

WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY (GEOG 2253) – SPRING 2015

SECTION 701: 1:30-2:20 MON/WED/FRI, ES 213A

Instructor:

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Office Hours:

10:45-11:45 AM and 3:30-4:00 PM, Mon/Wed/Fri, or by appointment, or by simply stopping by my office. If contacting me by email please only use your university student email account, identify yourself by name, and include the course number in which you are enrolled.

Required Text:

Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World, 4th Edition by Rowntree, Lewis, Price, and Wyckoff (Pearson, 2014)

Course Description:

The modern world is composed of distinct regions which continue to retain their own unique cultural and environmental attributes while simultaneously exhibiting increased interdependence between each other. Examining the diversity and connectivity within and between regions is a worthwhile endeavor in light of the growing influence that individual lives have upon the global community and vice versa. Change and reorganization of shared environmental, cultural, political, and economic systems has fundamentally shaped the relationships between once disparate peoples of the Earth. Focusing primarily on the “Global South” – generally distinguished by lower levels of development – this course emphasizes the unevenness of change across the southern hemisphere as both a historic legacy of colonial realms and an emerging product of increased globalization. How this unevenness of change plays itself out is more-and-more evident in the interactions between people and the natural environment. Modifications to environmental systems present societies with different sets of pressing concerns depending on the particular circumstances their world region is faced with. From energy consumption and deforestation in Southeast Asia, to drought and water shortages in Africa, to famine and agricultural reform in India, to climate change and natural disasters in Latin America, nature-society issues cover a broad spectrum of topics pertinent to any attempt at ascertaining the future of world regions. Moreover, this course will bring into sight the rich tapestry of culture characterizing each region as a way of placing people at the forefront of our study of regional geographies.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to provide students an opportunity to gain:

- (1) A familiarity with fundamental geographic concepts, principles, and theoretical frameworks and how these relate to the study of world regional geography.
- (2) A broad understand of how cultural, environmental, social, political, and economic phenomena contribute to the development of each world region's distinctive geographic landscape.
- (3) Recognition of the growing interdependence of regions in the modern world as a function of dynamic global systems of monetary, information, and cultural exchange.
- (4) An understanding of the unevenness of development within and between world regions, including the primary processes (e.g., urbanization, industrialization, and population distribution) influencing this change and how these manifest at different locales.
- (5) An appreciation for the connection between different societies and nature, by examining how people actively shape, modify, adapt to, and interact with Earth's physical environments.
- (6) A geographic knowledge-base necessary for the development of well informed, responsibly engaged citizens of the world.

Course Organization:

This course is organized around exams as the primary means of assessment, quizzes, and in-class or take-home exercises. The exercises are designed to emphasize and make operational the fundamental world regional geography concepts, principles, and processes presented in the lectures and reading assignments. By working through various geographic problems under specific contexts, students will develop important analytical reasoning and critical thinking skills. Such problem based inquiry will foster active learning, an appreciation of the diversity and interdependence between world regions, and an understanding of the different scales at which they may be analyzed. This syllabus is a framework for how the course will unfold. *Certain topics may be added or omitted at the instructor's discretion, depending upon the course timetable and our progress throughout the semester.*

Evaluation: The overall course evaluation will be based upon exams, a research paper, map quizzes, and exercises. Grades are based on a 500 point scale with exams and the research paper each worth 100 points, the map quizzes as a group worth 50 points (10 pts each), and the exercises worth 25 points each:

A = 500-451; B = 450-401; C = 400-351; D = 350-301; F = 300 or less

| | | |
|--------------------|--|-----|
| Exam 1 | February 16th | 20% |
| Exam 2 | April 3rd | 20% |
| Exam 3: Final Exam | May 8th (2:00-3:50 p.m.) | 20% |
| Research Paper | See Due Dates Below | 20% |
| Map Quizzes | Throughout Semester | 10% |
| Exercises | Due March 4th & May 1st | 10% |

There will be **three exams**. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short-answer questions. Note that all exams are weighted the same. If any student is absent during the administering of an exam a makeup exam may be given at the instructor's discretion at a time and place specified by the instructor. The makeup exam may differ in content and format than that of the in class exam; therefore, students are strongly encouraged to complete each test at its scheduled time. There will be **five map quizzes** given at unannounced times throughout the semester. By periodically administering pop-quizzes I hope to increase the rate of attendance at lectures. **Two exercises** will be assigned during the semester. Exercises may contain multiple components requiring library research and additional time be taken outside of class to complete them. More information on the content of each exercise will be provided in class. Last, students will be required to complete a ten page **research paper** focused on a topic of their choosing (see paper guidelines) as it relates to a country that they have been assigned.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lecture Topic</u> | <u>Reading Assignment</u> |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Jan 12 | Introduction | Course Syllabus |
| Jan 14, 16 | Globalization and Diversity | Chapter 1 |
| Jan 19 | University Holiday – No Class | |
| Jan 21, 23 | Globalization and Diversity (Cont.) | Chapter 1 |
| Jan 26 | Research Paper Title Clearance Form Due | |
| Jan 26, 28, 30, Feb 2 | The Changing Global Environment | Chapter 2 |
| Feb 4, 6, 9, 11 | Latin America and the Caribbean | Chapters 4, 5 |
| Feb 13 | Review Session | |
| Feb 16 | Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5) | |
| Feb 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, Mar 2 | Sub-Saharan Africa | Chapter 6 |
| Mar 4 | Group Writing Exercise 1 Due | |
| Mar 4, 6, 9, 11 | East Asia | Chapter 11 |
| Mar 13 | First Version of Research Paper Due | |
| | Film: <i>The Story of India</i> | Class Q&A Sheet |
| Mar 16, 18, 20 | Spring Break – No Class | |
| Mar 23, 25, 27, 30 | South Asia | Chapter 12 |
| Apr 1 | Review Session | |
| Apr 3 | Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 11, 12) | |
| Apr 10 | Revised Research Paper Due | |
| Apr 6, 8, 10, 13, 15 | Southeast Asia | Chapter 13 |
| Apr 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29 | Australia and Oceania | Chapter 14 |
| May 1 | Group Writing Exercise 2 Due | |
| | Review Session | |
| May 8 | Final Exam (Chapters 13, 14; Friday, May 8th @ 2:00-3:50PM) | |

Attendance and Classroom Policy:

1. Your success in this course is dependent upon both your class attendance and active involvement in discussions. This involvement includes asking questions about the material presented in lectures and exercises. Please don't be timid about participating in class. If a question occurs to you, it is likely the case that one of your fellow classmates has the same or a similar question.
2. Attendance is an aspect of participation that will both positively enhance your college experience and increase the likelihood of succeeding in this course. Please notify me immediately if you have a valid reason for not showing up to class. Additionally, please arrive at class on time, as tardiness can be disruptive to those already in attendance. Please show respect for your fellow students and be punctual.
3. All electronic devices should be turned off (phones can be put on silent mode) before entering the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, text messaging devices, personal digital assistants, ipods, laptop computers, etc. If you would like to type your written lecture notes please do this outside of class.
4. Americans with Disabilities Act – Students who have special needs or disabilities that may affect their ability to access information, materials, or activities presented in this course are encouraged to contact the DSS Director/ADA Compliance Officer on campus for information regarding additional-related educational accommodations. Additionally, students should notify me as soon as possible regarding disabilities so that we can make the necessary accommodations. Please schedule an appointment or take advantage of my office hours so that we can discuss appropriate measures. In most cases students will be required to provide documentation before course accommodations will be made. I am glad to work with the Office of Student Disability Services, 315 Student Union, to provide you with an equal opportunity to succeed in this course.
5. Missed Exams: In the event that you miss an exam due to a serious illness or legitimate emergency, you are required to (1) provide me with a valid written document explaining your absence, (2) notify me by email or telephone at least two hours prior to the beginning of class, (3) meet with me concerning your absence as soon as possible.
6. Late Assignments: Any written assignment that is not turned-in at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date will be penalized 5 percentage points per class day. Please turn in your work on time so that this doesn't happen. Don't wait until the last minute to complete your homework. You will no doubt enjoy and get more out of each assignment by allowing yourself a sufficient amount of time to do the work.
7. Academic Integrity: Each student is expected to do their own work, including examinations, quizzes, *and* exercises completed outside of class. Both egregious and subtle forms of cheating are easily detectable, and will be dealt with in accordance with university policy and procedures:

OSU Academic Integrity Statement

Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript (F!), and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, academicintegrity.okstate.edu.

8. Open Communication: If you have any questions or concerns related to your performance in the course or difficulty in class, please share these with me so that the problem can be addressed. Maintaining open lines of communication is a good way of ensuring that small problems don't become big ones over the course of the semester.
9. No course scores or grade information will be divulged over the phone or e-mail. Desire2Learn will be used to report course scores and will be the only place exam scores can be obtained besides my office.
10. Due to the short amount of time available for me to get into the room after the previous class has cleared out and to get the lecture presentation started, and to similarly get out of the way for the next instructor after our class is finished, please refrain from approaching me with questions before class. Either wait until after class or come to my office with your questions.
11. Please refer to the syllabus attachment included at the end of this syllabus for university-level information on deadlines and student expectations. I have neither the authority nor willingness to ignore these deadlines, and will not provide any supporting documentation for students who do.
12. All students are expected to maintain a working e-mail address on file with SIS at the university and to log into Desire2Learn regularly for ancillary information, updates, and submission of writing assignments. On occasion, I may need to send out a broad informational e-mail to all students through Desire2Learn; there is an option to send an e-mail to all students in a class. If your e-mail is out-of-date or absent, you will miss the info but you are nevertheless responsible for it.

WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY
Geography 2253, Spring 2015
WRITING ASSIGNMENT

The OSU University Curriculum Committee has mandated that certain introductory courses must contain a writing assignment, and that the assignment must reach a minimum length of five total pages. GEOG 2253 is one such course, and therefore the writing assignment for the class is as follows:

A. Description of the assignment.

Because of the “Honors” designation associated with this course each student is required to produce a research paper of **ten pages**. Students will be assigned a country on which to focus their research, and will choose an issue in the country assigned on which to write (see the list at the end of this document). Issues must fall within the following four general categories, and should be specific:

1. Ethnic or religious conflict. (example: *Walloon--Flemish Friction in Belgium*).
2. Economic development. (example: *Energy: China's Economic Achilles Heel?*).
3. Environmental challenges. (example: *The Problem of Deforestation in Nepal*).
4. International relations (example: *Will Turkey join the EU?*)

The research paper will be constructed in three stages:

January 26th—Paper Title Clearance Form is due. Students must turn in this form by Monday, January 26th. No papers will be accepted from students who have not received approval of their topic from the course instructor!! The title should indicate clearly which of the four areas above you will be writing on—see the examples provided above! Failure to turn in the form by the required date will result in a five point penalty for each day the form is late! Students are encouraged to complete the form and provide it to your instructor as soon as possible.

March 13th—First version due (both in D2L dropbox AND a hardcopy). This draft is worth 60 points. This paper should represent the best effort possible, and is not a “rough draft!” This effort will be evaluated and returned to the student on March 27th. Critical comments will be general in nature and grammatical, structural, and conceptual problems will not all be marked! It will be the student’s responsibility to find and correct any errors, based on the feedback provided.

April 10th—Final corrected version of the paper due. This draft is worth an additional 40 points. The first version of the paper with the grader’s comments MUST BE turned in with this version, in order for the student to receive any credit for the corrected version. The final version of the paper will be evaluated and returned to the student no later than May 1st.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Copying others’ work, published or otherwise, is considered plagiarism, as is the failure to properly acknowledge a source of information through standard forms of citation. **See “Documentation” in “Requirements for the Research Paper” at the end of this syllabus,** In addition, each student is expected to visit the following website and consult the resources listed there:

<http://www.library.okstate.edu/access/ils/plagiarism.htm>. Any student who is guilty of plagiarism will be given a grade of “F” on the paper and “F!” in the course, and reported to the appropriate administration officials. The “F!” will appear on the transcript, and *specifically indicates course failure due to cheating. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism—ignorance is not an acceptable excuse!* If the student is in doubt concerning the proper use of source material or documentation, he/she is expected to consult with the instructor prior to turning in the assignment.

B. Requirements for the Research Paper.

Students **MUST** follow these guidelines when writing their research paper. Failure to do so will result in a failing score on the paper!

ALL ASSIGNMENTS RELATED TO THE PAPER ARE DUE ON THE DATE INDICATED IN THE SCHEDULE, AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

January 26th—Title Clearance Form due.

March 13th—First version of the paper is due (hardcopy and on D2L).

April 10th—Revised paper due.

Note: All papers must be turned in to the student’s D2L dropbox, as well as a hardcopy of the paper. DO NOT turn in a file formatted for Macintosh! Papers **WILL NOT** be accepted as e-mail attachments!! **SEE THE DISCUSSION REGARDING PLAGIARISM UNDER “DOCUMENTATION” BELOW, AS WELL AS IN SECTION A OF THIS ASSIGNMENT.**

Assistance: I will be available to assist students with this project on an “as-needed” basis—you will need to make an appointment with me for assistance in the library if you need help finding sources. We will not read preliminary drafts of papers—if you wish to have a “rough draft” reviewed and critiqued, you may visit the OSU Writing Center, 104 Morrill Hall, Tel: 744-6671; www.writing.okstate.edu--This is a **FREE** service for students.

For questions concerning style and documentation, you should refer to Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th edition or later. There are several useful websites on “**Turabian style**” **documentation, i.e., endnotes**, available on the Internet. For guides to endnote documentation, see <http://rwc.hunter.cuny.edu/reading-writing/on-line/endnote.html> and <http://library.tamu.edu/help/help-yourself/citing-sources/files/Using%20Endnotes%20in%20Turabian%20Documentation.pdf>. A scholarly journal that uses endnote documentation style is the *Journal of Third World Studies* (may be accessed via the Low Library web site).

Length

The paper must reach the minimum required length (**10 FULL** pages of text). Number all pages, beginning with the second page of text (do not number a separate title page, or the first page containing text). ALL ANCILLARIES (PHOTOS, MAPS, CHARTS, GRAPHS, etc.), are to be placed at the end of the paper in an appendix—DO NOT insert these in the text of the paper. The title of the paper and author’s name should appear centered on a separate title page.

Structure

Your paper should have an Introduction, Body, and Conclusion. These sections are not necessarily labeled as such, but it should be clear to the reader where one section ends and the next begins. The Body may be further subdivided, highlighting the focus or topic of that particular section. The Introduction should contain at some point **a clearly articulated thesis statement**. The thesis statement indicates what issue or problem you are researching, why it is important, and (at least sometimes) how you intend to go about investigating the problem. The thesis statement should be closely related to the topic you are assigned. This work is to be a research paper. I am not interested in a “book report” which simply regurgitates information you have culled from the sources. Your paper should contain an analysis of the issue/problem addressed in the paper—papers lacking this element will not receive high marks.

Mechanics

The paper must be typed, using **one inch** margins at the top, bottom, and sides of the page. Use 12 point font, Arial. **DO NOT INSERT BLANK SPACES BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS! IF USING SUBHEADINGS IN YOUR PAPER, LEAVE ONLY TWO BLANK LINES (ONE DOUBLE-SPACE) BETWEEN THE SUBHEADING AND THE TEXT ABOVE IT, AND BEGIN THE NEW SECTION ONE DOUBLE-SPACE AFTER THE SUBHEADING.**

Quotations

Quotations from sources are to be kept to a minimum—as a general rule of thumb, no more than ten percent of your research paper should consist of directly-

quoted material. Any quotation that is longer than four lines of text must be blocked—consult Turabian for the proper form and structure of block quotations.

Documentation

1. Incorrect or insufficient documentation of source materials will be considered plagiarism! Students should consult the section on page two of the syllabus regarding plagiarism and its consequences. **Perhaps at some point in your educational experience, someone told you that only direct quotes need to be cited—this is not accurate!** Any information which is not commonly known, in particular detailed historical accounts, statistical information, and in general, any information you obtained from another source must be documented. It IS NOT adequate simply to place a note at the conclusion of each paragraph. **In this research paper you are required to use endnotes for all documentation.** Failure to properly and/or adequately document your work is a MAJOR flaw, and will result in a failing mark on your paper. For information on proper style of documentation, consult the sections regarding endnotes in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers...*, 7th edition or later. It is not necessary to include a bibliography with your paper since the endnotes should contain complete bibliographic information, but you may do so if you wish.

2. To place endnotes in your paper: See Turabian on where to locate the numbers in the text of your document! Select “Insert” from the Windows toolbar, then “reference,” and “footnote.” A dialogue box will open—select the “endnotes” option, and change the number format from Roman numerals (the default selection) to Arabic numerals. Then click on “Insert” at the bottom of the box and the superscripted number will be automatically placed in the text where you had your cursor. A separate window will open for you to enter the required information from the source (author, title, etc.—**see Turabian for details**). Enter the necessary information and then close the window, returning to your document. **THE NUMBERS ARE TO APPEAR SEQUENTIALLY, STARTING FROM “1.” DO NOT REPEAT ANY NUMBER, AND DO NOT ENTER THE NUMBERS MANUALLY.** Consult the articles in a recent issue of the *Journal of Third World Studies* for an example of endnote style and format.

Grammar

It should be obvious that at this level we expect students to employ proper grammar and spelling—use your spell-check program to save yourself time and mistakes!! Papers that are not essentially free of grammatical and spelling errors, as well as run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and other related problems will receive a low mark. **PROOF-READ YOUR PAPER BEFORE TURNING IT IN!!**

Sources

Your paper should have a minimum of 8 **scholarly** sources; most papers will have more. **Newspapers and news magazines, (i.e., *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, etc.), encyclopedia entries,**

and websites DO NOT qualify as scholarly. A *scholarly* source is an academic book; a chapter in such a book, typically edited by another individual; an article in a peer-reviewed (refereed) academic journal; or a primary source such as a government document or a report collecting and using original data or information from a governmental source, NGO, or independent agency. **You should employ scholarly books, journals, government documents, and similar publications as your major sources.** The fastest and easiest method of finding sources is to do an electronic search of the databases offered by the OSU library. On-line **scholarly** journals may be employed as sources, and you will be able to perform an exclusive search of the library data bases for peer-reviewed journals. Another good search engine is www.google.com

**Title Clearance Form
Writing Assignment for GEOG 2253
Spring 2015**

This form must be completed and turned in by Monday, January 26th! Failure to do so will result in a five point per day penalty.

Professor/Instructor and section number:

Student Name (PRINT):

Assigned Country:

Title of Research Paper: