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GPHY 141S.01: Geography of World Regions

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Geography 141S - 01

Geography of World Regions: Fall Semester 2014

Class Time: TuTh 9:30 to 11:00 AM

Classroom: Stone Hall 304

Instructor: Thomas Sullivan

Office: 307B Stone Hall

Office Hours: 11AM to Noon—Tuesday and Thursday, or by Appointment

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Teaching Assistant: Daniel Kozel

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Office Hours: TBD

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Required Texts:

World Regions in Global Context, 4th Edition. Sallie Marston, Paul Knox, Diana Liverman, Vincent Del Casino, and Paul Robbins. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING

Week #	Dates	Topic	Reading
1	26, 28 August	Introduction/World Regions	Chapter 1
2	2,4 September	Europe Assignment 1 – Due September 11	Chapter 2
3	9, 11 September	Russia Assignment 2 – Due September 18	Chapter 3
4	16, 18 September	Central Asia/Transcaucasus Assignment 3 – Due September 23	Chapter 3
5	23, 25 September	Middle East/North Africa Assignment 4 – Due September 30	Chapter 4
6	30 Sept, 2 October	Sub-Saharan Africa Assignment 5 – Due October 7	Chapter 5

7	7, 9 October	US/Canada MIDTERM EXAM – OCTOBER 7	Chapter 6
8	14, 16 October	US/Canada Assignment 6 – Due October 21	Chapter 6
9	21, 23 October	Latin America/Caribbean Assignment 7 – Due October 28	Chapter 7
10	28, 30 October	East Asia Assignment 8 – Due November 6	Chapter 8
11	4, 6 November	South Asia No Class – Election Day – November 4 Assignment 9 – Due November 13	Chapter 9
12	11, 13 November	South Asia No Class – Veteran’s Day – November 11	Chapter 9
13	18, 20 November	Southeast Asia Assignment 10 – Due November 25	Chapter 10
14	25, 27 November	Southeast Asia No Class – Thanksgiving – November 27	
15	2, 4 December	Oceania	Chapter 11
16	8 through 12 December	FINALS WEEK	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Greek word *Geography*, literally translated, means to “write the earth,” and therefore geographers focus on describing and understanding phenomena that occur within various regions on the Earth. Regional geography is one of the core traditions of the discipline based on observing both human and physical attributes of individual places. In human geography, we investigate “the peoples and places that make up our world, with the differences and similarities between them, with the ways they are connected to or disconnected from each other, and with the processes through which the world is structured into identifiable peoples, spaces and places at all” (Cloke et al. 2005). Physical geography encompasses the study of the physical features of these regions, including climate, animals, vegetation, water, and topography and how people utilize, harmonize with, and sometimes abuse their physical surroundings. Following this course, the student should not only be able to identify the most important physical landscape features of the Earth’s regions, but also understand some of the unique human phenomena that occur within these spaces and how they interface with

one another. The required text is used as a guide with the purpose of providing a general framework of regional identification. In addition, I will enhance each of these regions with a contemporary case study by using a combination of lectures, guest speakers and films to convey these important messages.

Cloke, P., Crang, P. and Goodwin, M. 2005. *Introducing Human Geographies, 2nd Edition*. London: Hodder Arnold.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following policies allow me to teach without distractions, and, it will provide each student with a pleasant atmosphere for learning:

1. Please refrain from talking in class unless engaging in questions with the instructor or actively participating in group discussions. If you are disturbing the lecture, I may ask that you exit the classroom.
2. No cell phones **on** in class! Please make sure your cell phone is off before lecture begins.
3. **Be on time!** I expect everyone to be on time for class in order to not disturb the lecture. If for some reason you are late, I ask that you be extremely quiet and not disturb anyone as you enter and sit down
4. You will not leave the class early. If you have a special reason for leaving early please contact me before class begins and sit close to the door in order to exit quietly.
5. No reading of any material during class is allowed. Please pay attention to each lecture.

GRADING

Writing Assignments (100 Points):

There will be approximately 10 writing assignments administered arbitrarily (weekly) throughout the semester. These are short exercises covering topics that we discuss in class and that are part of your readings. Their purpose is to ensure that each student understands the concepts being discussed, practices and improves his/her writing skills, completes the required reading assignment, and attends each lecture. **THESE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING YOUR FINAL GRADES!** These assignments constitute 1/3 of your total grade. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS!!!**

The Teaching Assistant will go over how these **papers are to be submitted electronically.**

Attendance Points (50 Points):

These points will be arbitrarily assigned throughout the semester—unannounced.

Examinations (200 points):

Each examination, including the final, is subjective, not comprehensive. This means that the exam will encompass only the material I cover in lectures between exams. In general, each examination will be a combination of multiple choice and matching questions, or if the class size is small enough, essay questions may be included. There will be a total of two (2) examinations throughout the semester.

The rules for the examinations are as follows:

1. You will take each exam as scheduled. Make-up exams are not allowed—except as listed in the Make-up exam policy below.
2. Material for the exam will be from the required textbook readings and all lecture material. Attendance for each lecture is recommended in order that you take notes for each exam. I will not provide my lecture notes if you miss class. You must find notes from someone else in the course.
3. **Make-up Exam Policy:**
 - All Students must take the final exam as scheduled. Conflicts must be settled with the Dean. This is a University Policy and there are no exceptions.
 - All Students must take each exam as scheduled. If an exam is missed, the student will receive a zero (0) on the exam.
 - These are the only exceptions that will warrant a make-up exam:
 - University events – such as sporting or music events.
 - Military obligations.
 - Religious holidays.
 - Serious family emergency.
 - Medical emergencies or serious illness.
 - Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty.
 - Serious weather conditions.
 - Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips.
 - Any student requiring an exception under this policy must do so **prior** to the scheduled exam—unless in the case of an actual emergency (sudden hospitalization). A student must provide official documentation of the reason for absence **in advance**.
 - If a make-up exam is approved. It must be completed within one week of the original exam and scheduled with the Teaching Assistant.

Final Grade Compilation (350 total points):

There is a total of 350 points available for the course. The writing assignments = 100 points, attendance = 50 points, and each of the two examinations = $2 \times 100 = 200$ points. All assignments and examinations, as well as the final grade, are based on the following scale:

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89.99%
- C = 70 – 79.99%

D = 60 – 69.99%

F = 59.99% and below

Please note that in order to be fair to all students, I will not round up a grade. For example, if you receive a 79.99%, you will receive a 'C' in the course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Please consult the Class Schedule for relevant dates.
2. For assistance with writing, please consult the on-line resources of the UM Writing Center in the Mansfield Library.
3. Consult the Dean of Students website for the Student Conduct Code at <http://life.umt.edu/sa/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>. Carefully review the sections on plagiarism [also consult the UM Catalog]. **Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated** and will be dealt with as outlined in the Code.

DUE TO THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF SCHEDULING AND UNFORSEEN EVENTS, I, THE INSTRUCTOR, RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS AS NEEDED and IF NECESSARY.