

GEOGRAPHY 10003: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Spring 2015

Texas Christian University

TuTh 9:30-10:50 or 12:30 – 1:50

Professor: Dr. Kyle Walker

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Classroom: Reed 202/Scharbauer 1010

Office hours: M 12:00 – 2:00 or by appointment, Scharbauer 2015D

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course introduces students to the field of geography through study of the world's regions. Its goals are guided by TCU's mission statement: *"To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community."* In turn, we'll be engaging with many of the most pertinent issues that confront our world today.

The course will be organized by world region; within each regional module, we'll discuss topics that are particularly significant to that part of the world. Each class period will be organized around a particular geographical theme as it pertains to that region. Course topics will include:

- Race, ethnicity, and multiculturalism
- Immigration and global population movement
- Human dimensions of global environmental change
- Economic development and geographies of production/consumption
- Cultural geographies of language and religion
- Global urbanization and the structure of cities
- Nation-state formation, political conflict, and war
- Disease and the geography of epidemics

COURSE FORMAT

Class sessions will be hybrids of lecture, discussion, films, and structured activities. The class will be managed through its corresponding Learning Studio website, accessible through the portals at <http://my.tcu.edu> or <http://tcuglobal.edu>. You will submit your assignments via the Learning Studio website, and I'll use the website to post relevant course announcements and lecture notes.

Required textbooks:

De Blij, H.J., P.O. Muller, & J. Nijman. 2014. *Geography: Realms, Regions, & Concepts*, 16th edition. This textbook is available at the TCU bookstore, and will be held on reserve at the TCU library. It is also available for rent or purchase online.

Crotty, S., and Walker, K.E. 2015. *Navigating the World with GIS*. This lab manual is available at the TCU bookstore or online.

EVALUATION AND COURSE POLICIES

Evaluation for this course will be based upon three examinations, five mapping assignments, and in-class activities. Dates for the exams and assignment deadlines are included in the course schedule.

There will be **three exams** in the course, which will collectively make up 50 percent of your grade. Exams will contain a combination of multiple choice, map identification, short answer/definition, and longer answer (~ ½ page) questions. You'll be tested over topics from our class sessions; 'major geographic qualities' of world regions, as outlined in the textbook; and the 'key terms' found in each chapter of your textbook.

You will also have **five mapping assignments**, each worth 6 percent of your grade. In these assignments, you will use an online mapping application to create an interactive map that relates to a course topic. You'll then answer a series of questions related to the maps you have created for submission. I'll give you detailed instructions for how to complete these assignments when they are assigned. Assignments are due at 11:59 pm on their specified due date. Late assignments will receive a 10 percent penalty for each day they are submitted past the due date.

In-class assignments will make up the final 20 percent of your grade. Throughout the semester, we'll be doing small activities in class that you will submit for credit, or I'll give you a short assignment to do at home, which you'll submit by the next class period. In-class assignments cannot be made up without an excused absence (documented illness or emergency, or a TCU-sanctioned activity).

The minimum percentages to achieve a specific grade are as follows:

94: A	73: C
90: A-	70: C-
87: B+	67: D+

83: B	63: D
80: B-	60: D-
77: C+	Below 60 percent: F

I will award an incomplete (I) only in the most extreme and exceptional circumstances. Please notify me as soon as possible if you are in a situation where you feel you require an I.

The **attendance** policy for this course corresponds to the official TCU attendance policy, which reads, ***“Regular and punctual class attendance is essential, and no assigned work is summarily excused because of absence, no matter what the cause.”***

Attendance, in and of itself, is not an explicit part of the course grade. However, as mentioned, in-class assignments cannot be made up without an excused absence. **Make-up exams** will only be permitted in the instance of **a documented illness or emergency** or **a documented TCU-sanctioned activity**, provided that **you notify me of your absence before the examination**. Students are responsible for arranging a make-up examination with me. In the event that you miss an exam and do not meet these conditions, you will receive a score of **zero** for the exam.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics	Assignments
Week 1: January 12-14	Introduction to World Regional Geography Reading: Introduction	
Week 2: January 19-21	North America Reading: Chapter 3	
Week 3: January 26-28	North America, continued Reading: Chapter 3	Assignment 1 due Sunday, January 31
Week 4: February 2-4	Central American & the Caribbean; South America Reading: Chapter 4	
Week 5: February 9-11	South America	Exam 1: Thursday, February

	Reading: Chapter 5	11
Week 6: February 16-18	Europe Reading: Chapter 1	Assignment 2 due Sunday, February 21
Week 7: February 23-25	Europe, continued Reading: Chapter 1	
Week 8: March 1-3	Russia/Central Asia Reading: Chapter 2	
Week 9: March 8-10	Spring break – no class	Assignment 3 due Sunday, March 13
Week 10: March 15-17	Southwest Asia/North Africa Reading: Chapter 7	
Week 11: March 22-24	Sub-Saharan Africa Reading: Chapter 6	Exam 2: Tuesday, March 22
Week 12: March 29-31	Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia Reading: Chapter 8	Assignment 4 due Sunday, April 3
Week 13: April 5-7	South Asia, continued Reading: Chapter 8	
Week 14: April 12-14	East Asia Reading: Chapter 9	
Week 15: April 19-21	East Asia, Southeast Asia Reading: Chapter 9	Assignment 5 due Sunday, April 24
Week 16: April 26	Oceania Reading: Chapters 10-12	
Exam 3 (non-cumulative):		

9:30 section: Thursday, May 5 from 8:00-10:30

12:30 section: Thursday, May 5 from 11:30-2:00

OTHER ISSUES

Academic conduct:

This course will comply with TCU policies on academic conduct and plagiarism. The TCU statement on academic misconduct from the Student Handbook (Section 3.4) is below:

Academic Misconduct (Sec. 3.4 from the Student Handbook) –Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct. The procedures used to resolve suspected acts of academic misconduct are available in the offices of Academic Deans and the Office of Campus Life and are listed in detail in the Undergraduate Catalog (Student Policies>Academic Conduct Policy Details; http://www.catalog.tcu.edu/current_year/undergraduate/). Specific examples include, but are not limited to:

- *Cheating: Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files and listings; using, during any academic exercise, material and/or devices not authorized by the person in charge of the test; collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or laboratory without permission; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in its entirety or in part, the contents of a test or other assignment unauthorized for release; substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for oneself.*
- *Plagiarism: The appropriation, theft, purchase or obtaining by any means another's work, and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of that work as one's own offered for credit. Appropriation includes the quoting or paraphrasing of another's work without giving credit therefore.*
- *Collusion: The unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work offered for credit.*

In short: please don't cheat, as it is a very serious offense and you will get caught. Your assignments will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin, TCU's anti-plagiarism software.

Cases of cheating will result in an automatic failure of the course and will be reported to the appropriate University officials. If you are in any way struggling in the course and tempted to cheat, please come talk to me so we can address your issues face to face.

Finally, the classroom is a place where diversity of opinions and perspectives is not only welcomed, but highly encouraged. I ask you to always be mindful and respectful of the diversity (broadly defined) of your classmates.

Disability statement:

TCU's statement on disabilities is as follows:

Disabilities Statement: Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Student Disabilities Services in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall, 1010. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at (817) 257-6567.

STATEMENT ON USE OF THE SYLLABUS

This syllabus is intended for your use as a guide to assist in your planning for the semester. **I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus and schedule if necessary.** However, rest assured that if I do make any changes to the syllabus, I will give you plenty of advance notice.