**GEOG 106 - WL World Regional Geography Syllabus**

**Pittsburg State University**

**Spring 2014**

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**Suggested Text:**

*Geography; Realms, Regions, and Concepts,14th ed.,* H.J. de Blij, Wiley Publishers, 2010

College Atlas of the World (National Geographic), 2007, Wiley (packaged with the text).

**Course Content:**

This may surprise people but geography is not about knowing all the locations of every anthill in the world, and their capitals. Although solid location knowledge is helpful. Geography is currently defined as the Science of Space and Place. Yep, it is a science. Geographers use models, data, theories, formulas (even with math….. really!). So what does this mean for this course? Geographers study *the location and distribution of human phenomena*. In other words, this course strives to show the importance of looking at the world from a spatial perspective with a regional approach. So what does “spatial perspective from a regional approach” mean? What will you learn? Here are some examples of questions we want to answer that are spatial from a regional approach:

* where are people located in Sub-Saharan Africa and why?
* how do people in northern climates interact with their environment?
* why would people in Southeast Asia migrate or move?
* how do Europeans affect their surroundings and how do they differ from Canadians?

As we study the different regions we will see that each possesses a special combination of *cultural, environmental, historical, economic,* and *organizational* qualities.

**Course Learning Objectives:** At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

* Understand the concept of the spatial perspective and how it applies to geography.
* Explain the basic spatial distribution of physical and human earth phenomena.
* Utilize demographic data to show human population patterns, consequences and forecasts.
* Recognize economic factors and the influences of globalization.
* Demonstrate the interconnectedness between humans and their environment.

**Assessment Methods:**

Exams, interactive assignments, and writing assignments.

**PSU GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

***GEOG 106: World Regional Geography*** is part of the PSU General Education program (please see: http://catalog.pittstate.edu/contentm/blueprints/blueprint\_display.php?bp\_listing\_id=162&blueprint\_id=128&sid=1&menu\_id=7984). It addresses the following goals and objectives:

Goal #1: Students should be able to communicate effectively.

Objective #2: Apply the principles of effective writing and other forms of communication.

Goal #2: Students should be able to think critically.

Objective #1: Demonstrate the ability to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information in problem solving.

Objective #3: Apply generalizations, principles, theories, or rules to the real world.

Objective #4: Demonstrate the ability to analyze and synthesize information.

Goal #3: Students should be able to function responsibly in the world in which they live.

Objectives:

Part II: Social Studies

1. Demonstrate and understanding of contemporary social issues.

2. Evaluate the impact of scientific, technological, economic, and intellectual change on social and political institutions.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity within the United States and in the world at large.

**Course-Specific Learning Outcomes to be used in the Assessment of General Education Goals**

Upon completion of this course, students will accomplish the following:

* Understand the geographic approach to studying spatial distribution of Earth’s phenomena.
* Utilize methods to study and understand geographic concepts.
* Understand the interaction between people and their environment.
* Understand the consequences of human actions on the environment.
* Understand the relationship and importance of people and places.

**Course-Specific Content to be used in the Assessment of General Education Goals**

Upon completion of this course, students will understand and be competent in the use of the following terms and concepts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| spatial analysis | regional geography |
| Demography | global economy |
| informal economy | multinational corporation |
| regions (formal and functional) | absolute and relative location |
| physical and cultural attributes of places | spatial diffusion |
| spatial interaction | globalization |
| human-environment interaction | state, nation |
| population pyramid | cultural landscape |

**Methods of Assessment of Student Learning for General Education by Goal**

Goal #1: Students should be able to communicate effectively.

Competency in ***written communication skills*** will be assessed using writing assignments and weekly interactive assignments..

Goal #2: Students should be able to think critically.

Competency in ***critical thinking*** will be assessed using exams and written assignments.

Goal #3: Students should be able to function responsibly in the world in which they live.

Competency in the ***understanding*** of contemporary social issues, of the impact of scientific, technological, economic, and intellectual change on social and political institutions, and of cultural diversity within the United States and in the world as a whole will be assessed using exams, writing assignments and weekly interactive assignments..

**World Regional Geography as a *Writing to Learn Course*:**

STATEMENT OF INTENT: The ancient Greek geographer Eratosthenes (circa 270 BC) is credited for coining the word geography, and during his time it meant literally “writing about the earth”. Since this time writing has always played an important factor in geography but it has also evolved **beyond** earth description. I intend to use writing as a way to help you, the student, learn to look critically at many aspects in geography.

PHILOSOPHY OF WRITING: Using writing to learn geography forces you to develop, organize, expand and strengthen your own ideas as well as your writing skills. Writing is an essential life-skill. Success in many aspects in your life will be achieved by improving your critical thinking proficiency. And like all life skills you become better as you practice!

**Course Evaluation: There are three components in the overall course grading:**

**(1) Exams:** Six non-cumulative exams will be given this semester each worth 100 points. The lowest exam will be dropped. Exams are a combination of multiple choice and map identification. Scantron (Form No. 884-ES “the green one”) is used for each exam. **Please note: Make up exams are not given.** In extreme cases, and only with fully documented reasons, a missed exam is allowed to be made up. Allowed make up exams will be given during finals week and will consist of short essay questions. The five exams are worth 72% of the final grade in this course.

**Exam dates:**

**Exam 1 Tuesday, February 4**

**Exam 2 Thursday, February 20**

**Exam 3 Thursday, March 13**

**Exam 4 Thursday, April 10**

**Exam 5 Thursday, April 24**

**Exam 6 Thursday, May 8**

**(2) Research Papers (Writing to Learn Requirement):** You will be assigned four research paper questions over the semester. This will require you to think about an issue and provide a logical, reasoned, and substantiated answer. These must take the structure of a formal paper (e.g. introduction, body, conclusion, etc.), have logical referenced progression in your discussion, and have a list of properly identified references at the end. **\***Each paper is valued at 20 points, except the 4th which is worth 40 points. The papers are worth 14% of the final grade in this course. Papers are due 1 week from the assignment date (unless stated otherwise) and will be marked down 1 point per day if turned in late. Please see the writing instructions handout for specific writing guidelines. This includes guidelines regarding outside sources that are to be cited according to the *Harvard System of Referencing* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*

\***Please note: given this is a WL-designated course, you must achieve, on average, a grade of D or higher on the research papers to be eligible to pass this course.**

**The tentative assignment dates for the research papers are:**

**Paper 1 January 21 (due January 28)**

**Paper 2 February 25 (due March 4)**

**Paper 3 March 25 (due April 1)**

**Paper 4 April 17 (due April 24)**

**WL assignment feedback will include comments on your paper, highlights and comments on the rubric, and face to face discussions if needed.**

**(3) Assignments/Quizzes:** Ten times this semester you will be required to complete an assignment on CANVAS. See tentative schedule on the next page for dates. The assignments will consist of readings, videos, or activities designed to complement and enhance what has been covered in class OR to introduce new content for the next class. After you have read, watched a video, or completed the activity you will complete a quiz, on CANVAS, for 10 points (5 questions – 2 points each). The quiz will open after the class, and close 108 hours later (in-other-words you will have 4 ½ days to complete the quiz). THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP MISSED QUIZZES. These assignments constitute 14% of the total course grade.

**Course Survival:**

The main key to a good grade in this course is to ALWAYS ATTEND and TAKE QUALITY NOTES. As the material covered in this course is interrelated, the secret to survival is to keep up on the lecture information and related text readings, class by class. There will be material covered in lectures that is not in the text. Further, there are numerous video case studies and this information will also be on the exams.Remember, the research papers must average a D or higher to pass the course so every effort needs to be made to complete those assignments to the best of your ability and to turn them in on time.

***Tutoring:*** Information regarding tutoring will be posted in CANVAS.

**International Knowledge and Experience (IKE) Information:**

This course counts towards the academic component of the IKE Certificate of International Knowledge and Experience. The IKE Certificate may be earned by students in any major and is noted on a student's PSU undergraduate transcript. For more IKE info, please contact Megan Corrigan [mcorriga@pittstate.edu](https://webmail1.pittstate.edu/old-gorillamail/src/compose.php?send_to=mcorriga%40pittstate.edu)

**Special Considerations:**

* As courtesy to your classmates, no unnecessary talking during lecture.
* Let’s make this a DEVISE DEADZONE. Silence cell phones and put them away as you enter the classroom.
* Laptops are for note taking only!

**For additional information regarding campus resources, notifications, policies, etc. please**

**see the syllabus supplement from the Office of the Registrar at:**

[**http://www.pittstate.edu/dotAsset/9e421c72-1f34-441c-8c7f-2f68fd510e80.pdf**](http://www.pittstate.edu/dotAsset/9e421c72-1f34-441c-8c7f-2f68fd510e80.pdf)

**For information regarding Academic Integrity see the university catalog:**

<http://catalog.pittstate.edu/contentm/blueprints/blueprint_display.php?bp_listing_id=162&blueprint_id=124&sid=1&menu_id=7980>

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

***January***

Tue 14 Syllabus

Thurs 16 Cartography/Economics

Tue 21 Demographics/Plate Tec/

**WL 1 assign**

Thurs 23 W. Europe/ Assignment 1

Tue 28 W. Europe/**WL 1 due**

Thurs 30 E. Europe/Assignment 2

***February***

**Tue 4 EXAM 1**

Thurs 6 Russia/Assignment 3

Tue 11 Russia

Thurs 13 North America/Assignment 4

Tue 18 North America

**Thurs 20** **EXAM 2**

Tue 25 Middle America/**WL 2 assign**

Thurs 27 Middle America/Assignment 5

***March***

Tue 4 Middle America/ **WL 2 due**

Thurs 6 South America/ Assignment 6

Tue 11 South America

**Thurs 13 EXAM 3**

Tue 18 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Thurs 20 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Tue 25 Sub Saharan Africa/**WL 3 assign**

Thurs 27 Sub Saharan Africa/Assignment 7

***April***

Tue 1 Northern Africa-Southwest Asia

**WL 3 due**

Thurs 3 Northern Africa – Southwest Asia

Assignment 8

Tue 8 Northern Africa – Southwest Asia

**Thurs 10 EXAM 4**

Tue 15 South Asia

Thurs 17 South Asia/Assignment 9 **/**

**WL 4 assign**

Tue 22 East Asia/

**Thurs 24 EXAM 5 /WL 4 due**

Tue 29 Southeast Asia

***May***

Thurs 1 Southeast Asia/ Assignment 10

**Thurs 8 EXAM 6**