WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY - GEO 131.500 (online) - Spring 2016

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Course description (from catalog): Broad investigation of the world's culture regions. Basic cultural, demographic, economic, political, and physical patterns, with current events highlighted.

Class meeting place and time, attendance: some students are off-campus; no required face-to-face meetings; attendance is noted through quiz/discussion participation; regular work is highly recommended.

Objectives: 1) Understand how geographers discover, describe, and explain relationships between the natural environment and human society; 2) Develop a deeper knowledge of world regions and the global context of current events; 3) Learn elements of K-12 geography (most students will be education majors).

Required Texts: Pulsipher, L. M., A. A. Pulsipher. 2008. World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives, 4th edition. New York: W.H. Freeman and Company. This is not required until the February 16th quiz (due Feb.23rd) so there is time for students to purchase less expensive used copies online. An order was placed at the University bookstore but they can charge $100 for a used book costing under $10 online. Please ensure you order the correct edition and a delivery method that has the book arrive in time.

URL: http://www.amazon.com/World-Regional-Geography-Patterns-Subregions/dp/0716777924/

Grading: 90-100% = A; 80-90% = B; 70-80% = C; 50-70% = D.

90% weekly quizzes (6% per quiz) – About 15 weekly quizzes related to modules and/or textbook chapters; modules and quizzes are made available on the calendar dates below; they are due anytime, including late night, on the next bold date on the calendar (usually Mondays) – for example, Introduction to Geography, open January 19th, is due anytime Monday, January 25th. No late submissions accepted but the lowest quiz is dropped. Important: missing more than one quiz will add a zero to your quiz average!

10% discussions – students respond to material posted in five discussion areas, worth 2% each. This is a relatively easy area in which to receive full credit. Further guidelines are posted in the discussion areas.

Calendar

January 19th – Introduction to Geography (module)
January 25th – K-12 Geography (module)
February 2nd – Geographic Info Systems (module)
Feb. 9th – Physical/Human Geography (module)
Feb. 16th – Regional Geography issues (Ch. 1 only)
Feb. 23rd – Sub-Saharan Africa (module, Ch.7)
March 1st – North Africa/ SW Asia (Ch. 6 only)
March 8th – South Asia (Asia module, Ch.8)
March 15th – Spring Break

March 22nd East Asia (Asia module, Ch. 9)
March 29th SE Asia/Oceana (module, Ch 10, 11)
April 5th Russia/Central Europe (module, Ch. 4, 5)
April 12th Western/North Europe (module, Ch. 4)
April 19th Southern Europe (module, Ch4,)
April 26th South America (module, Ch. 3)
May 3rd Middle America (module, Ch. 3)
May 10th North America (module, Ch. 2)

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in later semesters the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for computing grade point average.
Make-up quizzes/exams/Drop Policy: Students will not be given a make-up exam without written documentation of unavoidable issues submitted prior to the exam. Students should note drop deadlines in the schedule of classes.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student (Course) Learning Outcomes (SLOs) (most of these will be covered in each world region)
After successfully completing this course, a student will be able to:
(1) Identify on a map the world's major culture regions, such as religion, language, dominant economic sector, continents and subcontinents.
(2) Describe and/or graphically illustrate the demographic transition, including example nations in each stage and dominant economic sectors that relate to each stage.
(3) Describe and/or graphically illustrate the population pyramid, and how it differs among various developed and developing nations.
(4) Identify areas of the world's major political trends such as democracy, oligarchy, devolution, balkanization, supra-nationalism, high and low social services, changing gender roles, and human rights issues.
(5) Identify on a map the world's major physical patterns, including climate and landform processes such as glaciers, plate tectonics, and river systems for each region.
(6) Identify on a map the location of the major global hotspots for biological and cultural diversity.
(7) Describe globalization, including positive and negative examples from each world region or continent.
(8) Identify locations and underlying geographic and historical issues behind major current events

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) The geography program has these objectives for its students:

PLO 1. The student will be able to prepare written and verbal presentations presenting geographical research using the analyses and synthesis of appropriate documents and primary data. (Corresponding SLOs – 1-8)
PLO 2. The student will possess geographic literacy as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with human spatial and ecological relationships. (Corresponding SLOs – 1-8)
PLO 3. The student will be able to apply geographical knowledge and skills to a variety of settings. (Corresponding SLOs – 1-8)
PLO 4. The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the spatial world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises. (Corresponding SLOs – 1-8)
PLO 5. The student will be able to read geographical research and to identify its major methodological strengths and weaknesses. (Corresponding SLOs – 1-8)