

Syllabus

- Summary -

Course Title	Earth, People and Environment
Course No.	GEOG 16100
CRN	22677
Section	11
Day/Time	Mon Wed 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM Fully Virtual with Meeting Time: All meetings are synchronous and remote.
Term/Module	January 25 - May 2021

- Course Description -

This course tells the story of our remarkable home, planet Earth, the geography of the physical systems that make its living environment and the human geography that defines its diverse cultural mosaic in our globalizing world. The course explores the Big History journey that the Earth has gone through including the emergence of humans shaping it to be the way it is today. Through this story students develop an understanding of the roots of the major environmental crises threatening the Earth's viability and a roadmap of the emerging efforts for a sustainable future.

- Instructor -

Name	John Hasse
Email	hasse@rowan.edu
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Office Hours	Held Remotely on Tuesdays from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

- Objectives -

Rowan Core (General Education)

All first-year, non-transfer student who entered Rowan Fall 2018 or later must complete the Rowan Core general education requirements. (Students who arrived before Fall 2018—and all new transfer students—continue to follow the previous general education requirements.) Students in Rowan Core must complete course requirements in six literacies: Artistic, Communicative, Global, Humanistic, Quantitative and Scientific. Earth, People, and the Environment is a course that satisfies the Global Literacy. All students in this course will be assessed on the following Rowan Core learning outcomes for this literacy:

- Students can express their knowledge and understanding of another culture.
- Students can explain the costs and benefits of globalization.
- Students can describe connections between local and global communities.
- Students can communicate their understanding of sustainability in social, cultural, ecological and/or economic milieus, both locally and globally.

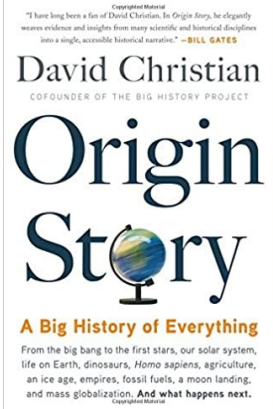
For details on the new Rowan Core requirements, please consult your advisor or the Undergraduate Catalog (<https://sites.rowan.edu/catalogs/> (Links to an external site.)).

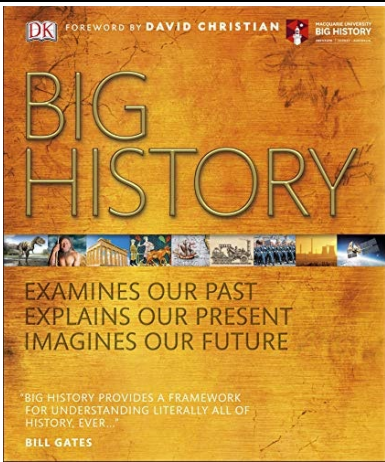
The overarching objective of the course is to provide students with a road map of how to understand planet earth as our home planet. Students will gain an understanding of their own lives through the story of the physical and human systems of the earth at this unique point in the history of the planet. The intent is to develop a framework by which one can make sense of the seemingly chaotic complexities of the modern world through a geographic perspective placed within the context of Big History.

- Texts and Materials -

This course draws on materials from the following books which are highly recommended that you purchase. #2 and #3 are available as Kindle e-books at very affordable prices. Kindle books can be read on all devices with their free Kindle app.

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1)		<p>Answer Book: Fast Facts About Our World – 2016 (or earlier) paperback or hardback by National Geographic (Also listed as: National Geographic Answer Book: 10,001 Fast Facts About Our World) Paperback: 448 pages Publisher: National Geographic ISBN-10: 1426217633 ISBN-13: 978-1426217630</p>
2)		<p>Origin Story: A Big History of Everything Author: David Christian Paperback : 368 pages ISBN-10 : 0316392014 ISBN-13 : 978-0316392013 Publisher : Little, Brown Spark (May 21 2019)</p>

3)		Big History: Examines Our Past, Explains Our Present, Imagines Our Future Hardcover : 440 pages ISBN-10 : 1465454438 ISBN-13 : 978-1465454430 Publisher : DK (October 11, 2016)
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- **Geographica: World Atlas & Encyclopedia** H.F. Ullmann 2008
(PDF posted on Canvas)
- **Self-Authored Study-guide** - you will build your class notes into a studyguide/workbook throughout the semester that consists of graphic worksheets and written pages provided electronically class by class. You will benefit from having colored pens/pencils if you print out the materials or by software that lets you digitally sketch notes over top of PDF or PNG files.

- Schedule -

DATE	TOPICS TO BE COVERED	Readings	Due
BOOK I - BEGINNINGS			
Week 1:		NGAB pp 10-13	
Wed. 1/25/21	Unit 1: Our Blue Planet	BH primer PDF	
		NGAB pp 14-22	
Wed. 1/27/21	Unit 2: Telling the Story of Everything	Christian pp vii - 14	
		BH pp18-19	
Week 2:		NGAB pp 22-41, 322-350	
Mon. 2/1/21	Unit 3: The Story of Science and Geography	Christian ch1	
Wed. 2/3/21	Unit 4: It all Started with Big Bang	NGAB pp 40-77	Assignment 1B
		Christian ch 2	due

BH pp 28-35, 44-45, 56-63

NGAB pp 78-82

Christian ch3

BH pp70-74, 78-83

Week 3:

Unit 5: Our Layered Earth

Mon. 2/8/21

Wed. 2/10/21

Book I Integration

Week 4:

Exam I BOOK 1

Mon. 2/15/21

BOOK II - The Story of Earth's Systems

NGAB pp 78-103

Wed. 2/17/21

Unit 6: Earth Systems - Land

Christian ch 4

BH pp 84-85, 90-93

Week 5:

Unit 7: Planet Water

Mon. 2/22/21

NGAB pp 110-121

Wed. 2/24/21

Unit 8: Air and Climate

NGAB pp 104-109, 180-193

Week 6:

Unit 9: Living Planet

Mon. 3/1/21

NGAB pp 128-173

Christian ch 5

BH - skim threshold 5

Assignment 2
Due

Wed. 3/3/21

Unit 10: Dynamic Earth

NGAB pp 174-179, 194-212

Christian ch 6

Week 7:

Book II Integration

Mon. 3/8/21

Wed. 3/10/21 EXAM BOOK II

BOOK III - The Story of Humans

Week 8:

Mon. 3/15/21

Unit 11: Becoming Human

NGAB pp 216-221

Christian ch 7

BH pp f183-195, 202-213, 216-217

Wed. 3/17/21

Unit 12: Thresholds of Development

NGAB pp 262-291

Christian ch 8

BH 232-243, 256-270, 286-297

Week 9:

Mon. 3/22/21

Unit 13: Making the Modern World

NGAB pp 228-245

Christian ch 9

BH skim threshold 7

Wed. 3/24/21

Unit 14: Human Cultures and Behaviors

NGAB pp 222-227, 246-261

Week 10:

Mon. 3/29/21

Unit 15: On the Verge of Today's World

NGAB pp 292-317

Christian 10

Assignment 3
Due

Wed. 3/31/21

Book III Integration

Week 11:

Mon. 4/5/21

EXAM III

Wed. 4/7/21

Book III Integration

BOOK IV - The Anthropocene

Week 12:

Mon. 4/12/21

Unit 16: A Planet in Crisis

NGAB pp 318-319

Christian ch 11

BH pp 350-357

TBA

Wed. 4/14/21 Unit 17: Changing Climate

Week 13:

Mon. 4/19/21 Unit 18: Changing Stories Christian ch12

Wed. 4/21/21 Unit 19: The Coming Sustainability Revolution TBA

Week 14:

Mon. 4/26/21 Unit 20: Possible Futures TBA Assignment 4 Due

Wed. 4/28/21 Book IV Integration and course wrap-up

Finals Week: FINAL EXAM - TBA

- Exams -

The semester is divided into 4 quarters. Each quarter has 5 units of material. Each quarter will end with an exam on the 5 units. The final exam will cover the fourth quarter and count the same as the previous 3 earlier exams.

Exams will consist of standard questions (multiple choice, short answer, etc.) as well as 1 essay question per exam.

***** THERE ARE NO MAKEUPs FOR MISSED EXAMS. Period *****

However, the **lowest of your 4 exam scores will be dropped**. So if you miss an exam, it will be the score that is dropped. If you are happy with your first 3 exam scores, you still must take the final exam since it contains Rowan Core evaluation questions that are required to be completed for assessment. But if you are happy with your first three exam scores, the pressure to take the final exam is less because the lowest score is nevertheless dropped.

- Assignments -

There are four written assignments that are to be done individually throughout the semester. These assignments focus on developing your writing and reflections skills. They are relatively short and generally ask you to reflect on how the course content is pertinent to your own life experience.

- Discussions -

There are four web discussions, one within each quarter of the semester. You are to provide your thoughts about a particular topic that we are covering and then you are to respond to at least one of your classmate's posts.

- Grading -

Category	Description	Percentage/Points
Assignments	4 short essays	35%
Discussions	4 discussion posts and responses	10%
Exams	4 exams	45%
Class Participation	attendance and interaction	10%
Total		100%

Grading scale

93% - 100% A

90% - 92% A-

87% - 89% B+

83% - 86% B

80% - 82% B-

77% - 79% C+

73% - 76% C

70% - 72% C-

67% - 69% D+

63% - 66% D

60% - 62% D-

Below 60% F

- Attendance -

This is a remote, synchronous course delivered by Canvas/Zoom meaning that you are required to attend by logging into the Canvas course page and the Zoom session for the class. You must be actively participating in the course during the course meeting time. Attendance will be taken once or more times during each class section by students signing in when prompted by the instructor by typing your first and last name into the chat box. Your attendance record will be one of the factors incorporated into your class participation grade.

While students will not be required to have their Zoom cameras activated, it is strongly encouraged during any discussions so that we can have an interactive learning experience for all. Zoom cameras that are active will be evidence of positive class participation (however inactive cameras will not result in penalizing your grade).

- Policies -

Class Participation

Class participation takes attendance into account and it is important that students be as cooperative

and engaged as possible with all class activities. Class participation also includes group breakout sessions during class that will result in student discussions and then summary answers to the class submitted by a representative of each group.

Students that are absent are responsible to submit missed assignments.

According to Rowan University's official attendance policy, found at <https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Attendance+Policy> (Links to an external site.), students who are absent for reasons of illness, death of a loved one, inclement weather, religious observances, official University activities, or for matters of personal conscience, should inform the instructor before the fact or as soon as possible thereafter.

According to the Temporary Amendment to University Attendance Policy found at <https://sites.rowan.edu/deanofstudents/forms/absence.html> (Links to an external site.):

Depending on the remote learning format of your classes, absences may take the form of failure to join scheduled synchronous remote class sessions; failure to participate in remote class activities, whether synchronous or asynchronous; or failure to meet deadlines for submission of assignments.

Disruptions of any kind relating to the Coronavirus-COVID-19 crisis will be recognized as circumstances for which absences are excused and you should contact your instructor and/or the Dean of Students for accommodations and assistance.

Documentation may be requested by the Dean of Students but will not be required by instructors.

According to Rowan University's "Classroom Behavior Policy and Procedures", found at <https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Classroom+Behavior> (Links to an external site.), students must avoid all disruptive behavior during class, including:

- Persistent speaking without permission (for example, side conversations)
- Engaging in activities not related to the class
- Inappropriate use of electronic devices, cell phones or pagers
- Sleeping in class
- Entering class late, leaving early (and packing-up early)
- Disputing authority and arguing with faculty and other students

In addition to receiving lower participation grades due to disruptive behavior, disruptive students may be warned that such behavior is unacceptable and, if such behavior continues, may result in the students being directed to leave the class session.

Students will receive no penalty for excused absences. Students will receive a participation grade of zero on days for which they have unexcused absences. Students who arrive late or leave early from a class session will receive a lower participation grade for that class unless the late arrival/early departure is excused.

Students who join the live, synchronous remote class session held during regular class meeting days/times will be counted as attending the class. While it is preferred that students broadcast their own videos for participation, students may choose to connect instead through audio and written chat only, as long as they are able to view the video broadcast.

Students' Accommodation Statement

Students' academic success is important. If students have a documented disability that may have an impact upon class work, they should contact the professor. Students must provide documentation of

their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. Students must receive a Letter of Accommodation from Disability Resources for the current term and provide the letter to the professor at the start of the semester. The Academic Success Center can be reached at (856) 256-4259. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall, Suite 304. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist students in their pursuit of accommodations. They look forward to working with students to meet their learning goals.

Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish®

The Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish® is designed to make it easier for you to connect with the resources you need to be successful at Rowan. Throughout the term, you may receive email from the Rowan Success Network team (Starfish®) regarding your academic performance. Please pay attention to these emails and consider taking the recommended actions. Utilize the scheduling tools to make appointments at your convenience, including tutoring. Additional information about RSN may be found at <https://sites.rowan.edu/student-success/rsn/index.html> (Links to an external site.).

Rowan University's Statement on Diversity

Rowan University promotes a diverse community that begins with students, faculty, staff and administration who respect each other and value each other's dignity. By identifying and removing barriers and fostering individual potential, Rowan will cultivate a community where all members can learn and grow. The Rowan University community is committed to a safe environment that encourages intellectual, academic, and social interaction and engagement across multiple intersections of identities. At Rowan University, creating and maintaining a caring community that embraces diversity in its broadest sense is among the highest priorities.

Academic Integrity Policy

The following statement and further information regarding academic integrity may be found at <https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy> (Links to an external site.):

The integrity of academic programs is imperative to Rowan University's mission. While acknowledging the social and collaborative nature of learning, the University expects that grades awarded to students will reflect individual efforts and achievements. All members of the Rowan community are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty; upholding academic integrity standards and encouraging others to do likewise; and knowing the procedures, rights and obligations involved in the Academic Integrity Policy. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. Students who commit an act of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion from the university.

Overcoming Barriers to Academic Success

Is your academic success hindered due to...

Financial difficulties? The Profcents website lists resources to help students afford college (<https://sites.rowan.edu/student-success/profcents/index.html> (Links to an external site.)).

Feeling hungry? Food scarcity on college campuses like ours is real and can impact your success. At The SHOP, food is available at no cost to students in need (<https://sites.rowan.edu/theshop/index.html> (Links to an external site.)).

Feeling stressed and anxious? Rowan's Wellness Center offers many confidential services, whether you are in need of long-term care, individual or group counseling or just need help through a stressful time. The Wellness Center also has a Crisis Hotline. During business hours students may call 856-256-4333 and after hours students can call 856-256-4911 (<https://sites.rowan.edu/wellness/index.html> (Links to an external site.)).

Additional Rowan University Policies are linked from Canvas.

- Late Work: work submitted late will be penalized for the degree of lateness.