

GEOG 1303 451 World Regional Geography

Fall 2020

Course Syllabus is subject to modification and will be announced in class and/or posted to Blackboard

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Grafton
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Zoom Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

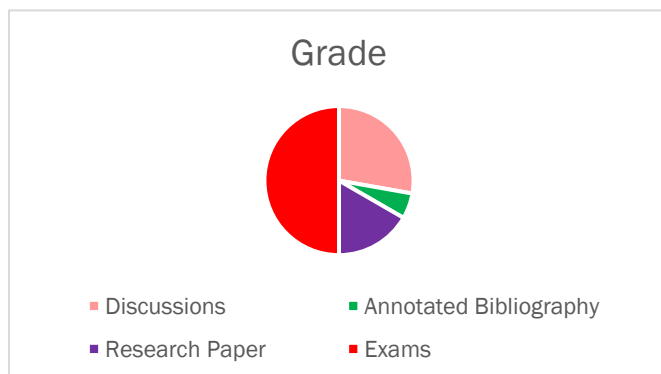
Study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments, including emerging conditions and trends, and the awareness of diversity of ideas and practices to be found in those regions. Course content may include one or more regions.

Materials

Textbook: Nijman, Jan, Peter O. Muller, and Harm J. de Blij. *The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography*, 7th ed. New York: Wiley, 2016.

Course Grading

Assignment	Points	%
Discussions (14 @ various points)	250	28
Annotated Bibliography	50	5
Research Paper	150	17
Exams	450	50
Total	900	100



Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Level of Mastery
A	90% - 100%	Superior mastery of the course competencies
B	80% - 89%	Above average mastery of the course competencies
C	70% - 79%	Minimum acceptable mastery of the course competencies
D	60% - 69%	Less than acceptable mastery of the course competencies
F	59% - below	Fails to demonstrate achievement of the course competencies

Discussions

250 points

Students will react to what they have learned in the assigned reading in the Discussion Board. Students must use their own words and not those of other students who previously posted. Students will then respond to at *least two other students*. See the Discussion Board for more details. There are no opportunities to make-up late discussions.

Annotated Bibliography

50 points

As part of the research paper, students will be responsible for selecting a research topic and compiling an annotated bibliography that displays research potential for that topic. The annotated bibliography requires a minimum of *three scholarly and two popular sources*. Scholarly sources should be found using the library's online research databases (EBSCO, etc.). This bibliography will be graded separately from the research paper and turned in well in advance. The annotated bibliography will use APA-style citation. Please reference Blackboard for further directions.

Research Paper

150 points

Students will be responsible for writing a 3-5 page research paper on a geopolitical topic in World Regional Geography. Example topics include:

- Arab-Israeli Conflict
- China's Emergence in the Pacific
- Contested Kashmir
- Drug Trade in Central America
- Indigenous Peoples in South America
- Indo-Pakistani Relations
- Russo-American Relations
- The "Special Relationship" between the United States and United Kingdom
- Stability of the European Union
- US-Middle East Conflicts
- US Trade War with China
- Women's Rights in East Asia

The topic must be approved by the instructor. The research paper will use APA-style citation. Please reference Blackboard for further directions and the rubric.

Exams:

450 points

All exams will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exam IV is cumulative, meaning that it will test on material from the entire semester.

Late Work:

Late assignments will lose 50% of the individual grade after one or two days, and 90% of the total grade after that. *There are no opportunities to make up missed discussions.*

Students will be excused from taking the first three exams only in extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.). Documentation of these circumstances must be provided. In such cases, the student must contact the instructor, either by phone or email, within two days of the exam due date. There will be no opportunity to make-up the final exam under any circumstance. A missed final exam will receive a zero grade.

Students may only make up one exam per semester. A student who misses an additional exam will receive an automatic zero.

**If a student cannot submit work via Blackboard for any reason, they must email the assignment to the instructor instead. Any assignment that is not submitted via Blackboard or email on-time will be subject to the late work policy.*

Extra Credit:

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Study Expectations

Throughout this course, you will need to invest a significant portion of your time outside of class each week throughout the semester to successfully complete this course - **expect to spend at least 6 hours per week on this course.**

Instructional Method

This course will utilize the following instructional methods.

Online Instruction:

Lecture time for this course will be delivered via a web-based learning management system (Blackboard) that can be conveniently accessed anytime, anyplace. Students are expected to access the course weekly at a time of their convenience and maintain regular contact with the instructor and other students through Blackboard. For every credit hour, students should plan to spend an average of 2-3 hours per week for course-related activities in a 15-week course. For example, a 3-credit hour course would average 6-9 hours per week to read/listen to the online content, participate in discussion forums, complete assignments, and study the course material.

Course Expectations

Classroom Etiquette/Behavioral Expectations

1. Comments and questions about the material are encouraged; please feel free to share either in the Discussion Board.
 - i. As Daniel Patrick Moynihan said, **“You are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts.”**
2. Assignments and Exams:
 - i. Assignments and exams will be graded and updated on Blackboard within two weeks of the due date.
3. “Intellectual Safe Space” and “Trigger Warnings”
 - i. Civility and respect are critical to any learning environment. Under no circumstances will harassment or hate-speech directed at the instructor or other students be allowed.
 - ii. The instructor believes that students must be challenged by and engage in healthy debate on subjects that may cause them discomfort. Students should feel able to respectfully express their opinions and beliefs without fear of unjustified reprisals. Therefore, the instructor will NOT provide an “intellectual safe space” where students may withdraw from perspectives and thoughts contrary to their own. This course will NOT provide “trigger warnings” for unsettling or disturbing material.

Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated in this course. If a student cheats or plagiarizes on a quiz, exam, or homework assignment, the student will receive a grade of zero for the work and will not be allowed to redo the work. A student cheating or plagiarizing a second time will receive an “F” for the course.

Communication Policy

Email is the best way to contact the instructor. Email will be answered within 48 hours between Sunday afternoon and Friday afternoon. The instructor does not answer email between Friday evening and Sunday morning.

Students must use the e-mail account provided by South Plains College as their official means of email communication for all business related to this course. Any email that does not come directly from your SPC email may be filtered by SPAM or junk mail filters and may get deleted, and will not be excused. This means if you choose to forward your SPC email account to some other email account (such as Gmail, yahoo, Comcast, etc.), then do not send a response back to the instructor from that third-party account. All email correspondence for this course must come from your SPC email account.

The subject line of all email to the instructor must begin with the course number AND section number followed by the topic. The course number and section for this course is: GEOG1303-451.

Here are some examples:

Subject: GEOG1303-451, Missed class – Late Assignment

Subject: GEOG1303-451, When will my assignment grade be posted?

Subject: GEOG1303-451, Final Exam Date

Email without a subject may not be read and will probably be deleted.

Face Covering Statement

It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.

Inclusive Access

- **Textbook**: The textbook and resources for this course are available in digital form through the Inclusive Access textbook program at South Plains College. That means the e-book edition of the textbook and/or all required resources are provided in the Blackboard portion of the course from the first day of class. The fee for the e-book/resources is included in the student tuition/fee payment, so there is no textbook or access card to purchase for this course.
- **E-book features**: Access to a cloud-based e-reader is provided by RedShelf via Blackboard. RedShelf e-book features include the ability to hear the text read aloud, highlight, take notes, create flash cards, see word definitions, build study guides, print select pages, and download up to 20% of the book for offline access. Visit <https://solve.redshelf.com/hc/en-us/requests/new> for e-book issues and support.
- **Upgrading to a physical textbook**: Students who prefer a printed textbook rather than an e-book may purchase a loose-leaf edition from the SPC Bookstore or the textbook publisher at a reduced price.
- **How to opt out of Inclusive Access**: As long as they meet the opt-out deadline, students may choose not to participate in the Inclusive Access program if they have a textbook from another source. They should check the course syllabus to see if the instructor also requires course work to be done in an online platform (like Mindtap or Connect). If so, the student would be required to have access or purchase access to that platform in addition to acquiring the e-book. To opt out of the Inclusive Access e-book/resources, students will need to locate the RedShelf tool in their Blackboard course and follow the instructions given there. Students who need assistance to opt out should contact their instructor or the SPC Bookstore. The Inclusive Access fee will be refunded to students who opt out after the twelfth class day.

Legal Notices

Notice of Copyright

Materials in this course—unless otherwise indicated—are protected by United States copyright law [Title 17, U.S. Code]. Materials are presented in an educational context for personal use and study and should not be shared, distributed, or sold in print—or digitally—outside the course without permission.

As a student your ability to post or link to copyrighted material is also governed by United States copyright law. The law allows for students to post or link to copyrighted materials within the course environment when the materials are pertinent to course work. Instructors—or other staff of the institution—reserve the right to delete or disable your post or link if in their judgment it would involve violation of copyright law.

Detailed Schedule

Module 1

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Syllabus	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M1 Discussion: Student Introduction	Aug 27
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M1 Discussion	Aug 30

Module 2

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Textbook Introduction	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M2 Discussion: What is “World Regional Geography?”	Sep 3
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M2 Discussion	Sep 6

Module 3

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 1: • North America	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M3 Discussion: North America	Sep 10
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M3 Discussion	Sep 13

Module 4

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 2: • Middle America	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M4 Discussion: Middle America	Sep 17
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M4 Discussion	Sep 20
Exam I Due	

Module 5

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South America 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M5 Discussion: South America	Sep 24
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M5 Discussion	Sep 27
Annotated Bibliography Due	

Module 6

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Europe 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M6 Discussion: Europe	Oct 1
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M6 Discussion	Oct 4

Module 7

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M7 Discussion: Russia	Oct 8
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M7 Discussion	Oct 11

Module 8

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Africa & Southwest Asia 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M8 Discussion: North Africa & Southwest Asia	Oct 15
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M8 Discussion	Oct 18
Exam II Due	

Module 9

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Saharan Africa 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M9 Discussion: Sub-Saharan Africa	Oct 22
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M9 Discussion	Oct 25

Module 10

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Asia 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M10 Discussion: South Asia	Oct 29
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M10 Discussion	Nov 1

Module 11

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Asia 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M11 Discussion: East Asia	Nov 5
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M11 Discussion	Nov 8

Module 12

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 10: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southeast Asia 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M12 Discussion: Southeast Asia	Nov 12
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M12 Discussion	Nov 15
Exam III Due	

Module 13

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 11: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Austral Realm 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M13 Discussion: The Austral Realm	Nov 19
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M13 Discussion	Nov 22
Research Paper Due	

Module 14

Readings/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Chapter 12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pacific Realm 	
Discussion – Initial Post Due Date M14 Discussion: The Pacific Realm	Dec 3
Discussion – Peer Responses Due Date M14 Discussion	Dec 6
Exam IV (cumulative final) Due	(Wednesday) Dec 9

All assignments are due at 11:59 pm on the due date.

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the schedule. Students will be notified of any changes.

World Regional Geography Common Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Geography

Course Number: 1303

Course Title: World Regional Geography

Available Formats: Conventional; I-Net; ITV

Campuses: Levelland Campus and Reese Center

Course Description: Study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments, including emerging conditions and trends, and the awareness of diversity of ideas and practices to be found in those regions. Course content may include one or more regions.

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3

Textbook: *The World Today*, 7th Edition, Jan Nijman

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes – Social/Behavioral Science

Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication Skills** – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility** – to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Course Purpose: To provide students a better understanding of world regions, cultural diversity, dynamic changes in world populations, and human-environment interactions.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

1. Recognize and explain the process of globalization
2. Comprehends maps and their role in geographical study
3. Identify and describe major world regions
4. Discuss various forms of economic and cultural diversity
5. Explain basic principles of population change and its relation to economic, cultural, and environmental considerations
6. Discuss the relationship between human activity and the natural environment
7. Discuss climate change and its impact on various locations around the world
8. Identify and describe various languages, religions, and political systems
9. Explain some of the similarities and diversity between world regions
10. Identify the interrelationships between world regions
11. Explain differences between less developed and more developed countries
12. Discuss and question cultural and economic inequalities and their effect on the local environment