

World Regional Geography (Geography 2750)

Course Information

Term: Autumn Semester 2014

The Ohio State University

Department of Geography

Call Number: 19471

Class Meeting: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:35AM–10:55AM, Cockins Hall 0312

Credits: 3

Instructor: Austin Kocher

Office: Derby Hall, Room 1131

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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00PM–2:00PM and by appointment

Mailbox: 1035 Derby Hall

Course Description

Geography 2750 is an introductory course to world regional geography. This course examines the variety and distinctiveness of places and regions, while maintaining a strong focus on relationships, connections, and integration of various regions of the world. This course also introduces students to the academic discipline of geography as well as professional applications of geography by engaging geographic approaches to social issues. Students will leave the course with an appreciation for geographic thinking, and greater understanding of the complex modern world.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Name, locate, and describe regions of the world employing key geographical concepts (e.g. climate, water, population, culture).
2. Recognize the reciprocal relationships between social and environmental processes.
3. Identify and discuss differences and interconnections between world regions (e.g. globalization, development).
4. Apply core geographic concepts and methods to examine world events and issues (e.g. conflict, economic agreements, climate change).
5. Assess their own place in the world: In what ways am I part of the global system?

Course Materials

Textbook: Rowntree, L., Lewis, M., Price, M., & Wyckoff, W. (2014). *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*. Pearson Education.

Additional readings, handouts, and web-based materials will be assigned or suggested throughout the term. These materials will be distributed by the instructor through Carmen or in class, and will be used during classroom activities.

Course Expectations and Evaluation

Attendance and Participation (5%)

You are expected to be present for class meetings in order to take lecture notes, participate in group discussion, and get clarification for course material. Attendance will be taken daily. Student participation will be evaluated based on willingness to engage in course discussion and the quality of each student's contributions.

Homework (20%)

Homework assignments are designed to check comprehension and prepare you for the exams. Homework will be submitted online through Carmen and must be completed before the start of class on the day it is due. Homework may not be submitted late except with instructor approval.

Exams (75%)

There are three exams in this course: two midterm exams and a final exam. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. The exams will test your ability to comprehend, synthesize, and apply course material. A short review session will be held in class before each exam to answer general questions. A brief study guide will also be provided. Exams may not be taken late except with instructor approval.

Grading Scale

A	93-100%		C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%		C	70-76%
B+	87-89%		D	65-69%
B	83-86%		E	60-64%
B-	80-82%			

Course Policy

Tardiness

Student should be prepared to start class on time. Students who arrive after class begins will not be given extra time on activities, quizzes, or exams, and will need to review missed material outside of class. Tardiness will be documented, and excessive tardiness may count against attendance.

Technology in the Classroom

Technology that is not required as a part of the current lecture or activity is not permitted to be used in class. This includes laptops, mobile phones, music players, tablet computers, and any other device with an on-off switch. If any such technologies are used in class without permission, I will assume that the student is not present for class and points will be assessed against attendance. Contact the instructor ahead of time if you anticipate an important interruption. Exceptions will be made for students who use assistive technology approved by the Office for Disability Services.

Respect

In line with university policy, discriminatory or derogatory behaviors and comments will not be tolerated. Examples include (but are not limited to) derogatory comments based on ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, native language, disability, or any other personal or social characteristic that may be used for the purpose of insult.

General Elective Fulfillment

In the Program of General Education, students achieve basic skills, competencies, and breadth of knowledge expected of a College of Arts and Sciences graduate. This is a Diversity: Global Studies, and a Social Science: Human Natural and Economic Resources course.

Diversity: Global Studies

1. The Goal of Diversity GE: Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.
2. Global Studies Expected Learning Outcomes
 - a. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
 - b. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

Social Science: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources

1. The Goal of Social Science GE: Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions;

and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

2. Social Science Expected Learning Outcomes:

- a. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of individuals and groups.
- b. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in social and cultural conflicts of human existence, and the
- c. Students comprehend and assess individual and group values and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

3. Human, Natural, and Economic Resources Expected Learning Outcomes

- c. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of the use and distribution of human, natural, and economic resources and decisions and policies concerning such resources.
- d. Students understand the political, economic, and social trade-offs reflected in individual decisions and societal policymaking and enforcement and their similarities and differences across contexts.
- e. Students comprehend and assess the physical, social, economic, and political sustainability of individual and societal decisions with respect to resource use.

Disabilities

Students with specific disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>. Please inform the instructor as soon as possible to determine reasonable modifications or accommodations that will make this course a successful experience for you.

Academic Integrity and Misconduct

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination.

If you are suspected of committing academic misconduct, your Instructor is obligated by University Rules (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487) to report these suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). If COAM determines that you have violated the University's

Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in the course and suspension or dismissal.

Course Schedule (Tentative)

1. Course Introduction and Syllabus Review (8/28/2014)
2. What is geography? (9/2/2014)
3. Diversity Amid Globalization (9/4/2014)
4. Diversity Amid Globalization (9/9/2014)
5. The Changing Global Environment (9/11/2014)
6. The Changing Global Environment (9/16/2014)
7. North America (9/18/2014)
8. North America (9/23/2014)
9. Latin America (9/25/2014)
10. Latin America (9/30/2014)
11. Caribbean (10/2/2014)
12. Exam 1 (10/7/2014)
13. Sub-Saharan Africa (10/9/2014)
14. Sub-Saharan Africa (10/14/2014)
15. Southwest Asia & North Africa (10/16/2014)
16. Southwest Asia & North Africa (10/21/2014)
17. Europe (10/23/2014)
18. Europe (10/28/2014)
19. Russia (10/30/2014)
20. Russia (11/4/2014)
21. Exam 2 (11/6/2014)
22. NO CLASS (11/11/2014)
23. Central Asia (11/13/2014)
24. East Asia (11/18/2014)
25. East Asia (11/20/2014)
26. South Asia (11/25/2014)
27. NO CLASS (11/27/2014)
28. South Asia (12/2/2014)
29. Southeast Asia (12/4/2014)
30. Australia and Oceania (12/9/2014)
31. FINAL EXAM: December 12, 2014 (Friday)