**Regional Geography of the World**
**GEO103-lec-IN01**
**Fall 2020**

**Class Time & Location:** Online (Moodle)
**Instructor:** Kyle B. Carpenter
**Office:** Spencer 254
**E-Mail:** kcarpenter@uarichmountain.edu
**Phone:** 479-394-7622 ext. 1342
**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 3:30-5:00p; Tuesday & Thursday 9:00a-11:00a; Friday 10:00a-3:00p

***This syllabus is intended as a set of guidelines. Your instructor reserves the right to make modifications in the content, schedule, and requirements as necessary to promote the best educational environment possible within the prevailing conditions affecting this course.***

## Texts:

**White, George, et.al, *Essentials of World Regional Geography*, 3rd ed. 2014.**

## Class Focus: Instructor's Overview of the Class

### Course Description

This course illustrates world conditions as they exist in the environment and in various cultures. It introduces map reading of the various continents and other important geographical concepts. This course requires at least one paper utilizing citations.

### Program Outcomes

**1**. Students will increase competencies in writing, reading, speaking, and listening.
**2.** Students will increase their understanding of space, renderings of space, physical geography, human geography, and the geographic diversity of the world.
**3.** Students will apply technological and research skills to identify, locate, and process information.

### Rationale

This course provides the means by which students will accomplish the Program Outcomes outlined in the college catalogue as evidenced by the listed course

objectives. This course will allow the students to utilize geographical knowledge, research, collaboration, and presentation skills in future college endeavors and throughout their life. It offers a vast survey of world regional geography. Students are introduced to the multiplicity and diversity of regional space. They discover and develop themes like natural environments, human geography, population, politics, economics, and human rights. They also investigate the sources and methods of geographic knowledge. Students will sharpen their reading and study skills as well as their ability to express themselves verbally and in writing. They will also demonstrate their abilities to analyze and synthesize information in order to become better critical thinkers.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the semester students should be able to:

1. Understand the concept of the spatial perspective and how it applies to geography.
2. Explain the basic spatial distribution of physical and human earth phenomena.
3. Utilize demographic data to show human population patterns, consequences, and forecasts.
4. Recognize economic factors and the influences of globalization.
5. Demonstrate the interconnectedness between humans and their environment.
6. Improve reading and critical thinking skills by various independent reading projects and writing at least one scholarly paper.
    a. Components include:
        i. Proper grammar
        ii. Proper documentation (citations)
        iii. Understanding and using reliable sources

**Course Schedule:**

The assignments, discussion forums, research paper resources and other assignments will be listed on Moodle each Monday and will be due the following Sunday evening by midnight. Below is the anticipated schedule for each week throughout the semester:

**TENTATIVE SEMESTER READING AND TESTING SCHEDULE**

Week 1- August 24-August 28: Introduction to Regional Geography
-Discussion 1 due Aug. 26
-Read Chapter 1 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 2- August 31-September 4: Essentials of World Regional Geography
-Journal 1 due Aug. 31
-Discussion 2 due Sep. 2
-Quiz 1 due Sep. 4
- Read Chapter 1 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 3- September 7-September 11: Europe
-Journal 2 due Sep. 7
-Discussion 3 due Sep. 9
-Quiz 2 due Sep. 11
- Read Chapter 2 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 4- September 14-September 18: Russia
-Journal 3 due Sep. 14
-Discussion 4 due Sep. 16
-Quiz 3 due Sep. 18
- Read Chapter 3 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 5- September 21-September 25: East Asia
-Journal 4 due Sep. 21
-Discussion 5 due Sep. 23
-Quiz 4 due Sep. 25
- Read Chapter 4 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 6- September 28-October 02: Southeast Asia
-Journal 5 due Sep. 28
-Discussion 6 due Sep. 30
-Quiz 5 due Oct. 02
- Read Chapter 5 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 7- October 5- October 9: South Asia

-Journal 6 due Oct. 5
-Discussion 7 due Oct. 7
-**Midterm Project due Oct. 9**
- Read Chapter 6 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 8- October 12-October 16: Southwestern Asia
-Journal 7 due Oct. 12
-Discussion 8 due Oct. 14
-Quiz 6 due Oct. 16
- Read Chapter 7 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 9- October 19-October 23: North Africa
-Journal 8 due Oct. 19
-Discussion 9 due Oct. 21
-Quiz 7 due Oct. 23
- Read Chapter 7 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 10- October 26-October 30: Sub-Saharan Africa
-Journal 9 due Oct. 26
-Discussion 10 due Oct. 28
-Quiz 8 due Oct. 30
- Read Chapter 8 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 11- November 2-November 6: Australia, Oceania, Antarctica
-Journal 10 due Nov. 2
-Discussion 11 due Nov. 4
-Quiz 9 due Nov. 6
- Read Chapter 9 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 12- November 9-November 13: Latin America
-Journal 11 due Nov. 9
-Discussion 12 due Nov. 11
-Quiz 10 due Nov. 13
- Read Chapter 10 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 13- November 16-November 20: Latin America

-Journal 12 due Nov. 16

-Discussion 13 due Nov. 18

-Quiz 11 due Nov. 20

- Read Chapter 10 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 14- November 23-November 27: North America

-Journal 13 due Nov. 23

-No Discussion: Thanksgiving

-No Quiz: Thanksgiving

-Read Chapter 11 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 15- November 30-December 4: North America

-Journal 14 due Nov. 30

-Discussion 14 due Dec. 2

-Quiz 12 due Dec. 4

- Read Chapter 11 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Finals Week: Final Projects due w/presentations

## Class Requirements

**Online Course Structure**

To succeed in this course, you will need to read, analyze, and discuss geography. It is my expectation that online students should devote as much time to their courses as students who attend traditional lectures. Online courses cover a lot of ground in a very short amount of time, so be prepared to read and write for the next sixteen weeks!

To start, I want to familiarize you with the structure of the course:

On Moodle, each lesson will include articles, additional materials, or web links designed to enhance or reinforce the textbook information and force students to really consider geographical issues. There are various types of assignments in each lesson (discussion boards, journal entries, quizzes) that will draw on material presented on Moodle.

Moodle lessons are organized around textbook chapters. Within each lesson, start at the top of the page and work your way down. Each lesson contains 1 or 2 textbook chapters and will stay open after its release date. Complete all

assignments in each lesson before moving on to the next. Contact me if any of the assignments are confusing or in case of an emergency.
To be successful in this course, students must be prepared to complete all assignments and must also be self-disciplined. Aside from reading textbook chapters, you must also read any documents on Moodle, watch the videos, or view presentations. Students must keep track of the class schedule and all announcements posted here and on Moodle.

Weekly assignments are posted each Monday and are due by midnight the following Sunday. Assignments are usually graded the Friday following the date they are due.
You are encouraged to form study groups to help in this class. You may also seek assistance from Student Support for help understanding the material or writing the paper. If you are having extreme difficulty, please make an appointment with me to discuss it.

**Online Course Expectations & Etiquette**

1. Don't get brave just because you're behind the keyboard. When in class discussions or emails with classmates or the instructor, you must be respectful, professional, and calm. The general rule is: if you wouldn't say it out loud, in front of your grandmother, don't type it!
2. Keep up with the course dates and schedules. The Course Calendar in the Syllabus details every assignment and when they are due. Modules/lessons will be open weekly. If you need help keeping up, email me.
3. Grades are based on a cumulative point scale. Always try to accrue as many points as you possibly can to succeed.
4. Use every resource you have! Just because this is an online class don't feel like you can't tap into all the wonderful services UARM has to offer you. I particularly want to recommend the Johnson Learning Commons and the online tutoring they offer.
5. You must have a reliable internet source and a backup computer. Make sure that you have easy and reliable internet access. If you ever feel like you have limited internet access, come to campus. IT has ensured that Wi-Fi will reach across campus and into the parking lots. Your car can be both a great place to social distance and a private workspace.

**UA Rich Mountain Credit Hour Calculator**: For every course credit hour, you should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming

quizzes/exams, research, writing papers, working with your team, and other activities that enhance learning. For a three hour course in a regular semester, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course. This includes the time spent in class.

**Scholastic Dishonesty**

Scholastic dishonesty is unacceptable and is not tolerated. Actions taken by individual instructors in response to a case of scholastic dishonesty by students may include (1) assigning a zero for the paper, project, exercise or test and/or (2) requiring the student to resubmit another paper, project, or exercise or to retake the test. In cases of serious or repeated scholastic dishonesty, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary review subject to possible disciplinary action. Scholastic dishonesty is defined as misconduct including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating and collusion. It may seem convenient to cheat in an online course. Do not do it. You will get caught.

**Late Work**

There will be a full letter grade deduction for all work turned in late.

**Diversity and Inclusion**

In our structured and unstructured discussions and dialogues, we also will have many opportunities to explore some challenging issues and increase our understandings of different perspectives. Our conversations may not always be easy; we sometimes will make mistakes in our speaking and our listening; sometimes we will need patience or courage or imagination or any number of qualities in combination to engage our texts, our classmates, and our own ideas and experiences. Always we will need respect for others. Thus, an additional aim of our course necessarily will be for us to increase our facility with the sometimes difficult conversations that arise as we deepen our understandings of multiple perspectives – whatever our backgrounds, experiences, or positions.

**Assignments**

**1. Journal Entries:** Write a one paragraph (150-300 words) reflection of the previous week's material. Though you will find prompts to jog your thinking, you should consider the overall significance of what you have learned. The paragraph needs to include a clear, articulate thesis backed up with evidence from class and the textbook materials. The evidence you use needs to be cited as: (White, et.al,

*Essentials of World Regional Geography*, ###). You will submit a journal entry every Monday after Week 1.

**2. <u>Discussions:</u>** Write a one-paragraph (150-300 words) response to a weekly prompt you find on Moodle. Discussion posts should address your assessment of the readings and lectures as they relate to the overarching themes of the week. Discussions should also ask probing questions about the sources. Each discussion requires ONE primary post and TWO response to your peers. Your peer responses should engage your peers' arguments and facilitate discussion. Simple responses like "I agree" and "You did a real great job" will earn you no credit. Discussions will be due every Wednesday.

**3. <u>Quizzes:</u>** You will take a map quiz every Friday. Each quiz will have ten questions and will cover the material you learned that week.

**3. <u>Midterm Project</u>:** The "Untest"

In this course, you do not take the test, you make the test. The untest allows you synthesize the material for each unit into a legible exam. You will create multiple choice questions, IDs, and an overall takeaway based on what you thought were the most important themes, ideas, and arguments you came across in the first half of the course. Detailed instructions for the untests are located in Moodle.

**4. <u>Final Project</u>:** Final Research Paper

I will publish a final research paper question after you submit your midterm project. The question will require you to think about an issue and provide a logical, reasoned, and substantiated answer with a clear thesis. Your essay should take the structure of a formal paper with an introduction including a thesis, body, and conclusion. The essay should have a logical and cited narrative structure. You will find writing instructions and specific writing guidelines on Moodle. Each student will make a short presentation on Zoom about their paper.

## Grading Criteria

One midterm project, one final project, 14 journal entries, 14 discussions, 12 quizzes and a short extra credit assignment will be used to determine grades. The two projects are both worth 100 points each. All journals will be worth 20 points each, which totals 280 points. All discussions will be worth 20 points each, which totals 280 points. All quizzes will be worth 20 points each, which totals 240. All extra credit will be applied in a separate category. The total number of points in this class is 1000. The point breakdown is as follows:

**900-1000=A,**
**800-899=B,**
**700-799=C,**
**600-699=D,**
**599 and below=F**.
All assignments will be announced. Students need to be present in the Moodle course if they are to benefit from instruction and know the exact dates of all assignments. Grades, attendance and assignment due dates are on Moodle. All assignments will be due by 11:59pm Central Time on the days they are due.

**Voluntary Extra Credit:** There will be a 15-point extra credit assignment during Thanksgiving week. I will release a prompt on Moodle to be done over the holiday break. It will be due Sunday Nov. 29.

## Additional Class Information

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**Late Work**

There will be a full letter grade deduction for all work turned in late.

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as we deepen our understandings of multiple perspectives – whatever our backgrounds, experiences, or positions.

**COVID-19 Protocols**: For your protection, and the protection of others, please adhere to the following COVID-19 protocols until further notice:

**Face Mask Policy**: As per the Executive Order from the governor of Arkansas, all students are required to wear a proper face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth while on campus and in class. Masks with holes or masks that do not completely cover nose and mouth are not acceptable. Any student that does not have a proper mask will leave class and be referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action.

**Attendance**: Your attendance in this course will be tracked through your participation and submission of assignments. If you fail to submit an assignment on time, you will deemed "absent" that day in the online class. You must login every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to submit your weekly assignments and be counted as attending your online class.

**Technology Concerns**: Students with access concerns are expected to communicate with their instructors. Additionally, students can access the wi-fi from the South parking lot near the Ouachita Center. Students with access issues are encouraged to access course Zoom sessions from the parking lot, if needed. Students would be expected to drive to campus under normal classroom conditions. While it is not ideal, it does ensure reliable access and regular course participation. Students may use personal cell phones/devices to attend Zoom sessions. However, students have the option to check out campus computers from the library (Johnson Learning Commons).

**Social Distancing**: Students are to follow the social distancing guidelines as outlined by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADE) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Additionally, UARM staff have clearly marked hallways, arranged classroom furniture, and removed keyboards from workstations to adhere to such guidelines.

**Title IX**: The University of Arkansas Community College Rich Mountain (UA Rich Mountain) is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community and that is free from harassment and discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sexual orientation,

gender identity, national origin, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, age, pregnancy, physical, mental disability, or genetic information. Such an environment is necessary to a healthy learning, working and living atmosphere. Accordingly, all acts of discrimination, harassment, retaliation and sexual misconduct as defined by this Policy are prohibited. All complaints or concerns should be submitted to the Title IX coordinator at 479-394-7622 ext. 1460

**Disability Policy**: It is the policy of UA Rich Mountain to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to state and federal law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Office, 394-7622 ext.1400.

**Arkansas Clean Air Act**: In compliance with the Arkansas Clean Air Act, UA Rich Mountain is a smoke and tobacco free facility. Students and guests are to refrain from the use of all tobacco products while on campus.

**Student Misconduct**: Students committing misconduct are subject to disciplinary sanction(s) and or restrictions. Misconduct or prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to endangerment, harassment, disruption, sexual misconduct, dishonesty, illegal drugs and/or alcohol, fire or safety issues, gambling, property violations, computer violations or other violations as listed in detail in the UA Rich Mountain catalog.

**UA Rich Mountain Mission**: UA Rich Mountain exists to provide all residents of the Ouachita Mountain Region with exemplary educational and enrichment opportunities to improve the quality of life and standard of living.

**See Something … Hear Something … Say Something**
Suspicious behavior should be reported to Deputy on campus at (479) 394-7622 ext. 1700 OR through an anonymous email link found on the college webpage. The Deputy Sheriff's office is located in the Spencer Building across from the library.