

Perspective piece 1

The movie Baraka incorporates visuals from around the world. These include natural elements as well as depictions of the many ways in which humans have organized societies and shaped the world.

Compose an essay of approximately 1000 words responding to the question below. You can use schematics or sketches to help you illustrate your point.

**With regards to geography, what are the greatest successes and failures of human societies?
How does natural and built geography influence these outcomes?**

You may want to incorporate your thoughts on some of the following into your response:

1. How do different human societies relate to their environments and to each other? You can think about this in terms of different locations, cultures, development trajectories, histories (e.g., of colonialism or natural disasters) and so on.
2. How do you imagine the issues you have discussed will evolve in the future? Why?
3. Who are the most influential actors in these processes?
4. How does the lack of a narrative/voice-over in the movie influence your perception of the world?

GEOG 101: World Geography
Perspective Piece 2

Please write a short essay on the following prompt:

Changing transport infrastructures go hand in hand with changing human geographies. Discuss.

In about 1000 words, discuss how a lot of geographical outcomes in today's world are shaped by advances in transportation. While writing your essay, you can choose to focus on a particular geography, transportation mode, or time period as suits your interests. I am noting down some ideas to help you get started but these are by no means exhaustive, and you are free to pick other topics that respond to the prompt.

1. How have developments in freight technology aided mercantilism and economic geography?
2. Transport infrastructures have contributed to the differences in the outcomes of developing and developed countries.
3. Patterns of urbanization in the US are fueled by an automobile-driven society.
4. Benefits and threats that coastal regions have experienced by virtue of their access to the sea.

Due by the start of class on 15 October 2021

GEOG 101: World Geography
Perspective Piece 3

Please write a short essay on the following prompt:

The morphology of cities varies dramatically across the globe. Discuss.

The Oxford Bibliographies defines urban morphology as “Urban morphology is the study of urban forms and of the agents and processes responsible for their transformation over time. Urban form refers to the main physical elements that structure and shape the city including streets, squares (the public space), street blocks, plots, and buildings, to name the most important.”. Cities today, are in many ways, the cogs of human society but their form and function vary vastly across the globe.

In about 1000 words, discuss how geographical outcomes in today’s world are shaped by cities. While writing your essay, you can choose to focus on a particular city/country, compare across cities/countries, or even focus on a particular sector such as institutions or housing.

Due by the start of class on 29 October 2021

GEOG 101: World Geography

Perspective Piece 4

Please write a short essay on the following prompt:

How have religions shaped world geography?

In about 1000 words, discuss how geographical outcomes in today's world are shaped by religious differences. While writing your essay, you can choose to focus on a particular religion, city/country, compare across places or speak on one aspect such as missionaries, political tensions etc.

Due by the start of class on 19 November 2021.

GEOG 101: World Geography
Perspective Piece 5

Please write a short essay on the following prompt:

Colonialism and its remnants have shaped the developmental trajectories of many countries in the world.

In about 1000 words, provide a geographical perspective on the impact of *colonialism on regions outside the United States*. Use an evidence-based, case-study approach to provide examples of the policies that colonial governments used in the countries they colonized, how that impacted the local area – in terms of local cultures and practices, infrastructure, economy, etc. – and the ways in which those effects have perpetuated post independence.

Due by the start of class on 17 December 2021.