

Course Syllabus

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Course description

Geography 2750 examines the **human** and **physical** geographic structure of all world regions, defined primarily at the continental scale, and examines regions in **global context**.

Office hours

- **Regular scheduled office hours** aren't happening. Sorry. I teach in-person in Marion, so Columbus is just not doable this semester.
- **Zoom office hours**, on the other hand, can be scheduled for any day/time that is mutually convenient for the student and instructor.
- Furthermore, students can send Carmen messages, texts, or emails anytime, and should expect a response within 24 hours or less.

Textbook

This course uses an ebook: **Plaid Avenger (13th edition)**  (<https://osu.khpcontent.com/the-plaid-avenger/page/part1>). A hard copy of the 12th edition is available for 2-hour in-library use from the Thompson Library closed reserve desk.

Class schedule

The schedule of all class activities (primarily current events article submissions/discussions, and presentation submissions/discussions) appears in the calendar (link on the left) as well as the course summary at the bottom of this page. Do not lose track of due dates. **Your instructor doesn't accept late work without advance notification.** "Advance notification" means a message (Carmen DM, email, text) sent prior to the minute the work is due.

What to expect from this class, and what the instructor expects from students

GEOG 2750 is a seminar course consisting of five units, each covering a different part of the world:

- Unit 1: North America, Australia & New Zealand
- Unit 2: Europe & Russia
- Unit 3: East, Southeast, and South Asia

- Unit 4: The Middle East/North Africa and Africa South of the Sahara
- Unit 5: The Caribbean, Middle America, and South America

Each unit after the first will feature discussions of current events designed to contextualize the world today in terms of cultural and natural history, diversity, and global significance. Students will submit most of the current events articles themselves, and engage in discussion of each other's articles. Furthermore, students working in small groups are expected to research one culture trait across diverse cultures to create four presentations (one per unit, units 2-5) and demonstrate their findings to the class for discussion.

Assessments: There are no exams. Students will instead be assessed over their contributions to discussions (both the articles they submit, and the discussion posts they make in response to other articles) and their four group presentations. Grades follow the standard OSU scheme below. These are the minimum scores required to earn the indicated grade:

- 93% A (i.e., anyone earning at least 93% of the points in the class should expect an A for the course grade)
- 90% A-
- 87% B+
- 83% B
- 80% B-
- 77% C+
- 73% C
- 70% C-
- 67% D+
- 60% D (there is no D- grade although I will give you one if you ask and your grade is above 60%)
- anything below 60% E

This course uses an ebook, “Plaid Avenger’s World” (most recent edition, link to be added soon). Thompson Library has a [copy of the 12th edition on closed reserve](https://guides.osu.edu/c.php?g=1346950)  (<https://guides.osu.edu/c.php?g=1346950>) in case you like how you look with a physical textbook. I know I do. All discussion posts (of current events articles and of culture trait presentations) are expected to make explicit reference to material in relevant parts of the textbook. Students may also find an atlas (physical book or app) useful.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a **3-credit-hour course**. According to [Ohio State policy \(http://go.osu.edu/credithours\)](http://go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (in our case, participating asynchronously in online discussions) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C)

average.

Attendance and participation requirements:

- **Lectures and discussions: NOT APPLICABLE**

This is an online class, so there's no expectation that you will attend lectures (which don't happen anyway) or discussions (in a physical sense). Even if there was, I don't know where I would send you.

- **Participation in discussion forums: REQUIRED**

Online discussion forums form the basis for all current-events discussions. You will be graded on the quality of your participation in the forums.

- **Submission deadlines: SET IN STONE.**

Even though this class is asynchronous, that doesn't mean everything is due on the last day of the semester. Due dates for submitted articles, reaction posts, group presentations will occur regularly throughout the semester. The course summary (below) and the calendar (at left on the desktop version of Carmen) will be useful in keeping you from missing anything important.

- **Office hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Meeting with the instructor during office hours may be tricky, seeing how he's never on campus. Well, he's on a campus, just not yours. Probably. If you'd like to get questions answered, engage in friendly banter, or just rant, go back to the home page and use one of those suggested contact methods to get his attention, and we'll work out a time to meet, virtually or otherwise.

Follow these links for additional information about how the class works.

- **GE Expected Learning Outcomes for GEOG 2750**

- [New GE \(https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/new-ge-expected-learning-outcomes-for-geog-2750\)](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/new-ge-expected-learning-outcomes-for-geog-2750)
- [Legacy GE \(https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/legacy-ge-expected-learning-outcomes-for-geog-2750\)](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/legacy-ge-expected-learning-outcomes-for-geog-2750)

- **Class policies (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/classroom-policies-2>)**

- **Grading (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/grading-700>)**

- **Course technology/IT help (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/course-technology-slash-it-help>) (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/g81a93f1c3ab2ba2626077532f944ffd4>)**

- **Plagiarism prevention (<https://cstw.osu.edu/policies>) and other services from OSU CSTW; scroll down to "Plagiarism" at the bottom**

- **Copyright disclaimer (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/copyright-disclaimer-2>)**

Columbus Campus Resources

Please take advantage of the resources provided by this campus and the University. We have services designed to assist you with studying and learning, and people eager to help with the stress of being a student. Feel free to investigate their services on your own, or you may ask me anytime if you would like me to introduce you to any of the staff here to work with you.

- **[Statement from the Office of Disability Services \(https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/disability-services\)](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/disability-services)**
 - Reach out to Disability Services if you have concerns about any condition or situation--disability-related or not--that makes it difficult for you to learn or participate fully in this class.
- **[Information for active military and military veteran students \(https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/information-for-active-military-and-military-veteran-students\)](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/information-for-active-military-and-military-veteran-students)**
 - How to coordinate with your instructor if military orders require you to be off-campus short-term, plus access to services for active military and military veterans.
- **[Counseling and wellness services \(https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/counseling-and-wellness-services\)](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/counseling-and-wellness-services)**
 - Visit the Counseling and Wellness Services if you're having difficulty concentrating, coping, or taking care of yourself. Their free services are available to all students.
- **[Grievances and Solving Problems \(https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/grievances-and-solving-problems\)](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/grievances-and-solving-problems)**
 - Faculty are expected by the University to report student attendance. Failure to attend classes may impact a student's eligibility for financial aid.

If your home campus is elsewhere, please contact the Columbus campus services you need and they will be happy to connect you to resources closer to you.

Additional University statements

In the interest of advancing community fairness and safety, the University has made these statements and established these policies:

- **[University statement on academic misconduct \(https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/university-statement-on-academic-misconduct-2\)](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/university-statement-on-academic-misconduct-2)**
 - Academic misconduct includes cheating and plagiarism. OSU takes this very seriously.
- **[University statement on academic integrity and artificial intelligence \(https://](https://)**

osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/artificial-intelligence-and-academic-integrity

- Academic integrity requires that members of the university community perform their work "with fairness and honesty." (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/intellectual-diversity>)
- **[University statement on creating an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/university-statement-on-creating-an-environment-free-from-harassment-discrimination-and-sexual-misconduct)** (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/university-statement-on-creating-an-environment-free-from-harassment-discrimination-and-sexual-misconduct>)
 - Students should expect their experience at the university to be welcoming. Any student who wishes to report a hostile environment may do so with confidentiality.
- **[University statement on intellectual diversity](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/intellectual-diversity)** (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/intellectual-diversity>)
 - Class activities, including discussions, can and should address controversial topics with openness toward diverse viewpoints.
- **[University statement on religious accommodations](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/religious-accommodations)** (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/religious-accommodations>)
 - Faculty will respect a student's request for accommodations based on religious observations. It is the student's responsibility to advise faculty of their need for accommodations.
- **[University statement on sensitive content](https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/university-statement-on-sensitive-content)** (<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/pages/university-statement-on-sensitive-content>)
 - Some media and discussions may involve material (such as violent weather, or future climate change scenarios) that some students may find disturbing.

Due dates for the items below may change slightly. You'll get at least a few days of warning.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Sep 3, 2025	 <u>Group assignment survey</u> (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846382)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 15, 2025	 <u>Unit 1 (response to instructor's questions)</u> (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846384)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Sep 22, 2025	 Unit 1 (response to presentations) (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846385)	due by 11:59pm
	 Unit 2 (article and questions) (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846386)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 29, 2025	 Unit 2 (response to articles) (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846387)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 6, 2025	 Unit 2 culture traits presentation (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846389)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 13, 2025	 Unit 2 (response to presentations) (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846388)	due by 11:59pm
	 Unit 3 (article and questions) (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846390)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 20, 2025	 Unit 3 (response to articles) (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846391)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 27, 2025	 Unit 3 culture traits presentation (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846393)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 3, 2025	 Unit 3 (response to presentations) (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846392)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 <u>Unit 4 (article and questions)</u> https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846394	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 10, 2025	 <u>Unit 4 (response to articles)</u> https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846395	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 17, 2025	 <u>Unit 4 culture traits presentation</u> (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846397)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 24, 2025	 <u>Unit 4 (response to presentations)</u> (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846396)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Unit 5 (article and questions)</u> https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846398	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 1, 2025	 <u>Unit 5 (response to articles)</u> https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846399	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 8, 2025	 <u>Unit 5 culture traits presentation</u> (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846401)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 15, 2025	 <u>Unit 5 (response to presentations)</u> (https://osu.instructure.com/courses/192551/assignments/4846400)	due by 11:59pm