

WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

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Some of the most important challenges facing the world are associated with globalization, the increasing interconnectedness of people and places through economy, politics, and culture. These make understanding our contemporary world a necessary skill. Although globalization cuts across many disciplines, world regional geography is a fundamental starting point because of its focus on regions, environment, culture, development and geopolitics.

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 the ability to contextualize global happenings (whether environmental, economic, political, social, or a combination of these) and use this knowledge to better understand your place in the world.

Course goals

Specifically, by the end of the course, students will be able to:

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

Required books (available at Long's/Barnes and Noble on High Street):

1) Lester Rowntree et al. 2015. *Diversity Amid Globalization*, 6th edn. New York: Prentice Hall. Please use the access code provided through the textbook purchase to open an account on MasteringGeography:

<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringgeography/>

2) Pietra Rivoli. 2014. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade*, 2nd edn. New York: Wiley.

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

- 1) 10 in-class quizzes: 10%
- 2) Geography journal: 10%
- 3) Story map project: 10%
- 4) Book review: 10%
- 5) Contemplative essays: 10%
- 6) Mid-term exam: 20%
- 7) Final exam: 30%

For detailed instructions on assignments, see the relevant files in the course's contents page on CARMEN.

Geography 2750 will fulfill the Social Sciences GE "Human, Natural and Economic Resources" sub-categorization Goals and Expected Learning Outcomes, as currently listed in the CAS website at <https://ascas.osu.edu/curriculum/ge-goals-and-learning-outcomes#SocialScience>:

Goals: 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.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Students comprehend and assess the physical, social, economic, and political sustainability of individual and societal decisions with respect to resource use.

Additionally, will fulfill the Diversity (Global Studies) GE Goals and Expected Learning Outcomes, as currently listed in the CAS website at <https://ascas.osu.edu/curriculum/ge-goals-and-learning-outcomes#Diversity>:

Goals: 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.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. 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.
2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

“It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).”

DISABILITY SERVICES

“Students with 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/>.”

Class Policies and Guidelines

Must I always attend class?

Consistent attendance is crucial to success in this class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. You are expected to attend each session and to provide documented evidence (doctor's note, etc.) to receive an excused absence. Please note that absences due to extracurricular activities (i.e., Model UN, club travel, family travel, etc.) do not count as excused. After three unexcused absences, your final grade will begin to drop by a percentage point per unexcused absence.

Must I participate in discussion?

Yes. Reading and listening are good but are not enough to guarantee effective learning. Verbally articulating your ideas is a helpful way for you to process, organize, and express your thoughts. Active participation is therefore expected of everyone.

What is the policy on late assignments?

For logistical purposes and because deadlines are deadlines, late assignments will only be accepted in the case of a documented medical or family emergency, or if an extension has been granted before the due date. Unfortunate occurrences, such as a failed Internet connection, roommate crises, traffic, etc. do not count. Please do not request an extension unless you have a valid excuse and documentation. Assignments not turned in on time receive a 0% grade.

Can I use a laptop in class?

I do not permit the use of laptop computers or other devices during class unless you have a documented reason to use one. Please verify with me if you have such a need. This rule is in place as a way to help you concentrate and to foster better discussion and integration in the class. Considerable research in recent years shows that students who take notes in the traditional fashion (with pen and paper) learn better in class.

What constitutes appropriate classroom etiquette?

I regard the classroom as a relaxed, yet formal learning environment. What does this mean? Put simply, I hope to foster a classroom where all of you feel at ease to share your ideas freely and take the learning process seriously. This requires a few simple rules. Firstly, please arrive on time. Arriving late is disruptive and undermines the spirit of respectful intellectual exchange we hope to generate in the classroom. Second, if you must leave class early, please notify me in advance. Finally, I ask that cellphones and other digital devices not be visible during class. This last rule is very important.

How should I contact and address the professor?

I maintain designated weekly office hours and am happy to accommodate requests to meet outside those hours, if needed. I will reply within 24 hours to all *substantive* email queries. Queries that can be answered by reading the syllabus will receive either no reply or an email that reads as follows: ITS (in the syllabus). In the subject heading of emails, please write "RE: GEOG2750." I also request that emails be written formally. By this, I mean that emails should be written with "Dear Dr. Woodworth," and should be signed off with "Sincerely." This may sound old-fashioned, but I make this request explicit in order to eliminate any guesswork on your part -- and also because I think it's good practice.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Aug. 26	Course Intro		
Aug. 28	Introduction to the geographer's conceptual toolkit	Syllabus; Ch. 1	CE 1*
Aug. 31	Labor Day – No Class		
Sept. 2	Introduction to the geographer's conceptual toolkit	Ch. 1	
Sept. 4	Diversity Amid Globalization	Ch. 1	Quiz 1
Sept. 7	The Changing Global Environment	Ch. 2	Journal entry
Sept. 9	The Global Environment	Ch. 2	
Sept. 11	The Global Environment	Ch. 2	Quiz 2
Sept. 14	North America	Ch. 3	Journal entry
Sept. 16	North America	Ch. 3	
Sept. 18	North America	Ch. 3	Quiz 3
Sept. 21	Latin America & the Caribbean	Ch. 4	Journal entry
Sept. 23	Latin America & the Caribbean	Ch. 4 & 5	
Sept. 25	Latin America & the Caribbean	Ch. 4 & 5	Quiz 4
Sept. 28	Global connections: tourism	<i>Gringo Trails</i>	CE 2; journal entry
Sept. 30	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 6	
Oct. 2	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 6	Journal entry
Oct. 5	Sub-Saharan Africa; global connections: trade, war, disease	Ch. 6; watch <i>Darwin's Nightmare</i>	Quiz 5; CE 3
Oct. 7	North Africa & Southwest Asia	Ch. 7	Journal entry
Oct. 9	North Africa & Southwest Asia	Ch. 7	
Oct. 12	North Africa & Southwest Asia	Ch. 7	Quiz 6
Oct. 14	Mid-term exam review		
Oct. 16	No Class – Autumn Break		
Oct. 19	Mid-term Exam		
Oct. 21	Story Map Assignment		
Oct. 23	Story Map Group Work		Story map
Oct. 26	Europe	Ch. 8	Journal entry
Oct. 28	Europe	Ch. 8	
Oct. 30	Europe	Ch. 8	Quiz 7
Nov. 2	Global connections: culture, migration, urban space	Watch <i>La Haine</i>	CE 4;
Nov. 4	Russia & Central Asia	Ch. 9 & 10	Journal entry
Nov. 6	Russia & Central Asia	Ch. 9 & 10	Quiz 8
Nov. 9	East Asia	Ch. 11	Journal entry

Nov. 11	No Class – Veterans Day		
Nov. 13	East Asia	Ch. 11	
Nov. 16	East Asia	Ch. 11	Quiz 9
Nov. 18	South & Southeast Asia	Ch. 12	Journal entry
Nov. 20	South & Southeast Asia	Ch. 12 & 13	
Nov. 23	South & Southeast Asia	Ch. 13	Quiz 10;
Nov. 25	No Class – Thanksgiving and Columbus Day		
Nov. 27			
Nov. 30	Global connections: global social life of things	<i>Travels of a T-Shirt</i>	Journal entry
Dec. 2	Global connections: global social life of things	<i>Travels of a T-Shirt</i>	Book review essay
Dec. 4	Australia & Oceania	Ch. 14	Journal entry
Dec. 7	Australia & Oceania	Ch. 14	
Dec. 9	Final exam review		
Final Exam TBD			

* CE: Contemplative essay