

GEOG 2750-20 World Regional Geography (18784)

The Ohio State University
Spring 2015

MON/WED/FRI 13:50-14:45
191 Mendenhall Lab

Course Carmen page:	https://carmen.osu.edu/d2l/home/11476194
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Course Description

This is an introductory course on geography that examines the variety and distinctiveness of places and regions, while maintaining a strong focus on how people and places around the world are closely connected despite distance and borders. The course will examine the human and physical geographic structure of world regions and consider how these regions are constructed. The 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.

Class sessions are composed of a combination of lecture, discussion, and student presentation. Lecture is designed to provide broad introductions to major topics and essential concepts of geography. Class participation not only requires completing assigned readings before class but also actively engaging in class discussion. We will discuss one world region a week and each week will have a presentation by a small group of students on the process of globalization of a major city in the region.

Learning Goals

This course is a General Education (GE) course that fulfills the requirements of Diversity: Global Studies as well as Social Science: Human, Natural and Economic Resources.

Diversity: Global Studies

The goal of courses in this category is to help 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 of GE courses on Global Studies are:

- 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.
- 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

The goal of courses in this category is to help students learn about the systematic study of human behavior and cognition, of the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and of the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources. Expected Learning Outcomes of GE courses on Human, Natural, and Economic Resources are:

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

The primary goal of this course is to learn how changes in a place are produced by changes in other places and vice versa. By the end of the course, students will be able to contextualize global happenings and use this knowledge to better understand their place in the world and. In addition, students will be able to:

1. Name and locate regions of the world and describe their specificities and generalities
2. Learn fundamental concepts in geography
3. Apply geographic concepts to examine world events and issues
4. Recognize the relationships between social and environmental processes
5. Learn the forces of globalization and how globalization impacts people's lives and environment

Learning Materials

This course uses a textbook titled *World Regional Geography: A Development Approach* (Johnson, Douglas L., Viola Haarmann, and Merrill L. Johnson. 2014. 11th ed. Pearson Prentice Hall). You can acquire a copy from the University Bookstore or any online book sellers. One chapter of the book is assigned for reading each week. Students should come to class after completing the assigned reading. Additional readings will be assigned occasionally and will be made available on the course Carmen page.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated. Please inform the instructor, either in person or via email, as soon as possible of your 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

By coming to class, you acknowledge that you understand the policies below and pledge to respect them. You will be asked to leave the class when you do not comply with the policies.

1. You should come to class ready—having finished the assigned readings and ready to learn and participate in class discussion.
2. Respect: You should exhibit proper behavior at all times in class. Proper behavior requires respect for the instructor and fellow students. Your attention must be on the speaker who holds the floor. 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.
3. No electronics are allowed in class, including laptops, tablet computers, mobile phones, and music players. Exceptions will be made for students who use assistive technology approved by the Office for Disability Services. Each time you disregard the policy and use electronics without permission, you will be asked to leave the class and one Participation point will be deducted from your final grade.
4. Attendance: You should come to every class to succeed in this course. However, attendance will not be documented. You do not have to be excused and you will not be penalized for absence. Absence is your own loss of opportunity to learn. It is your responsibility to make up for your own loss.
5. Tardiness: Student should be prepared to start class on time. Tardiness will not be documented. Students who arrive after class begins will not be given extra time on activities, quizzes, or exams, either.
6. Absence from exams and your own presentation will not be excused. No make-up will be allowed for fairness to fellow students. If you cannot come to exams or your own presentation due to emergency, you should email the instructor *as soon as possible* and inform the emergency. Your absence will be excused when (a) you present to the instructor an original copy of the documentation of your emergency that matches the information you provided in your emergency notice email and (b) you receive via email the instructor's confirmation that the instructor accepts the emergency documentation.
7. It is your responsibility to frequently check your OSU email account and the course Carmen page to remain updated with the course schedule and additional instructions. Any malfunction of email or change of email account cannot be an excuse.

Academic integrity

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 at <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc>.

Evaluation

Grades will be posted on the course Carmen page when graded items are returned to students. Any questions on grade should be raised to the instructor via email within two weeks since the grade in question was released. Your final grade will be determined according to the OSU Standard Scheme as below.

Exams	15% X 3	93<=x<=100	A
Presentation (or substitute paper)	15%	90<=x<93	A-
Assignments	10% X 2	87<=x<90	B+
Quizzes	5% X 3	83<=x<87	B
Participation	5%	80<=x<83	B-
		77<=x<80	C+
		73<=x<77	C
		70<=x<73	C-
		67<=x<70	D+
		60<=x<67	D
		0<=x<60	E

Exams:

There are **three non-cumulative exams** (15% of the final grade each) throughout the semester (See **Course Outline** for detail). Each exam will last for 55 minutes. Each exam will ask students to answer three questions in the format of a short essay for each of approximately three paragraphs on selected topics based on class discussions. Answers will be evaluated for their correctness as well as students’ ability to write with clarity within a limited period of time. Students who arrive after exam begins will not be given extra time. No make-up will be allowed for fairness to fellow students. If you cannot come to exams due to emergency, you should email the instructor ***as soon as possible*** and inform the emergency (See **Class Policies** for detail).

Presentation:

Students will make a small group of two or more and choose a region to make a presentation on. Group formation and region selection will take place in WEEK 2. Presentation should be about the process of globalization with a focus on a major city in the region. Students are welcome to focus on a specific landmark in a city, or a country instead of a city. Each group should inform the instructor of their choice of place two weeks prior to their presentation or earlier.

As a group students will conduct a brief research on the history and geography of the place of their choice as well as politics and economy to situate the place in the global society. The group will make a 15 minute presentation to class and entertain questions on the presentation on the last meeting day of the week that covers the region. The presentation will be evaluated for the clarity of presentation and the depth of analysis.

The goal of the project is to achieve synergy effect of learning through collective research and discussion. All communications within the group should be made professionally and shared by the entire group. Recommended method of communication is OSU email.

Students who do not have a group by the end of WEEK 2 will write a paper of at least 1,200 words in length to substitute for the presentation. Further instructions will be made available in due course.

Assignments:

There are **two writing assignments** throughout the semester. For each assignment students will conduct a task and write a reflective essay on accomplishing the task. The essays should be at least 800 words in length and follow the standard five-paragraph essay format. They will be evaluated for original ideas and expressions, critical arguments, and succinct writing.

Detailed instructions will be given in due course both in class and on the course Carmen page.

Each assignment should be turned in to the designated Carmen Dropbox by deadline. No hardcopy will be accepted. Early submission is welcome but no late submission will be accepted.

Quizzes:

There are **three in-class pop quizzes** throughout the semester. The purpose of the quizzes is to help prepare for the exams as well as to encourage students to do assigned readings. Each quiz will have one question to answer in the format of a short essay of approximately three paragraphs. They are randomly given, each time at the beginning of class session for 15 minutes.

Students who arrive after quiz begins will not be given extra time. No make-up will be allowed for fairness to fellow students. If you missed a quiz due to emergency, you should email the instructor *as soon as possible* and inform the emergency (See **Class Policies** for detail).

Participation:

Students will be given up to 5 points toward the final grade based on their participation in class discussion. Students will not earn the points by merely attending to all lectures. Students will be evaluated based on their willingness to engage in course discussion and the quality of their contributions.

Each time a student use unauthorized electronic devices in class, the student will lose one participation point for interrupting the class. In case of emergency, students may quietly excuse themselves from the classroom to attend the emergency and return.

Resources on writing

Students are encouraged to use the Writing Center to develop writing skills or consult the instructor. The Writing Center provides consultations and feedback on your writing free of charge. Appointments can be made by calling (614) 688-4291 or visiting the Center at <http://cstw.osu.edu/writing-center>.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topic and Reading
1	01/12	Introduction to GEOG 2750
	01/14	CH 1 Geography and Development in an Era of Globalization
	01/16	
2	01/19	<i>MLK Day (University closed)</i>
	01/21	CH 1 Geography and Development in an Era of Globalization (cont.)
	01/23	
3	01/26	CH 2 United States and Canada
	01/28	
	01/30	
4	02/02	CH 3 Latin America and the Caribbean
	02/04	
	02/06	
5	02/09	CH 4 Europe
	02/11	
	02/13	
6	02/16	Exam 1
	02/18	CH 5 Northern Eurasia
	02/20	
7	02/23	CH 6 Central Asia and Afghanistan
	02/25	
	02/27	
8	03/02	CH 7 The Middle East and North Africa
	03/04	* Assignment 1 due by midnight on March 2 to Carmen Dropbox
	03/06	
9	03/09	CH 8 Africa South of the Sahara
	03/11	
	03/13	
10	03/16-20	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>
11	03/23	Review for Exam 2
	03/25	Exam 2
	03/27	Watch <i>Traces of the Trade</i> (2008)
12	03/30	CH 9 South Asia
	04/01	
	04/03	
13	04/06	CH 10 East Asia
	04/08	
	04/10	
14	04/13	CH 11 Southeast Asia
	04/15	
	04/17	
15	04/20	CH 12 Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands
	04/22	
	04/24	Watch <i>Mardi Gras: Made in China</i> (2005)
16	04/27	Exam 3 * Assignment 2 due by midnight on April 27 to Carmen Dropbox