

GCU 121
Eastern Hemisphere
3.0 credits

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Residential Faculty

Glendale Community College
Department of Social Sciences

Semester: Spring 2019
Classroom:
Time: Mon/Wed 11:30 – 12:45
Section:
Honors: 12821
Non-Honors: 12820
Format: Face-to-face instruction

Office: 05-136
Office Hours:
Mon//Wed: 7:15 – 8:45
Tue/Thu: 7:15 – 8:15
By appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Description and analysis of spatial variations in culture, social, economic, and political phenomena in major world regions. Emphasis on the major cultural realms of Europe, North Africa, and Asia. *Prerequisites:* None.

General Education: Global Awareness [G], or Social and Behavioral Sciences [SB]

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through taking this course, students will acquire a better understanding of the unique physical and cultural geography present across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East/North Africa. The MCCCDC course competencies for this course are available online at: <http://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/MCCCDC.woa/wa/freeForm2?id=74698>.

COURSE CONTENT

The course content is provided in the Course Schedule. The specific topics to be covered are listed in the weekly schedule at the end of this syllabus. Further details are available on the Canvas site.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Required Texts

- Finlayson, Caitlin. 2016. *World Regional Geography*. Licensed under Creative Commons, CC-BY-NC-SA. Available online for download at: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/world-regional-geography>

Other Readings. A selection of additional readings to accompany the required texts will be provided on the Canvas site.

Canvas Site. I will use the Canvas site to post announcements, readings, lecture materials, grades, and other course-related activities. Students should ensure they can access materials in the first week of the course.

§1: PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

This course will be a **RADICAL** departure from anything you've taken before. I use the *choose your own adventure* approach to assess your learning in this class. This means you are 100% responsible for earning the grade you want based on your personal interests and time commitment.

With the exception of the first and last activity, every assignment, test, quiz, classroom activity, participation exercise, etc. is 100% OPTIONAL (see the exception for honors students). Yes, you read that correctly, **optional!!!!**. There will only be two required course assignments: the introductory syllabus module due by the end of the first week and the class assessment conducted during the final exam period. (Note: From this point forward, I will not refer to these two required assignments. Further language indicating activities as optional does not negate the requirement to complete introductory and concluding activities nor does it negate the honors exception.)

- Didn't have time to study for the scheduled exam? Fine...you don't need to take it.
- Have no interest in that map test? No problem...it's optional.
- Want to hang out with your friends instead of writing a critical response to the assigned reading. Have fun...I'm not expecting you to turn it in anyhow.

You might be asking at this point:

How do I earn a grade when nothing is required?!?!?!?

That's actually a fantastic question. You will complete course activities until you have earned a full set of passport stamps. What? Passport stamps? Yes, passport stamps. Every activity will be linked to one or more passport stamps. Think of them as mastery badges. When your performance in/on/during an activity is sufficiently proficient enough to earn a stamp, you will have mastered that requirement and earned credit towards the grade you want. In many cases, this will be based upon my subjective assessment; therefore, strive to ALWAYS do your absolute best on everything.

You will complete course activities and continue earning passport stamps until you are happy with the grade earned. Thus, I have posted a list of threshold values below. Once you cross the threshold, you are **GUARANTEED** to earn the grade listed. Future performance can only help from that point forward. It's really that simple. Keep working until you have the grade you want. Stop working when you have the grade you want. (Keep in mind that there is an attendance policy so you cannot completely give up on the class.)

Grade Threshold	Unique Stamps Required
D: passing	10
C: acceptable	15
B: good	17
A: excellent	20

Assignment Due Date. Some assignments will be due in printed format at the start of class while others will be due as an online submission at some non-class time. Some assignments may have multiple parts due at different times. Once the due date has passed, students may no longer submit the assignment for consideration. This is hard and firm. Without *exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control*, I will not waver from this. Obliteration of the sun will count; otherwise, plan to do something else instead.

Assignment Format. All assignments not submitted online must be typed and printed out unless described otherwise in the assignment instructions posted on Canvas. Students should print on both sides of the paper and use a staple when submitting more than one page. I prefer Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, 1.5-inch spacing. Regardless of submission method, all assignments must include proper parenthetical and bibliographic citations (when appropriate) and adhere to college-level writing standards. You may use any citation style you like as long as you are consistent and complete. Students should carefully read instructions posted on Canvas and ask questions if uncertain.

Extra Credit. There will be no "extra credit" offered. There are plenty of assignments throughout the semester. Plan accordingly!

Makeup Assignments. I don't offer makeup assignments. There are plenty of course assignments through which students can earn stamps towards the grade they want. If you miss a deadline, plan to do something else instead. I will consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis. This will be very, very rare, like exceptionally rare. Probably rarer than any steak anyone would ever choose to eat. Like so rare that I saw the completed assignment in your hands and from nowhere it burst into flames as if cursed by a power from beyond the grave/stupa/shrine. However, should this extremely unlikely exception happen for you, please be prepared to offer documentation and a sound rationale.

§2: GRADING POLICIES

Accommodations. I am committed to providing access to a quality education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to have an accommodation for the course, it is your responsibility to notify the Disability Services and Resources office located in the A building (623.845.3080). They will have you complete the appropriate paperwork to submit to me. You are encouraged to request accommodation early in the semester so that, once identified, reasonable accommodation can be implemented in a timely manner. I cannot grant an accommodation until I have official documentation. Once granted an accommodation, you cannot deviate from the accommodation without providing me a written, signed note indicating you understand the change. An email from your Maricopa email will work perfectly fine. I will provide more details for interested students.

Appeal of a Grade. Any student who believes they have received an unfair or unjust assessment for any assignment/activity should submit the Request for Re-Grade Form posted to the Canvas site. I am happy to consider any grade a second time; however, the student must justify the request as indicated on the form. The second grade is final. Students who wish to appeal beyond this should follow the procedures outlined in the *GCC Handbook* (Section 2.3.5 Instructional Grievance Process).

Cross-Listed Course and Publicly Available Material. This course contains multiple sections. This means your replies to discussions, course announcements, and class emails/texts (i.e. reply-all) as well as interaction during class activities or via third-party technologies will put your work on display for students in all sections affiliated with this course number. In the case of third-party technologies, it is possible your work will be viewed by individuals outside this course. Participation in these activities, like nearly all course assessments, is optional.

Curriculum Differentiation. This course contains both honors and non-honors sections with students attending concurrently. Please note which section you have enrolled in and ensure you adhere to the requirements as appropriate. Honors students have a **NON-OPTIONAL** portfolio assignment they must complete. I am not able to move honors students into the non-honors section after the semester's initial withdrawal period has passed. If honors students fail to complete the honors portfolio, they will not receive honors credit and this may have implications for the student's scholarship funding.

Graded Assignments. Upon return of an assignment, students should confirm there have been no calculation errors and report those mistakes to me immediately. Once the student leaves the room, the grade is final, with or without an error. Students are responsible for reporting via email any discrepancy between grades posted to Canvas and those on assignments. You should keep all originally graded assignments returned to you throughout the semester. If you contest any grade, I will ask to see the graded assignment(s) returned to you. An inability to produce the originally graded assignment means my grade stands.

Grade Scale. Grades are assigned based upon passport stamps earned in the course. No stamp is "better" than any other so a stamp earned completing an exam is equivalent in value to a stamp earned on an in-class knowledge challenge or a paper or a learning activity completed at-home, etc. **Important:** Students must cross the threshold before they are granted a particular grade. For example, this means that 9 stamps will not earn a passing grade while 10 stamps will. This should be obvious, but I cannot round stamps. You either have a stamp or you don't. Students should refer to the *GCC Student Handbook* (Section 2.3.3 Grading) for more information regarding grading and grading options.

Point Thresholds. Given the optional nature of this class, some activities may have minimum thresholds a student must cross in order to earn the passport stamp. For example, a student could take an online quiz without studying and guess their way to 25% of the possible points; however, unless the student's final grade on the course assignment reflects 75% or higher, they will not earn the stamp. This policy prevents willy-nilly completion of course assignments without any true commitment to learning. Also, keep in mind this is only an example of what I mean. Each assignment will have the minimum threshold grade included in the assignment instructions.

Weighting Assignments. Assignments are not weighted in this course. Therefore, a single stamp earned on any one assignment is equivalent to every other stamp in calculating the threshold grade.

Withdraw Grade. I will administratively withdraw a student from class as listed in the attendance policy or if a student fails to complete the syllabus module by the deadline. After the date by which a student can self-withdraw, I will administratively withdraw a student, upon written request, up to the last scheduled day of regular class (i.e. not finals week). Students who seek an administrative withdraw must notify me in writing at least 24 hours in advance (email is fine) and provide a compelling reason for the late withdrawal. I will only withdraw a student due to an undesired letter grade if the grade earned will not allow the student to receive the credits for the course **AND** the student has demonstrated a consistent attempt to perform to the best of their ability. This latter condition is at my discretion. Students should refer to the *GCC Handbook* (Section 2.3.6 Withdrawal) for more information.

§3: COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity. All students are expected to act with civility and personal integrity; to respect other students' dignity, rights, and property; and to help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others in a civil community. Academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's work as one's own, using Internet and other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, "ghosting" (doing work for someone else), stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, or submitting previously graded work for a second time without written permission from the instructor. Please note these are not all the instances that count as examples of dishonesty.

Important: You are also responsible for reporting acts of dishonesty if you become aware of them, even if they are committed by another student. Knowledge of dishonesty with failure to report it makes you complicit in the dishonesty, and equally guilty. If cheating is detected at any time, ALL cheaters will receive a ZERO for the entire course. I will not tolerate cheating under any circumstance. If you cheat, I will fail you without question.

Please refer to the *GCC Student Handbook* (Section 2.3.11 Academic Misconduct) for more information. You are solely responsible for understanding the requirements for academic integrity.

Attendance, Preparedness, and Lateness. Students are expected to arrive to all classes in a timely fashion prepared for that day's topic. This means you have already completed the reading and any at-home activities listed for the day. This could be reading something, watching a video, completing exercises, or something else. I will take attendance in class using a sign-in sheet based on the honor system. You must remember to sign yourself in to class.

Being late to class—meaning arriving *after* I start the day's topic—is extremely distracting to me and to other students. I will not tolerate excessive lateness. If you arrive late/leave early, I reserve the right to determine whether or not to mark you as present for that class. This is at my sole discretion.

Important Attendance Metrics: The following situations may automatically trigger an administrative withdrawal unless the student communicates with me in advance.

- Failure to complete syllabus module
- Absent in first week of classes
- Total absences exceed 4
- Absent more than twice in a row

If you are withdrawn, you are responsible for your class standing. You do not need to receive approval to miss a class. I trust your absence is for a compelling reason and not frivolous. The *GCC Student Handbook* contains additional guidance on **official absences** and absences for **religious holidays**. Please refer to the *GCC Student Handbook* (Section 2.3.2 Attendance) for more information.

Class Cancellation. If I must cancel class, I will post an announcement to Canvas and send a text via Remind.

Communication with Instructor. You may communicate with me in the way best suited to your needs. I check email regularly and aim to respond to emails or texts within 24-48 hours. You can text me directly at 669.500.0458. I use Remind to communicate with everyone in the class at once; however, you must opt-in to this service. I will post how to opt-in to the Remind system. Other means to communicate include email (michael.strong@gccaz.edu), Canvas messages, or visiting my office (O5-136).

Copyright Notice. My lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, and any instructor-provided materials, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials I create. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may not reproduce or distribute lecture notes and/or course materials publicly whether or not a fee is charged without my express written consent, nor may you allow others to do so on your behalf. This includes taking notes and giving them to a company that pays you for your notes. You may not record (video or audio) my lectures without my

express written consent. Similarly, you own copyright in your coursework, projects, writings, etc. If I am interested in posting your answers or papers in a public fashion or using your work in class, excluding interactive activities in which you participate, I will ask for your written permission. Please note this paragraph does not attempt to claim ownership over any materials used in this class for which I do not own the copyright, for which I license as Creative Commons, or for which a Creative Commons license already exists. Also, any materials I create used in combination with materials licensed as CC follow CC guidelines regarding the use of derivative works. Therefore, I only claim copyright ownership on those items for which I have a legal right to do so.

Course Completion. Students must complete the two required course assignments to earn a grade. All students must finish the syllabus module prior to the start of the second week. All students must attend the course evaluation conducted during the final exam period. Honors students must complete the honors portfolio. Failure to complete any required assignment will result in the following penalties:

- Syllabus module: administrative withdrawal
- Course evaluation: reduction of one letter grade (e.g. A to B)
- Honors portfolio: D-grade (regardless of grade earned to that point)

Instructional Hours and Time Commitment. This course has 3 hours of in-person instructional contact per week. You should plan to spend 2 hours per instructional contact hour outside of class completing course requirements (i.e. 6 preparation hours per week). This means you should plan to spend 9 hours per week completing work associated with this course. Please note that the preparation hour calculation is an average. Some students may spend more and some may spend less. If you stay on-top of the readings, study regularly, and seek help from me and your classmates at the first sign of trouble, I am confident you will be successful. Please ask for help if you think you need it!

Syllabus Content. Each student is responsible for the information contained in the syllabus and for all college policies included in the college catalog and student handbook available at <https://www.gccaz.edu/student-life/office-student-life/student-handbook> for review. I anticipate we will follow the schedule outlined; however, I reserve the exclusive right to change the course content, schedule, and policies based upon what happens in class. If I change the schedule, I will post an announcement on Canvas and alert students in class. I may also change the course syllabus and the basis for grading, including adding/deleting assignments or revising class policies. Remaining in the course after reading the syllabus implies you accept the syllabus contents, course schedule and assignments, grading/course policies, and the potential for change.

You must complete an online syllabus module in Canvas by the start of the second week of the course. All content modules will remain locked until you complete the syllabus module. Failure to complete this module, including to electronically accept the syllabus agreement, will result in administrative withdrawal from the course.

Technology and Skills Needed. For this class, you should have regular access to a computer with an Internet connection. Additionally, you should be comfortable using the Internet and word processing tools. Firefox and Chrome are the recommended browsers for accessing course materials.

Use your Maricopa Enterprise ID (MEID) and associated password to log into the Canvas Learning Management System at <https://learn.maricopa.edu>. Check out the Canvas Student Guide at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121> or call 1-888-994-4433 for 24/7 support. Students may also receive help with course technology at the GCC Helpdesk in High Tech 1 (HT1) on Main Campus or via phone (623.845.3555, option 1) or email (helpdesk@gccaz.edu).

Third-Party Technology. We will use a number of third-party technologies to communicate in this class and interact with one another, including other students. These technologies improve the learning experience and provide an additional means to assess your learning progress. Use of any third-party technology is optional; however, you cannot earn stamps if you opt-out of using a third-party technology for which the use of that technology is required to earn the stamp. I will not provide alternative activities so you have the luxury of opting out. If you enact the opt-out option, you accept full and complete responsibility for the outcomes.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Effective: January 6, 2019 (v1)

Wk	Date	Topic
1	01.14 M	Introductions
	01.16 W	Introductions
2	01.21 M	NO CLASS: MLK Day
	01.23 W	Europe
3	01.28 M	Europe
	01.30 W	Europe
4	02.04 M	Europe
	02.06 W	Europe
5	02.11 M	Europe
	02.13 W	Russia
6	02.18 M	NO CLASS: President's Day
	02.20 W	Russia
7	02.25 M	Russia
	02.27 W	Middle East/North Africa
8	03.04 M	MENA
	03.06 W	MENA
--	03.11 M	NO CLASS: Spring Break
	03.13 W	NO CLASS: Spring Break
9	03.18 M	MENA
	03.20 W	Central Asia
10	03.25 M	Central Asia
	03.27 W	East Asia
11	04.01 M	East Asia
	04.03 W	NO CLASS: Instructor Conference
12	04.08 M	East Asia
	04.10 W	East Asia
13	04.15 M	South Asia
	04.17 W	South Asia
14	04.22 M	South Asia
	04.24 W	South Asia
15	04.29 M	Southeast Asia
	05.01 W	Southeast Asia
F	05.08 W	Final Assessment 11:00 – 12:50