
World Geography

GEA 1000-06 & 07 Fall 2010

MWF 9:05 – 9:55 AM

Bellamy 0002

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:15 AM – 11:30 AM or by appointment

Description

This course is an introduction to the major themes and issues addressed in contemporary world geography. The focus of this class will be an examination of the cultures, politics, histories, and economics of the major human regions of the world. Emphasis will be given to the ways in which environment, culture, politics, history, and economics interact to create unique geographical regions. This course will provide a greater appreciation and understanding of the myriad of social forces shaping our world.

Objectives

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

- Describe the physical and cultural diversity of the earth and thus be able to analyze world events and relations intelligently in terms of that diversity.
- Develop a mental map of the world—one that more closely conforms to real spatial relationships.
- Demonstrate elementary understanding of basic specialized concepts, terms and techniques of the discipline of geography (including use of an Atlas and several types of maps). Explain what geographers do and how they do it.
- Demonstrate basic geographic literacy—that is, have an elementary knowledge of the earth's cultural and physical realms and regions-- their location, spatial distribution and how they (and the people and cultures involved) interact with other places and peoples.
- Identify essential economic, environmental and spatial factors that divide the “haves” from the “have-nots” of the world and to explore some of the factors that seem to explain different levels of economic and social development.
- Describe geographical, historical, socioeconomic, political and cultural factors that explain current events and contemporary problems/issues: migration, environmental degradation, poverty, conflict and cultural expression.
- Find timely and credible information about countries, regions and realms and be able to assess the quality of the data/information and use it in your own life and work.

The Liberal Studies Program at Florida State University has been designed to provide a perspective on the qualities, accomplishments, and aspirations of human beings, the past and present civilizations we have created, and the natural and technological world we inhabit. This course has been approved as meeting the requirements for **Liberal Studies Area III, History and Social Science**, and in combination with your other Liberal Studies courses, provides an important foundation for your lifelong quest for knowledge.

The objectives of the Liberal Studies Program are:

- To provide students with the fundamental skills to critically examine and evaluate their place in society and, more generally, develop an understanding of the network of relationships of people at group, community, national, and world levels.
- To develop an understanding of the ethical foundations, as well as behavioral components of social change.
- To systematically describe and analyze social, political, and economic reality and attempt to explain and predict outcomes of alternative social actions.

Required Materials

H. J. de Blij, Peter O. Muller, and Antoinette WinklerPrins. *The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography*. Fourth Edition. Wiley, 2008. ISBN: 9780470237137

*The third edition might also be acceptable, but you would likely have to do some research on your own to make sure the information is current.

You will also be responsible for material from films and other assigned readings.

Lectures, reading, and study guides

You are responsible for material in lecture, films, and any other supplementary materials. Please do not ask me to make copies of the notes for you. You are responsible for retrieving any notes from classes that you have missed. In general, I will post the PowerPoint presentations from the lectures, but not lecture notes.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is not required; however it is strongly advised. There will be **no make-up opportunities for map quizzes and in-class assignments that contribute to your participation grade.**

Please note, if you will be absent due to participation in an athletic event, it is **your** responsibility to get the required forms to me and make up the work you missed. Please get a note to me **IN ADVANCE** stating the date of your event and be sure it is signed by your coach.

Classroom Etiquette

In order to create an environment where students are able to interact and learn it is imperative the all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices be turned **OFF** (not on silent mode or vibrate). Text messaging is not allowed during class. Laptops should only be used for note-taking purposes and laptop users will be required to sit in the front row. Students not obeying this policy will be asked to leave class. If you are expecting an important phone call you are to notify me during the beginning of the class.

Blackboard website and email

Please be sure that you have access to the Blackboard course website. You will need your FSU email account name and password to access this site. In Blackboard, I can only send email to your FSU account. If you use a different account, it is your responsibility to set up your FSU account to forward to your preferred email.

Religious Days

If you wish to participate in religious day activities that interfere with scheduled class days or assignments, please inform me during the first week of class.

Assignments and Responsibilities

Evaluation for this course will be through:

- One group assignment
- Three in-class exams
- Nine map quizzes (your lowest map quiz score will be dropped)
- Participation (including in-class activities and other small assignments)

Grading and Evaluation

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Group Assignment	20%
Map Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (72-76), C- (70-71)
D+ (66-69), D (62-65), D- (60-61), F (0-59)

Final Grades will follow the breakdown listed above and grades **will not be rounded**. That means that 89.9% earns a B+ even though it is just one point from an A. There has to be a cutoff at some point, and that means that some students barely make a grade, but others barely miss it. Do your best in ALL of your work so that you don't fall just short of your goal.

Exams

Each exam is graded out of 100 points, is worth 20% of your grade, and consists of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. After the first person finishes an exam, all late arrivals will be required to take a make-up exam. All absences for exams must have an FSU approved excuse that is given **in advance** of the exam. In the case of unexpected illness, you must provide me with a doctor's excuse within **3 days** of the missed exam in order to take a make-up exam. Failing to do so will result in a zero. All make-up exams include an essay component.

Map Quizzes

Map quizzes are cumulatively worth 10% of your grade and will be given in class. You will be required to identify a selected number of places on a map within a short period of time (generally, no more than 10 minutes). **There will be no make-ups for missed map quizzes unless you have an FSU-approved excuse.** At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest map quiz score.

Group Assignment

The group assignment is graded out of 100 points and is worth 20% of your grade. It will require you to look at the world through a geographic lens, and should be fun, as well. Please note that the group assignment is weighted fairly heavily, and I expect a high level of effort and preparation. Instructions are on the pages that follow. Late group assignments **will not be accepted**.

Participation

A participation grade will be assigned at the end of the semester. Qualitative criteria for class participation:

- Responsibility assumed for all aspects of your grade
- Adherence and awareness of all instructions and deadlines
- Comprehension and participation in discussions on lecture topics
- Respect towards instructor and other students

Note: texting and unauthorized electronic device use lowers your participation grade. Laptop users will be required to sit in the front row.

Honor Code Statement

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University Community.

Americans with Disabilities Act

During the first week of class, students needing academic accommodations should:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center.
2. Bring a letter to the instructor from the Student Disability Resource Center indicating your need for academic accommodations.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center at:

(850) 644-9566 (voice) or (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
SDRC@admin.fsu.edu

Schedule (tentative)

I will announce any changes to the schedule in class.

Week	Date	Course Schedule
1	Aug. 23	Syllabus Overview / What is Geography?
	Aug. 25	Introduction
	Aug. 27	Chapter 1: Europe
2	Aug. 30	Chapter 1: Europe
	Sep. 1	Map Quiz 1: Europe Chapter 1: Europe
	Sep. 3	Chapter 2: Russia
3	Sep. 6	Labor Day. No Class.
	Sep. 8	Chapter 2: Russia
	Sep. 10	Chapter 3: North America
4	Sep. 13	Chapter 3: North America
	Sep. 15	Map Quiz 2: North America Chapter 3: North America
	Sep. 17	Chapter 4: Middle America
5	Sep. 20	Chapter 4: Middle America
	Sep. 22	Map Quiz 3: Middle America Chapter 4: Middle America
	Sep. 24	Review for Exam 1
6	Sep. 27	Exam 1 – Introduction and Chapters 1-4
	Sep. 29	Chapter 5: South America
	Oct. 1	Chapter 5: South America
7	Oct. 4	Map Quiz 4: South America Chapter 5: South America
	Oct. 6	Chapter 6: Subsaharan Africa
	Oct. 8	Discuss Group Assignment Chapter 6: Subsaharan Africa

8	Oct. 11	Map Quiz 5: Sub-Saharan Africa Movie: National Geographic: Africa
	Oct. 13	Chapter 6: Sub-Saharan Africa
	Oct. 15	Chapter 7: North Africa/Southwest Asia
9	Oct. 18	Chapter 7: North Africa/Southwest Asia
	Oct. 20	Map Quiz 6: North Africa/Southwest Asia Chapter 7: North Africa/Southwest Asia
	Oct. 22	Chapter 8: South Asia
10	Oct. 25	Chapter 8: South Asia
	Oct. 27	Map Quiz 7: South Asia Chapter 8: South Asia
	Oct. 29	Review for Exam 2
11	Nov. 1	Exam 2: Chapters 5-8
	Nov. 3	Chapter 9: East Asia
	Nov. 5	Arrange Group Presentation Time Chapter 9: East Asia
12	Nov. 8	Chapter 9: East Asia
	Nov. 10	Chapter 10: Southeast Asia
	Nov. 12	Map Quiz 8: East and Southeast Asia Chapter 10: Southeast Asia
13	Nov. 15	Group Assignment DUE Group Presentations
	Nov. 17	Group Presentations
	Nov. 19	Group Presentations
14	Nov. 22	Chapter 11: The Austral Realm
	Nov. 24	Movie
	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving. No Class.
15	Nov. 29	Map Quiz 9: The Austral and Pacific Realms Chapter 12: The Pacific Realm
	Dec. 1	Review for Exam 3
	Dec. 3	Exam 3: Chapters 9-12

Group Assignment: Travel Brochure
100 Points

DUE DATES:

**Monday, November 15 – ALL Materials must be turned in
Monday, November 15, Wednesday, November 17 and Friday, November 19 –
Group Presentations
Group presentation times will be arranged on Friday, November 5**

Introduction

Think about your dream vacation to another part of the world. Maybe it's a place you've been, maybe it's a place you've always wanted to go. What would you do on your "dream" vacation? Where would you go? Throughout the semester, we've explored all sorts of exotic and familiar locales, and it should be clear that every place has a unique experience to offer travelers. This assignment will help you learn more about a particular region of the world and promote an exciting travel experience from this region to your classmates.

The Assignment

For this project, in groups of 2-3, you will need to be a travel agent and promote a vacation-style trip of any sort (eco-tourism, cultural, fashion, or ???) to some region on the earth. You may not, however, pick a North American or European location.

For the assignment, your group needs to come up with 5-7 PowerPoint slides and a tri-fold brochure of the place. This is a fun assignment designed to get you to think outside the box. The project will be presented before the entire class during the assigned time (times will be assigned on Friday, November 5). Groups must sign up for a particular destination. No two groups may present on the same place and time assignments will be first, come first serve.

Although groups will be presenting on Monday, November 15, Wednesday, November 17 and Friday, November 19, **all assignment materials (to include PowerPoints and brochures) must be turned in on Monday, November 15**, regardless of which day your group is presenting – no exceptions!

This assignment must be graded according to the following rubric on a 100-point scale:

- 1: Organization: 10 points
- 2: Creativity: 20 points
- 3: Geographic Impact & Accuracy: 30 points
- 4: PowerPoint Presentation: 15 points
- 5: Travel Brochure: 15 points
- 6: Classmate Evaluation: 10 points