Regional Geography of the World
GEO103-lec-IN01
Fall 2021

Class Time & Location: Online (Blackboard)
Instructor: Kyle B. Carpenter
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Phone: 479-394-7622 ext. 1342
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:00a-12:30p & 3:00-5:00p; Tuesday & Thursday 9:00a-11:00a, 12:30p-1:30p & 3:30-5:00p; Friday 9:00a-1:00p

Prerequisites: None

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

Students will increase their

- writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills,
- understanding of different cultures and societies across the globe and how both have changed over time, and
- technological and research skills.

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 Blackboard with modules opening each Monday. Below is the anticipated schedule for each week throughout the semester:

TENTATIVE SEMESTER READING AND TESTING SCHEDULE

Week 1- Introduction to Regional Geography

-Discussion 1 due Aug. 18

-Acknowledge that you understand the expectations outlined in the syllabus and introductory materials.

Week 2- Essentials of World Regional Geography

-Map Quiz 1 due Aug. 23

-Discussion 2 due Aug. 25

-Journal 1 due Aug. 27

- Read Chapter 1 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 3- Europe

-Map Quiz 2 due Aug. 30

-Discussion 3 due Sep. 1

-Journal 2 due Sep. 3

- Read Chapter 2 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 4- Russia

-Map Quiz 3 due Sep. 6

-Discussion 4 due Sep. 8

-Journal 3 due Sep. 10

- Read Chapter 3 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 5- East Asia

-Map Quiz 4 due Sep. 13

-Discussion 5 due Sep. 15

-Journal 4 due Sep. 17

- Read Chapter 4 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 6- Southeast Asia

-Map Quiz 5 due Sep. 20

-Discussion 6 due Sep. 22

-Journal 5 due Sep. 24

- Read Chapter 5 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 7- South Asia

-Map Quiz 6 due Sep. 27

-Discussion 7 due Sep. 29

-**Midterm Project due Oct. 1**

- Read Chapter 6 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 8- Southwestern Asia

-Map Quiz 7 due Oct. 04

-Discussion 8 due Oct. 06

-Journal 6 due Oct. 08

- Read Chapter 7 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 9- North Africa

-Map Quiz 8 due Oct. 11

-Discussion 9 due Oct. 13

-Journal 7 due Oct. 15

- Read Chapter 7 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 10- Sub-Saharan Africa

-Map Quiz 9 due Oct. 18

-Discussion 10 due Oct. 20

-Journal 8 due Oct. 22

- Read Chapter 8 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 11- Australia, Oceania, Antarctica

-Map Quiz 10 due Oct. 25

-Discussion 11 due Oct. 27

-Journal 9 due Oct. 29

- Read Chapter 9 in *Essentials in World Regional Geography*

Week 12- Middle America

-Map Quiz 11 due Nov. 01

-Discussion 12 due Nov. 03

-Journal 10 due Nov. 05

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

Week 13- South America

-Map Quiz 12 due Nov. 08

-Discussion 13 due Nov. 10

-Journal 11 due Nov. 12

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

Week 14- United States

-Map Quiz 13 due Nov. 15

-Discussion 14 due Nov. 17

-Journal 12 due Nov. 19

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

Week 15- Canada

-Map Quiz 14 due Nov. 22

-HAPPY THANKSGIVING

-HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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

Week 16- World Regional Geography in Context

-Extra Credit due Dec. 03

-Read "The World is No Longer Flat to Me" on Blackboard

-Work on Final Projects

Finals Week: **Final Projects due Dec. 06!**

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 Blackboard, 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 Blackboard.

Blackboard 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 Blackboard, watch the videos, or view presentations. Students must keep track of the class schedule and all announcements posted here and on Blackboard.

Online Course Conduct

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. Zeros are bad!
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.

Assignments

1. Journal Entries: Write a one paragraph (150-300 words) reflection of the 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 in Chicago Style. You can find citation resources on Blackboard. You will submit a journal entry every Friday after Week 1.

2. Discussions: Write a one-paragraph (150-300 words) response to a weekly prompt you find on Blackboard. 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. Quizzes: You will take a map quiz every Monday. Each quiz will have ten questions and will cover the material you learn.

3. Midterm Project: Research Paper

For your midterm paper, choose one country from a region we will study up to the midterm date. Complete a research paper on that country. Your midterm paper should be between 1200-1500 words long, be typed in 12-point font, and double-spaced. Find detailed instructions for your midterm paper on Blackboard.

4. Final Project: "The Trans American Expedition Itinerary"

Utilizing all the information and skills you gained in class, you will develop a thematic itinerary describing the necessary information needed to travel between cities in the Americas. The trip must be overland and must cross at least two of the regions we discussed in class. Your itinerary must have a physical or cultural (human) geographic theme. You will develop a portfolio describing your thematic itinerary to submit via Blackboard. Find detailed instructions for your final project on Blackboard.

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 20% of your overall grade each. All journals will be worth 20% of your overall grade. All discussions will be worth 20% of your overall grade. All quizzes will be worth 20% of your overall grade.

A=90-100%
B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=59% and below

Class Procedures

Students need to be present in the Blackboard course if they are to benefit from instruction and know the exact dates of all assignments. Grades, attendance and assignment due dates are on Blackboard. All assignments will be due by 11:59pm Central Time on the days they are due.

Additional Class Information

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and I do not tolerate it. My responses to students who commit academic dishonesty 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 academic dishonesty, I may refer the student to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs or his designated representative for disciplinary review subject to possible disciplinary action. Scholastic dishonesty is defined as misconduct including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating and collusion. Additionally, I will treat assignments that include excessive artificial syntax as plagiarized. Assignments with artificial syntax look like machine learning technologies generated them rather than human thought. For clear definitions of the UARM policy for Academic Dishonesty, see pages 88-92 of the current catalog.

Late Work

-I will take a letter grade per day deduction off late Midterms, Discussions, and Journals. If you turn in a Discussion, Journal, or Midterm more than nine (9) days late, it will receive a zero.
-You must submit every quiz by its due date each week at 11:59pm. **I will not accept late quizzes.**
-There can be no late Finals. You must turn your Final Projects in on time!

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.

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.

Communication
The primary form of electronic communication in this course will be by email. You must check your UA Rich Mountain email regularly. I highly recommend you set up your UA Rich Mountain email to push to your phone so that you get notifications that you received an email. If you need to contact me, the best way is also via email. Please allow 24 hours for a response and expect responses during normal business hours. However, during my office hours you can visit my office or call my office phone at ext. 1342.

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 materials 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 engage course materials. However, students have the option to check out campus computers from the library (Johnson Learning Commons).

Face Mask Policy: As per the direction of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, all students who come to campus are required to wear a proper face covering. A proper face covering completely covers the nose and mouth. Masks with holes or masks that do not completely cover nose and mouth are not effective. Facemasks reduce the risk of exposure and presently allow classrooms to meet without the use of flex or Zoom classrooms. 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.

Food and Drink: Food and drinks, including water, are not allowed in the classroom at any time.

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

Student Support Services: SSS can help students improve study skills, help with writing, and prepare students to be successful at the college level. Visit their website to seek their assistance and tutoring.

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 provides transformative education to all learners.

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.