

**Department of Social Sciences**

Major requirement for International Studies Students

Fall 2020

**Course Information: GEO303**

Course Number & Title: Introduction to World Geography

Prerequisites/Corequisite: none

Class location & meeting time: **Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 – 10:15am (X-XX-XX)**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor(s): Dr. Khadija El Alaoui

Instructor email address: khadija.alaoui@auis.edu.krd

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:00-2:00pm and by appointment

**Course Description**

This course will investigate the vital link between people and places through a series of comparative case studies of critical issues facing our world. Students will discuss a broad range of these global issues thematically, including the impact of commerce, communication, culture, and our relationship to the environment. At the end, students will learn to add a spatial dimension to their analysis of major social and cultural phenomena affecting our world, both in the past and today.

**Course Outcomes**

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. **Critical Reading:** Analyze, interpret, and synthesize diverse sources of information.

2. **Critical Thinking:** Consider problems in a clear, reasoned manner that is informed by evidence and recognizes bias.

3. **Communication:** Engage in intellectual debate and present ideas and arguments in a clear, logical manner in writing and speech.

4. **Regions:** Understand worldviews, experiences, and power structures from a variety of societies, cultures, and time periods.

5. **Contexts:** Analyze the impact of regional or global economic, political, geographic, and historical developments on specific regions.

6. **Theory:** Evaluate theoretical approaches and research methods from various social science disciplines.

Students will gain an appreciation of geography in the social sciences from reading a series of comparative case studies from around the world. Their understanding of these case studies will be tested through a mid-term, final exam, short responses to geographic questions, and a term paper.

**Materials and Access**

The textbook is available in the copy center and the professor will make electronic copies of articles available to all students on the Geography 303 Moodle.

**Assignments and Grading Procedures**

First written response (500 words, 10%)

Second written response (500 words, 10%)

Presentation (10 minutes, 10%)

Major Essay Final (1500-2000 words, 25%)

Mid-term exam (20%)

Final exam (25%)

The written response papers are based on advanced readings of your choice or on readings for your essay. Students will be asked to assess an argument in their first essay response (500 words). In the next essay response, they will have to explicitly compare the similarities and differences in two or more case studies (500 words).

The country presentation assignment: Students should expect to make a short presentation about a specific country with visuals (5 - 8 slides) in one class

The Major Essay involves researching a geographic topic of your choosing. The students will have to adapt their reasoning to a large geographical or social question addressed in the advanced readings (1500-2000 words). The grade for the final essay is broken down into three stages: outline, draft, and final essay. Students will be judged on their ability to collect relevant data, organize their research findings, and support an argument with evidence.

No newspaper articles, popular magazine articles, or other non-academic literature including Wikipedia will be accepted as a source for the short response or the major essay.

All written materials will be submitted on turnitin.com

**Grading Scale**

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| Letter | GPA Points | Indication |
| A | (4.0) 93 – 100 | Superior |
| A- | (3.7) 90 – 92 |  |
| B+ | (3.3) 87 – 89 | Good |
| B | (3.0) 83 – 86 |  |
| B- | (2.7) 80 – 82 |  |
| C+ | (2.3) 77 – 79 | Satisfactory |
| C | (2.0) 73 – 76 |  |
| C- | (1.7) 70 – 72 |  |
| D+ | (1.3) 67 – 6 | Unsatisfactory |
| D | (1.0) 60 – 66 |  |
| F | (0) Below 60 | Fail |

**Course Policies and Expectations**

Preparation: Much of the class focuses on reading, discussing and writing about assigned readings. Students are required to complete assigned readings **before** coming to class.

Please note this will be a discussion-driven class, which relies on students to be prepared for each meeting. In addition to preparedness, deep listening and respect are key aspects of good communication. In this spirit, all disruptive behavior will not be accepted. Student conduct should be guided by the AUIS Honor Code and the AUIS Academic Catalogue (both available online at [www.auis.edu.iq](http://www.auis.edu.iq)). Please make yourself familiar with the details of official policies of AUIS.

Students are expected to take notes. Active note taking has been shown to increase students’ attention and learning.

Students are not encouraged to use academic resources from the Internet. Acceptable websites include academic papers from academia.edu, JSTOR, and other electronic resources provided by AUIS. **Wikipedia is not an acceptable source of scholarly information because it does not recognize the author of the content.**

Students should not use electronic resources during class or exams. They may bring one page of handwritten notes into any exam.

Revisions to the Syllabus: This syllabus is subject to change. It is the duty of the instructor to inform students of changes in a timely fashion. Students are obliged to be cognizant of any changes.

**Attendance**

To be updated.

**Expectations of Student Time**

AUIS adheres to the United States federal definition of a credit hour, as established by the US Department of Education. As a three credit-hour course, you are expected to attend three hours of direct instruction per week, and spend a minimum of six hours out of class per week in homework, studying, preparing, and otherwise engaging with the material of this course.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is honest behavior in a school setting. Academic integrity is more than the absence of cheating. It is necessary for students to truly learn new skills and develop as human beings. By struggling with her own studies and by making honest mistakes and discoveries, a student learns about the world and herself. Using another’s work inappropriately prevents this intellectual and emotional growth.

Academic Dishonesty (“cheating”) is any form of deceit, fraud, or misrepresentation in academic work. Academic dishonesty is the opposite of learning, because it prevents the student-writer from genuinely learning and responding to material. Plagiarism is one of the most serious forms of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism is using other people’s ideas and/or words without clearly acknowledging the source of the information. If a student uses content or grammatical structures from the internet, a professional writer, or another student and does not inform the reader, he plagiarizes. A student who allows another student to use his writing without attribution is also guilty of plagiarism.

Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. All major assignments will be submitted via [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). A student found to be cheating for the first time will receive a zero for the assignment and the Assistant Dean for Academic Integrity (ADAI) will be notified. In the event of a second offense confirmed by the ADAI, the student will fail the course. A third instance of cheating will result in that student being dismissed from the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani. Students are directed to the AUIS Honor Code and the Academic Integrity policy section of the Academic Catalog (available online at [www.auis.edu.iq](http://www.auis.edu.iq)). These documents provide guidance in cases of academic dishonesty, so we should all be familiar with them.

**Course Schedule**

Week-by-week detailed overview. Include dates for midterm exams and major assignments. Consider how holidays, add/drop and withdrawal deadlines, Reading Period, field trips, and instructor absences/guest lectures will be handled. Tentative aspects should be labeled as such.

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| **Week** | **Dates** | **Topics** | **Assessment** |
| 1 | Sept. 6-10 | **Introduction to World Geography**  Roberts, Margaret, 2009, *Investigating Geography*, Geography, Vol. 94, No. 3, pp. 181 – 188.  Fukuyama, Francis, 2000, *The Trouble with Names*, Foreign Policy, No. 119, pp. 59 -61.  Rubenstein, James M. The Cultural Landscape, pp. 14 - 19.  Profile: Chandra Jayasuriya, Cartographer for the University of Melbourne, http://voice.unimelb.edu.au/volume-7/number-6/mapping-it-out  [Advanced] Braudel, Fernand, 2009, *History and the Social Sciences: the Longue Duree*, Review (Fernand Braudel Center), Vol. 32, No. 2, pp. 171 – 203. |  |
| 2 | Sept. 13-17 | **An introduction to Place Making**  Rubenstein, James M. The Cultural Landscape, pp. 114 - 127.  White, Leslie, 1959, *The Concept of Culture*, American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 61, No. 2, pp. 227 – 251.  Advanced: Watkins, Trevor, 1990, The Origins of House and Home?, World Archaeology, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 336 - 347. |  |
| 3 | Sept. 20-24 | **Visualizing the World**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 5 - 13.  Lobeck, A. K., 1945, *Geography*, The Scientific Monthly, Vol. 60, No. 6, pp. 417 – 425.  Advanced: Horowitz, Wayne, 1988, *The Babylonian Map of the World*, Iraq, Vol. 50, pp. 147 – 165.  Advanced: Kouchoukos, Nicholas, 2001, *Satellite Images and Near Eastern Landscapes*, Near Eastern Archaeology, Vol. 64, No 1/2, pp. 80 – 91.  **Map Quiz on Wednesday** |  |
| 4 | Sept. 27-Oct.1 | **Introduction to Demographics**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 46 - 65, 88 - 95. |  |
| 5 | Oct. 4-8 | **Cities and Society**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 484 - 505.  Advanced: Kostof, Spiro, 1988, *The Skyscraper City*, Design Quarterly, No. 140, pp. 32-47.  City Segments: https://www.claritas.com/MyBestSegments/Default.jsp?ID=30  Advanced: Wirth, Louis, 1938, *Urbanism as a Way of Life*, American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 44, No. 1, pp. 1-24. |  |
| 6 | Oct. 11-15 | **Food Production**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 371 - 405. |  |
| 7 | Oct. 18-22 | **Managing the Environment**  Pebley, Anne, 1998, *Demography and the Environment*, Demography, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 377 – 389.  Hardin, Garrett, *Tragedy of the Commons*, Science, vol. 162, no. 3859, pp. 1243 - 1248.  Noam Chomsky, *Magna Carta Messed Up the World, Here's how to Fix It* http://www.thenation.com/article/198513/killing-commons  Advanced: Brumfiel, Elizabeth, 1992, *Breaking and Entering the Ecosystem – Gender, Class, and Faction Steal the Show*, American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 94, No. 3, 551 -567. |  |
| 8 | Oct. 25-29 | **Analyzing the Modern Economy**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 415 - 441.  Profile: [http://for.tn/1jJzLFK](http://for.tn/1jJzLFK" \t "_blank) (Larry Fink, CEO of Blackrock) |  |
| 9 | Nov. 1-5 | **Servicing the Modern Economy**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 453 - 477. |  |
| 10 | Nov. 8-12 | **Urban Politics and Institutions**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 275 - 289.  Stoker, Gerry, 1998, *Theory and Urban Politics*, International Political Science Review, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 119- 129.  Advanced: Stone, Clarence, 1986, *Partnership New South Style: Central Atlanta Progress*, Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science, Vol. 36, No. 2, Public-Private Partnerships: Improving Urban Life, pp. 100-110. |  |
| 11 | Nov. 15-19 | **Nation-states and Multinational States**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 290 - 299.  Adams, Julia, 1996, *Principals and Agents, Colonialists and Company Men: The Decay of Colonial Control in the Dutch East Indies*, American Sociological Review, Vol. 61, No. 1, pp. 12 - 28.  [Advanced] Said, Edward, 1985, *Orientalism Reconsidered*, Cultural Critique, No. 1, pp. 89-107. |  |
| 12 | Nov. 22-26 | **Trade and Globalization**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 314 - 325, 330 - 343.  Profile: The Future is Data <http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/apple-versus-google?intcid=mod-latest> |  |
| 13 | Nov. 29-Dec. 3 | **Financing Development**  Rubenstein, James M., The Cultural Landscape, pp. 344 - 356. |  |
| 14 | Dec.6-17 | Final Exams |  |
| 15 | Dec. 20 | Final Grades submitted |  |