

GEOGRAPHY 161: World Regional Geography

Fall Semester 2007

MWF 1:00-1:50 GH 7

Instructor: Dr. Devon A. Hansen

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Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00

or by appointment

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Course Objectives:

World Regional Geography focuses upon the ideas, concepts, and models of regional geography to study the major realms and regions of the world. This course has two basic but interrelated objectives: to familiarize students with the diversity of people and places in the world, and to introduce students to the diverse world of geography. We will use a spatial approach to bridge the study of and interactions between human societies and natural environments. This course is designed to help you master factual information and concepts and apply these to analyzing regional landscapes and understanding current world issues in their spatial and cultural contexts. Critical thinking about the world around you is stressed.

Students are encouraged to pay close attention to events happening around the world, to watch daily news programs (i.e., PBS and BBC), to read newspapers and newsmagazines, and to use web sites (i.e., www.bbc.com; www.cnn.com) as relevant global news sources. Class time will be used to discuss major world events as they occur.

World Regional Geography satisfies the General Education Requirement (GER) in Social Sciences and World Cultures designation. This course addresses three UND GER goals: (1) Think critically and creatively; (2) Understand how conclusions are reached in the social sciences; and, (3) Develop some familiarity with cultures other than their own.

Upon completing this course ...

- Students will gain an understanding of selected key terms, concepts, principles, and models of geography at several scales of geographic inquiry.
- Students will go beyond just what is where to understanding why things are as they are. Geographic awareness and knowledge means examining and understanding the spatial patterns and processes found in the major regions of the world.
- Students will acquire the necessary geographic foundations to build an informed view of global current events.

This course relates to the following goals of the UND Department of Geography ...

Goal 1: Students will gain an understanding of the world in spatial terms.

Goal 2: Students will develop an appreciation of the fundamental themes and processes of human geography.

Goal 3: Students will gain an understanding of the analytical tools used to investigate and solve spatial problems.

Goal 4: Students will become better citizens over the course of their lives by developing a global, regional, and local perspective on human and environmental issues.

Course Textbook:

de Blij, H. J. and Peter O. Muller. 2006. Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts. Twelfth Edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

A current world atlas with both cultural and physical features is recommended.

Videos relevant to a region being discussed are usually accompanied by a set of questions that students are required to answer to further their understanding of that region. Class materials (i.e., blank maps and lists, writing assignments, exam study outlines, etc.) are placed on Blackboard (www.online.und.nodak.edu).

Course Policies:

Attendance is expected. All materials covered in class lectures and assigned in the readings are fair game for the exams. If there are any questions or problems with the readings, lectures, assignments, or exams, please see me during office hours or by appointment.

If you have emergency medical information to share with me, if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, or if you need accommodations in this course because of a disability, please make an appointment with me. My office location is 162 O'Kelly-Ireland Hall and my office hours are MWF 11:00-12:00. If you plan to request disability accommodations, you are expected to register with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office (190 McCannel Hall, 777-3425 v/tty).

Course Evaluation:

Course grade will be based on class participation, class assignments, and three exams. The class participation (i.e., current events/issues), class assignments will consist of in-class exercises (i.e., questions related to the class videos) and a 2-3 page writing assignment. The three exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, definitions, short answer, and map identification.

First exam	25%
Second exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Class participation/assignments	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

If you are unable to take an exam on the scheduled day, I must be notified in advance to make alternate arrangements. Exams may be taken late only with documented excuses. No extra credit.

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture topics</u>	<u>Reading assignments</u>
August 22	Introduction to the course	
August 24/27	<u>Introduction: World Regional Geography</u> Geography defined, Spatial perspective Geographic realms and regions defined	Introduction, 1-16
August 29/31 September 5	<u>Introduction: World Regional Geography</u> Culture, Population, Refugee issues Core-periphery relationship, Patterns of development, Globalization Class video – <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>	Introduction, 16-41

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture topics</u>	<u>Reading assignments</u>
September 3	Labor Day holiday – No class	
September 7/10	<u>Europe: Defining the realm</u> Revolutions of modernizing Europe Contemporary Europe European supranationalism, European Union (EU)	Chapter 1, 42-66
September 12/14	<u>Europe: Regions of the realm</u> Eastern Europe (former Yugoslavia) Class video – <i>The Road to Nowhere: Yugoslavia</i>	Chapter 1, 66-101
September 17/19	<u>Russia: Defining the realm</u> Russia's heritage, Soviet legacy Soviet devolution	Chapter 2, 102-128
September 21	<u>Russia: Regions of the realm</u> Russian core, Siberia, The Russian Far East (Vladivostok)	Chapter 2, 128-141
September 24	FIRST EXAM	
September 26/28 October 1	<u>Subsaharan Africa: Defining the realm</u> Environment and health Class video – <i>Sowing Seeds of Hunger</i> Colonialism – The Berlin Conference Culture (language and religion) Class video – <i>The Swahili Coast</i>	Chapter 6, 274-295
October 3/5	<u>Subsaharan Africa: Regions of the realm</u> West Africa – Nigeria; Liberia Southern Africa - Namibia, South Africa	Chapter 6, 295-323
October 8/10	<u>North Africa/Southwest Asia: Defining the realm</u> Hearths of culture, Islam, Impact of oil	Chapter 7, 324-343
October 12/15/17	<u>North Africa/Southwest Asia: Regions of the realm</u> Middle East (Arab-Israel conflict, Iraq) Turkestan - Afghanistan	Chapter 7, 343-377
October 19/22	<u>South Asia: Defining the realm</u> Realm of poverty; Human sequence	Chapter 8, 378-393
October 24/26	<u>South Asia: Regions of the realm</u> Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka The problem of Kashmir	Chapter 8, 393-423

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture topics</u>	<u>Reading assignments</u>
October 29	SECOND EXAM	
October 31 November 2/5	<u>East Asia: Defining the realm</u> Historical geography; Communist China	Chapter 9, 424-434
November 7/9	<u>East Asia: Regions of the realm</u> China Proper - Population issues China's Pacific Rim, Special Economic Zones Hong Kong (Xianggang), Xizang (Tibet) The Jakota Triangle (Japan, Korea, Taiwan)	Chapter 9, 434-491
November 12	Veteran's Day holiday – No class	
November 14/16	<u>Southeast Asia: Defining the realm</u> Impact of colonialism Political geography – boundaries, shapes of states	Chapter 10, 492-509
November 19/21/26	<u>Southeast Asia: Regions of the realm</u> Mainland Southeast Asia - Thailand, Vietnam Insular Southeast Asia - Indonesia—Diversity in unity East Timor independence	Chapter 10, 509-537
November 22/23	Thanksgiving holiday – No class	
November 28/30	<u>The Austral Realm: Defining the realm</u> Environment and population settlement	Chapter 11, 538-543
December 3/5	<u>The Austral Realm: Regions of the realm</u> Australia, New Zealand Class video – <i>Stolen Generations</i>	Chapter 11, 543-559
FINAL EXAM	3:15 Wednesday December 12	