

Chaminade University of Honolulu

World Regional Geography (GE 102) Online Syllabus 2015

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Students can contact the instructor if you have a question or comment by email through the class ecollege website.

Textbook: Rowntree, Lewis, Price, and Wyckoff. Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World, 4e. Pearson

Course description

Applies a geographical perspective to the study of environment, culture, human societies, and their interactions. Examines world regions using a thematic approach to population, language, religion, economic development, social customs, urbanization, and resource problems. Focuses on spatial concepts, principles, and contemporary issues.

Geography is more than the concern of place names and knowing where things are located. One objective of this course is to develop student understanding of Geography as an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge with relevance to a wide range of academic subjects and current events. This course introduces concepts and terms that explain the world we live in by recognizing and exploring human-environment relationships in the context of world regions. An emphasis is on comparative analysis of world regions and the connections between local places and the processes of globalization.

The readings in the textbook facilitate your own independent investigation of multimedia resources in this increasingly interconnected world. Online discussions provide an opportunity to critically analyze observations and understanding of your worldview and question and critique what you are learning with others in the course. A goal of this course is to encourage your lifelong interest in learning about the places each of us inhabit and to become competent in the skills of spatial analysis and critical thinking.

Course Competencies

- Demonstrate an understanding of historical, social and environmental processes shaping the world's major world regions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of geographic terms, locations, concepts, theories, and methodology.
- Critically analyze local, national, regional and international issues and events within the framework of the course using appropriate geographic methods and tools.
- Demonstrate the ability to perform designated tasks in an accurate, professional, scholarly and timely fashion.
- Demonstrate effective use of information technology.

Course Assessment

Each student gets from the class what time and effort they are individually willing to make toward understanding what is potentially an overwhelming amount of information regarding world regional geography. The questions and terms identified in the syllabus serve as a study guide to the quizzes and final exam, so the more you stay current the

better you will be prepared for them. Assignments are to be based on information provided in the textbook and elaborated upon with information based on current or historical events, personal observations, and local examples, as appropriate.

Course evaluation: (A=100-90%, B=89-80%, C=79-70%, D=69-60%, F=below 59%)
Grades are determined by a combination of factors. Quality and quantity of completed work and participation are part of determining the final grade. If content has not been specifically identified or presented during the course then it will NOT appear on the quizzes or final exam.

Course evaluation: (A=90%, B=80%, C=70%, D=60%, F=below 59%)

Assignments (50%)

In a classroom setting, part of the final grade is generally determined by attendance, participation, and preparation. In the online format, ten Assignment forums help create a learning community and allow class members to respond to and interact with the information others have provided to the Threaded Discussion. Keep in mind the difference from fact and opinion, and it goes without saying that all communication is to be respectful of others. Threaded Discussion forums are a space for students to learn from one another and students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in order to earn full credit.

Ten assignment topics include Thinking Geographically; Biological and cultural diversity; the Geopolitics of the United States; Overconsumption; The Next 100 Years; Climate Change Impacts; the Impacts of Regional and Global Conflict; The Geographic Relevance of Ukraine to the European Union and Russia; Food Security on the African Continent; Plan B and the Future of Civilization.

Each written assignment of a minimum 500 words must use the following format to receive full credit.

- a. Introductory paragraph – Introduction to the topic and its significance to the study of geography.
- b. Review one or two of the main issues associated with the topic as identified in the readings and resources.
- c. Identify the implications of the topic on local, regional, and/or world geography.
- d. Concluding paragraph with your personal comments on the topic and possible solutions and potential positive and negative outcomes.

Mid-term exam (25%)

The mid-term exam of 100 multiple choice and True/False questions covers material in the following sections: Thinking Geographically, the Americas, Asia, and Oceania and Pacific Islands. Students are given two hours to complete the exam and there are no make up dates.

Final Exam (25%)

The Final Exam of 100 of multiple choice and True/False questions covers material in the following sections: Europe, Russia, Central Asia, Southwest Asia, and the African continent. Students are given two hours to complete the exam and there are no make up dates.