

GEO 1500-80: World Geography

Winter 2015/2016

Course Syllabus

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Department	Geography & Urban Studies
Course Number & Section	GEO 1500-80
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Office & Office Hours	Raubinger 414; By Appointment Only

Course Overview:

This course is organized into two parts as follows: The first part focuses on some of the basic concepts and methods of geography, and the application of these concepts and methods to the study and understanding of our world. The second part explores the geography of major regions of the world. Overall, this course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the economic, demographic, environmental, political, social, and cultural factors which have shaped the distinctive physical and human geographies of the different regions of the world.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course you should:

1. Know the basic concepts and methods of geography
2. Know the demographic, economic, and environmental characteristics of world regions
3. Be able to differentiate between world regions in terms of key geographic characteristics
4. Be able to describe and discuss differences in development between world regions
5. Discuss the nature of the relationships between the major world regions
6. Understand some of the global processes and trends shaping the world today

Required Text:

Essentials of World Regional Geography (2011, 3rd Edition) by White, Dymond, Chacko, Scheidt, and Bradshaw Boston: McGraw-Hill.

The textbook for this course is available at the William Paterson University book store. The number for the campus is 973 720 2000 (ask for the bookstore). You may buy the textbook from an online vendor

Grading: Grades will be based on the following:

Test (3 @25%)	75%
Quiz	15%
Class Participation	10%

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate regularly and actively in this online course. This participation is expected to promote student-faculty and student-student interaction. Class participation will be in the form of your responses to discussion questions relating to world regional geography. Discussion questions will post under Discussion Forum. A discussion question will be posted every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the course. Your grade for participation will depend on the number of your postings (at least ONE response for each discussion question) and, more importantly, the quality of your responses. Your responses should be brief, but thoughtful and substantive. You are free to refer to any other responses on the discussion board as part of your own response, as long as you respond to the question. Remember to use good 'netiquette' in your postings: Be courteous, professional, and careful with your online interaction. Be careful not to include offensive, angry, or inflammatory material.

Schedule of Tests and Quiz

Test #1	Friday Jan 1	(Based on Chapter 1)
Quiz	Tuesday January 5	(Based on Chapter 6)
Test # 2	Friday January 8	(Based on Chapters 3 & 4)
Test # 3	Thursday January 14	(Based on Chapters 5, 7, & 8)

Grading Scale

A=90-100 A-=88-89 B+=86-87 B=80-85 B-=78-79 C+=76-77
C=70-75 C-=68-69 D=66-67 F= 65 and below

Course Outline and Schedule of Readings

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC & CHAPTER</u>
WEEK 1	Essentials of World Regional Geography (Chapter 1)
WEEK 2	South Asia (Chapter 6) Russia and Neighboring Countries (Chapter 3) East Asia (Chapter 4)
WEEK 3	North Africa and Southwestern Asia (Chapter 7) Africa South of the Sahara (Chapter 8) Southeast Asia (Chapter 5)