

## **GEOGRAPHY 200: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY, AUTUMN 2009**

Page Hall 010

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 to 10:18 am,

**Nicholas Jon Crane**

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**Office hrs:** Tuesday or Thursday from 9 to 10:30 am or by appointment

1155 Derby Hall

Phone: 292-2704

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces economic, political, cultural and social dynamics that have come to effect processes like migration, globalization, environmental change, uneven development, state formation, racism, and so on. Further, it offers methods and concepts that help geographers make sense of changes and continuities around the world today.

Given the length of the quarter, a comprehensive “world” course is quite difficult. This course *will* cover the world, but will emphasize some regions more than others. We will examine commonalities, differences, and interdependencies between regions, and will come to understand, (1), how they function in our contemporary world and, (2), how we, as individuals and as societies, affect and are affected by what happens elsewhere.

### **GEC OBJECTIVES:**

This class fulfills two GEC requirements: first, as a *Social Science* course, and, second, as an *International Issues* course.

*Social Science* courses help develop our understanding of the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources. In World Regional Geography, students will, (1), come to understand theories and methods of scientific inquiry as applied to the study of the use and distribution of human, natural, and economic resources, and decisions and policies concerning such resources, (2), come to understand the political, economic, and social stakes of individual decisions, social policy and enforcement, and their similarities and differences across contexts, and, (3), develop abilities to comprehend and assess the physical, social, economic, and political sustainability of individual and societal decisions with respect to these resources.

*International Issues* courses work to cultivate educated, productive, and principled citizens of the world. In this class, students will, (1), come to understand some political, economic, cultural, physical, and philosophical differences in and among the world’s nations, peoples, and cultures, (2), develop abilities to describe, analyze and evaluate the role of categories such as ethnicity, race, class, gender, national origin and religion as they relate to international and global institutions, issues, and cultures, and, (3), come to recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as citizens of the world.

## **DISABILITIES:**

**Any student with a documented disability should identify him or herself to me as early in the quarter as possible to receive effective and timely accommodations. You may also wish to contact the university's Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307).**

## **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic misconduct is any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or the educational process. Misconduct includes: the violation of course rules (as indicated in the syllabus); providing or receiving information during quizzes and exams; submitting plagiarized work; serving as, or enlisting the assistance of, a substitute test-taker. Perpetrators will be placed in front of the Academic Misconduct committee. A failing grade and/or expulsion are possible. Cheating isn't worth it!

## **REQUIRED READING:**

**Marston, Knox and Liverman, 2007, World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places and Environments (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Pearson Prentice Hall.**

**Carmen readings:** See Carmen (<http://carmen.osu.edu>) for these readings, and the tentative course schedule for the due dates of reading summaries.

NOTE ON READING: 1) You may use the 2nd edition of the textbook. New copies are expensive, but there are used copies in stores. 2) **Readings are essential to this course.** You should aim to keep up with the readings, and return to them for exam review.

## **EVALUATION:**

**40%**      **Exams (two):** You will take two exams, each of equal importance to your final grade. The exams will ask that you respond to multiple-choice, and one of two possible essays.

You will have opportunities to review during a short in-class session before each exam. Also, the course page on Carmen includes a discussion forum, which can be a helpful tool for review.

- **Midterm Exam** on Friday, Oct 30
- **Final Exam** on Monday, Dec 7, **7:30 - 9:18 AM**

NOTE: Make-ups are in essay format. There will be none without an official note.

**30%**      **Quizzes (six, best five count):** You will take six quizzes. These will be short, and are intended to help you identify and review course material that may appear on exams. Quizzes will be given during the first part of class, so please tell me if it is difficult for you to make it to class on time.

- **Quiz #1** on Friday, Oct 2
- **Quiz #2** on Wednesday, Oct 14
- **Quiz #3** on Wednesday, Oct 21
- **Quiz #4** on Wednesday, Nov 6
- **Quiz #5** on Friday, Nov 20
- **Quiz #6** on Friday, Dec 4

NOTE: There will be NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.

**30%**      **Reading summaries (four, best three count):** You will write four one-page summaries of readings posted on Carmen. These summaries, and our in-class discussion of them, will prepare you for the essay questions that will appear on exams.

Depending on the substance of your summary, and adherence to the criteria (see **handout on expectations for reading summaries**), you will receive between one and five points on each assignment.

- **Reading Summary #1** due Monday, Oct 5
- **Reading Summary #1 revision** due Monday, Oct 12
- **Reading Summary #2** due Monday, Oct 19
- **Reading Summary #3** due Monday, Nov 9
- **Reading Summary #4** due Wednesday, Nov 25

A= 92-100%; A- = 90-91%; B+ = 88-89%; B = 82-87%; B- = 80-81%; C+ = 78-79%; C = 72-77%; C- = 70-71%; D+ = 68-69%; D = 62-67%; D- = 60-61%; E = less than 60%

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:**

You are in college, so attendance is expected. Exam and quiz material is specified in class, so working at home is no substitute. **Poor attendance will result in a low grade.** I encourage you to comment, ask questions, and contribute to discussion. This will help you retain the material for which you are responsible.

Be respectful. Please keep disagreements intellectual, not personal, and please avoid leaving early or arriving late. Also, if you carry a phone, please turn it off during class. Finally, please tell me of any time conflict that may prevent you from arriving on time.

NOTE ON THE FLU: Based on recommendations from the Office of the Provost, I encourage you to stay home and isolate yourself if you feel ill. I accept the form available online from the Wilce Student Health Center as documentation of medical absence, and will provide you with make-up work. **But, in all cases, failure to notify the instructor of absence before a deadline will result in the denial of that opportunity.**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

### Introduction (Sept 23 to Sept 25): Region, Development, Globalization

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- Carmen reading for **Friday, Sept 25**: excerpts from R. Williams, Keywords, and D. Gregory, et al., The Dictionary of Human Geography

### Week One (Sept 28 to Oct 2): Europe and “The West”

- **Quiz #1** on Friday, Oct 2

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- Textbook reading for **Wednesday, Sept 30**, from S. Marston, P. Knox & D. Liverman, World Regions in Global Context: “Chapter 2: Europe”
- Carmen reading for **Friday, Oct 2**: excerpt from D. Massey, Space, Place and Gender: “Chapter 2: In What Sense A Regional Problem?”

### Week Two (Oct 5 to Oct 9): Europe and “The West”; North America

- **Reading Summary #1** due Monday, Oct 5

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- Textbook reading for **Wednesday, Oct 7**, from S. Marston, P. Knox & D. Liverman, World Regions in Global Context: “Chapter 6: The United States and Canada”

### Week Three (Oct 12 to Oct 16): North America and “The Americas”

- **Reading Summary #1 revision** due Monday, Oct 12
- **Guest Lecture** on Monday: Jim Straub
- **Quiz #2** on Wednesday, Oct 14

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- Reading for **Monday, Oct 12**: J. Straub, “Braddock, PA: Out of the furnace and into the fire”: <http://monthlyreview.org/081222straub.php>
- Carmen reading for **Friday, Oct 16**: excerpt from E. Galeano, Open Veins of Latin America

### Week Four (Oct 19 to Oct 23): Latin America

- **Reading Summary #2** due Monday, Oct 19
- **Quiz #3** on Wednesday, Oct 21

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- Textbook reading for **Wednesday, Oct 21**, from S. Marston, P. Knox & D. Liverman, World Regions in Global Context: “Chapter 7: Latin America”

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- NOTE: No class on Friday. I will be at a conference, available by email.

**Week Five (Oct 26 to Oct 30):** Latin America

- **Exam Review** on Wednesday
- **Midterm Exam** on Friday, Oct 30

**Week Six (Nov 2 to Nov 6):** Latin America; Africa

- **Quiz #4** on Wednesday, Nov 4
- **Film** on Wednesday: *Darwin's Nightmare*

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- *Textbook reading for Monday, Nov 2, from S. Marston, P. Knox & D. Liverman, World Regions in Global Context: "Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa"*
- *Carmen readings for Friday, Nov 6: excerpt from F. Fanon, The Wretched of The Earth, and R. Young, Postcolonialism*

**Week Seven (Nov 9 to Nov 13):** Africa; N. Africa and The Middle East

- **Reading Summary #3** due Monday, Nov 9
- **Guest Lecture** on Monday: Wendy Ake

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- *Textbook reading for Monday, Nov 9, from S. Marston, P. Knox & D. Liverman, World Regions in Global Context: "Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa"*

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- NOTE: No class on Wednesday, Veteran's Day

**Week Eight (Nov 16 to Nov 20):** N. Africa and Middle East; South Asia

- **Quiz #5** on Friday, Nov 20

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- *Textbook reading for Wednesday, Nov 18, from S. Marston, P. Knox & D. Liverman, World Regions in Global Context: "Chapter 10: South Asia"*

**Week Nine (Nov 23 to Nov 27):** South Asia; East Asia

- **Reading Summary #4** due Wednesday, Nov 25
- **Film** on Wednesday: *China Blue*

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- *Carmen reading for Monday, Nov 23: excerpt from The Globalization Reader – V. Shiva, "Ecological Balance in an Era of Globalization"*

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- NOTE: No class on Friday, Columbus Day

**Week Ten (Nov 30 to Dec 4):** Asia and "The East"

- **Quiz #6** on Friday, Dec 4
- **Exam Review** on Friday

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- Textbook reading for **Monday, Dec 2**, from S. Marston, P. Knox & D. Liverman, World Regions in Global Context: “Chapter 8: East Asia”

**Final Exam on Monday, December 7, 7:30 - 9:18 AM**