

Geography 200: World Regional Geography

Autumn 2009

Tuesday and Thursday

10:30 A.M. - 12:18 P.M.

Page Hall, Room 010

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You start your day by brewing a delicious cup of Sumatran coffee. After taking a few moments to wake up, you sit down and download the locations for your Latin America map quiz using a computer made in Singapore and software written in India. After studying, you decide to have lunch at a Thai restaurant and on the way home, you stop for The New York Times sold at a store run by a kind family from Lebanon. The front-page stories say that CO2 emissions in Mexico City may cause flooding in parts of Micronesia, that currency devaluation in the Philippines might mean cheaper cloths in Columbus and that President Obama's initiative to scrap a plan for a missile shield in Eastern Europe has improved U.S. relations with Russia. At the end of the day you take off your shoes (designed in Italy and made in China) and sit down on your couch (made in Sweden) and drift to sleep dreaming of a winter break when you'll head off to Acapulco. Although you might have not realized, you had a very 'global' day. But what do all these places and events have to do with one another? How have all these 'global' things become part of your daily life? Where is Micronesia anyway?!

Course Summary:

“World Regional Geography” is designed to answer the above questions by providing students with an understanding of key issues in the discipline of geography. This is accomplished through the examination of human and physical geographies of world regions. Class themes will often be rooted in particular regions of the world, but we will also spend a considerable portion of class examining how issues in one region are tied to people, firms, governments, and/or organizations in other regions through social, political, and economic processes. While examining the connectedness between different places will be our primary focus, developing a foundational history (i.e. connections across time) is also paramount to understanding geographic phenomena from the micro scale to the macro scale.

By the end of the course, instead of asking the question, “where is the Philippines?”, you will be able to formulate and answer questions similar to: “What is the relationship between cloth prices in Columbus and currency devaluation in Philippines?”

Specifically, the objectives of this course are:

- To introduce you to key geographic concepts and processes
- To share with each other a variety of perspectives regarding world issues
- To raise your geographic literacy
- To help you understand the differences and connections between regions (people, physical environment, economies, political structures, etc..)

Text and Other Readings:

Required: Goode's World Atlas, 22nd Edition (ISBN-10: 0321652002)

All readings will be posted on Carmen (<http://www.carmen.osu.edu>) at least one week before the scheduled class. I elected **not** to use a textbook (aside from the atlas) in this course. I find it much more interesting to critically delve into issues tapping into a variety of sources. While we will occasionally rely upon excerpts from textbooks to better understand concepts and regions, most readings will be selected from various periodicals, academic journals, or selections from books. The consequence of not using a textbook is that discussions and class time heavily revolve around the readings. If you fail to do the readings *before* class you will be lost!

☞ If you ever have difficulty accessing the readings for class, please notify either Austin or myself.

Evaluation:

15%

Current Events Presentation

This part of the course involves a short (5-10 minute) group presentation with 4-5 of your peers regarding a current event occurring in a particular region. Specific instructions for this activity will be distributed on Thursday October 1.

15%

Paper or Project

You will complete one writing assignment due on Monday November 23, 2009 by 5:00 P.M. Specific instructions will be distributed during Week 3. Though the due date is late in the quarter, I strongly suggest you begin your project well in advance.

45%

Three Exams (15% Each)

See specifics below.

20%

Ten In-Class Map Quizzes

While Geography extends far beyond knowing the locations of states, cities, and physical features, this part of the course will, at the very least, help you impress your friends while you watch Jeopardy. Map quizzes are given in class. You will receive a list of cities, states, and physical features to know for each region at least one week in advance of the quiz. These locations will be posted on Carmen. Use your Atlas and blank maps available on Carmen to study for these quizzes.

5%

Class Participation, In-class activities

You will be evaluated on your participation in class activities, discussions and debates. Activities may be graded; however, most of the "5%" will come from Austin and my evaluation at the end the quarter. I understand that some students are more outgoing than others. As long as you are engaged, present, on-time **and have completed the readings**, you will receive full credit in this area. I know speaking in front of 60+ people can be intimidating, however please take risks and voice your opinions in class.

Evaluation Scale: 93-100 (A); 90-92.9 (A-); 87-89.9 (B+); 83-86.9 (B); 80-82.9 (B-); 77-79.9 (C+); 73-76.9 (C); 70-72.9 (C-); 67-69.9 (D+); 60-66.9 (D); Below 60 (E).

Exams:

Midterm and final examinations will be comprised of several short answer questions, one lengthier essay question, and multiple choice questions. All exam material will be drawn from in-class lectures, discussions, presentations, films, and readings. I am unable to reschedule the final exam for any student as per University Policy.

Exam Dates and Times:

- Tuesday October 20, 10:30 A.M.
- Tuesday November 17, 10:30 A.M.
- **Monday** December 7, 9:30 A.M. (Final Examination)

Make-up Policy:

I understand that family, jobs, and emergencies may occasionally make it impossible to attend class. For this reason, I do *not* formally take attendance (However, repeated absences will impact your class participation grade and performance on exams). Coming to class will be and should be a valuable experience for you. Because a core component of this class is discussion and in-class current events presentations by your fellow classmates, I am unable to re-present lecture material. **Please get notes and other class information from a fellow classmate if you miss class.** I will post my slides (when applicable) on **Carmen** by 9:30 A.M. the day of the scheduled class so you will have them to assist you when taking notes. Slides, while helpful, provide only an outline of material covered in class. You will need your notes from class and information from the readings to fully comprehend course material.

Regarding exams and other assignments: There are no make-ups given for exams or other assignments without valid written documentation of illness or personal/family emergency. Students with a conflict must notify the instructor by 7 A.M., the day of class. **Failure to notify Phil or Austin by this time will result in denial of make-ups in all cases.** Notification can be made in person or via email. The exceptions to this rule are the "Project or Paper" and "Current Events Presentation" assignments. Because we distribute these items well in advance, students are expected to make the necessary adjustments. If you are concerned about getting something completed by the due date, please see Phil or Austin well in advance.

Special Statement regarding the H1N1 Virus:

Based on the Office of the Provost recommendations regarding the H1N1 Virus, I encourage students that feel ill to stay home and isolate themselves from others. I will accept the "Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class" self-reporting form available online (<http://shc.osu.edu/posts/documents/absence-excuse-form.pdf>) from the Wilce Student Health Center as documentation of medical absence, and make reasonable efforts to provide for make-up work opportunities. Aside from the method of documentation, this does *not* supersede the policy listed above.

GEC Credit:

*General Education Curriculum (GEC)

Diversity: International Issues

Goals/Rationale: International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

Social Science

Goals/Rationale: Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

Class Etiquette:

Undoubtedly, this course brings some sensitive and indeed polarizing issues to the fore. Respectful disagreement and debate will be a major component of this course. However, please be considerate of other students and the instructors. In short: keep disagreements on-topic, intellectual, and productive. Avoid personal statements, belittling, or offensive remarks. This is a good opportunity to learn from each other through appreciating a variety of perspectives.

Please remember to turn off all cell phones and other distracting devices before class. Also, if you arrive late or need to leave class early, please enter and exit as quickly and quietly as possible.

Academic Misconduct:

Cheating and plagiarism are **serious offenses** and will be dealt with according to university procedures. For more detailed information consult the Code of Student Conduct at OSU at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp (section 3335-23-04 Prohibited conduct). In the event that a student is *suspected* of cheating or plagiarism, the instructor(s) will do the following:

- 1) Notify the student that s/he has been suspected of cheating or plagiarism
- 2) File a report with the OSU Committee of Academic Misconduct (COAM)
- 3) File a report with the Department of Geography Chair

Students will then be subject to a judicial hearing with COAM where a panel will decide appropriate sanction(s).

Students with Disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Tentative Schedule¹

👉 There is reading for every class! Click on “Content” in Carmen for readings. 👈

Date	Class Topic(s)	Map Quiz
R Sept. 24	Course Syllabus, Introductions, & “What is Geography?”	
T Sept. 29	geōgraphia (Reading our World) Atlas Activity Bring your Atlas to Class!	
R Oct. 1	Earth’s Physical Systems (Atmospheric Processes, Geomorphology), Global Climate Change and Responses Current Event Proj. Distributed	
T Oct. 6	“Region,” “Place,” “Space,” “State,” “Nation” and other ambiguous terms.	East Asia
R Oct. 8	Globalization and a death of Geography?	Southeast Asia
T Oct. 13	Measuring and Theorizing Development.	
R Oct. 15	Paths to Industrialization: ISI, EOI, Neoliberal Reform The ‘Asian Tigers’	Latin America
T Oct. 20	📎 EXAM I (All Content Through 10/15)	
R Oct. 22	Illicit, Informal, and Marginal Economies	

¹ Students will be advised in class **and** on Carmen of any schedule changes.

Date	Class Topic(s)	Map Quiz
T Oct. 27	❖ Film and Discussion: The women's bank of Bangladesh: Documentary examining The Grameen bank and small business loans to women	South Asia
R Oct. 29	Geographies of Gender	Central Asia
T Nov. 3	A Europe-Centered History: Geographical Consequences of Colonialism	Europe
R Nov. 5	Geographies of (in)Justice and Responsibility: Colonial Roots of Global Conflict	
T Nov. 10	❖ Film: Have you heard from Johannesburg? Film examining the relationship of Apartheid and U.S. policy in the 1980s.	Sub-Saharan Africa
R Nov. 12	Geographies of Immigration and Migration	
T Nov. 17 📎 EXAM II (For Content 10/22-11/12)		
R Nov. 19	Regionalism, Irredentism and Cultural Territorialism	Australia and New Zealand
M Nov. 23 Paper/Projects due by 5:00 P.M. in Carmen Dropbox		
T Nov. 24	The U.S.'s War on Terror: History, Strategy and an Alternative Approach	Middle East/North Africa
R Nov. 26 No Class - Have a Great Thanksgiving!		
T Dec. 1	Bringing it all home: Urbanization, Mobility Issues, Global Problems/Solutions, and Global Processes in Columbus, Ohio!	United States and Canada
R Dec. 3	Bringing it all home, continued. Review for final, catch-up day	
M Dec 7. 📎 Final Exam (MONDAY 9:30-11:18) Room 010 Page Hall		