Overview

In this class we’ve explored the connections between global forces and local diversity, and how geographical processes shape places and landscapes. You have been asked to think like a geographer about how your daily life connects you to people and places across the globe. As part of your final work for the semester, you are asked to reflect critically on what you’ve learned in this class. You will do this as a 750 word take-home essay, which you are to turn in to Blackboard/TurnItIn.

Essay Question

Pick a specific place you are familiar with, either through GEO 101 class materials or your personal experience. What are six of the most important concepts you learned in the class that best help you better understand this place? Why is this place and these concepts important to you? How do these concepts help you understand the place, and how does this place exemplify these concepts? How are global processes connected to this local place? What is your place in these broader trends?

Concepts

Choose two concepts from each of the following three groups.

1. Introduction and Economic
   - place
   - scale
   - transferability/complementarity/diffusion
   - development (and its associated measures)
   - core/periphery/semi- & fast/slow worlds
   - economic globalization and the New International Division of Labor
   - neoliberalism

2. Political
   - geopolitics
   - nation/state
   - sovereignty and territory
   - politics of identity
   - globalization and conflict; Thomas Barnett's "new map"

3. Cultural geography
   - the geography of culture
   - cultural imperialism
• globalization of media
• migration and mobility

Note: you may consider other concepts, but must clear it with the professor before using them in your essay.

Suggestions and Evaluation

You have considerable latitude on how to answer this question, but your work will be judged on the critical thinking skills you demonstrate. You must be able to explain, integrate, and apply ideas you’ve learned throughout the class. As usual, you should cite your sources and include a bibliography, and all writing in the essay must be your own. In your essay you should demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

• show comprehension of geographic concepts and competence in applying these concepts to a concrete place

• interpret global-local connections in everyday events and trends

• show awareness of your position in the world, and how it shapes your understanding

• show overall skill in organizing and presenting a logical and thoughtful analysis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>No thesis is present, or does not address topic</td>
<td>Thesis begins to address topic, but does not form a logical or relevant argument</td>
<td>Thesis addresses the topic at a basic level, but does not offer original insight</td>
<td>Thesis is strong, relatively clear and addresses the topic.</td>
<td>Thesis is well-formed, original, clear and concise, and fully answers the question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concepts</td>
<td>Concepts are not defined, not chosen from list, or do not apply to overall argument</td>
<td>Concepts are poorly defined, some chosen from list, do not meet assignment criteria</td>
<td>Concepts are defined, some are only partially relevant to thesis</td>
<td>Concepts have been defined, chosen from the pool, and apply to the thesis</td>
<td>Concepts have been defined and worked seamlessly into the fabric of the thesis argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections</td>
<td>Local/global connections are not made or illustrated in any way</td>
<td>Few connections have been made between the selected place and global processes</td>
<td>Some connections have been made between the selected place and global processes</td>
<td>Good and relevant connections have been drawn between local and global processes</td>
<td>The local and global connections have been clearly illustrated and strongly support the thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style</td>
<td>Paper does not meet assignment requirements, has numerous grammatical/spelling errors, and flows poorly</td>
<td>Paper does not meet most of the assignment requirements, has few spelling/grammatical errors, and is choppy</td>
<td>Paper meets most of the assignment requirements and has few errors</td>
<td>Paper meets assignment requirements and has few errors</td>
<td>Paper is written clearly, meets all requirements and has few mistakes, and reads smoothly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Organization is not logical, paragraphs do not support thesis</td>
<td>The paper organization does not flow smoothly or help advance the argument</td>
<td>Paper organization is generally logical, but does not advance the argument</td>
<td>The paper flows smoothly and generally supports the thesis</td>
<td>The paper flows smoothly and clearly advances the argument</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>