to another, thoroughly describe the changes to be made.

The textbook and basic structure of the course will not change; however, adding ArcGIS will require a major course redesign:

- New learning resources must be created and curated.
- New assignments must be created and existing assignments and assessments will be updated.
- The course learning path will be modified.
- Course administration items must be updated.

34. Today's date

May 24, 202X