

GE 102: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Inst: Richard Bordner
Off. Hrs: MWF 10-11, TR 9:30-12:00 or by-app't. (Eiben 122)
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Text: Salter, J., Hobbs, Wheeler, and Kostbade 1998(1993). Essentials of World Regional Geography, 2nd ed. NY: Saunders.

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide a basic introduction to the complexities of the human experience around the world. The interaction of people with their physical environment is the main focus of geographical work and this course examines the different regions around the world in the context of past and present human experience. Within this framework, given the holistic nature of geographical thought, we will also examine the interaction and problems generated both regionally and world-wide.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To develop a greater understanding of the geographical point of view and the power of geographical approaches;
- 2) To develop a greater appreciation of both the uniqueness of the varied human experiences and also how they interrelate;
- 3) To sensitize you to the complex dynamic relationship of people and their physical environment.

Course Grading:

1. Exams: There will be 3 exams in this class. They will not be cumulative. They will consist of a combination of objective and short-essay questions. Each exam will count for 20% of the course grade.
2. Research Paper: You must do a short research paper of 4-7 pages on some aspect of the material covered during the semester. It must contain a minimum of 2 sources other than the text. It will count for 10% of the course grade.
3. Map Tests: There will be a series of map tests. The totaled average score of the tests will count for 10% of the course grade.
4. Reaction Papers: There will be a series of reaction papers given during the semester (3 total). Each paper should be from 2-4 pages long. The reaction papers will be worth 10% of the course grade.
5. Class Participation/Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory (university policy). The class will much more effective and interesting if you participate. Participation and attendance counts for 10% of the course grade.

Grading: Exams(3).....60%	A=-90-100	D=-60-69
Research Paper.....10%	B=-80-89	F=-60
Reaction Papers.....10%	C=-70-79	
Map Tests.....10%		
Part/Attend.....10%		

Jan. 11: Introduction

Ass: Read ch. 1-2

13: Geographical concepts and physical geography

Ass: Read ch. 3

15: Europe—physical aspects

Ass: Read ch. 4-5

18: HOLIDAY

20: Western Europe

22: European success and problems—the EU

25: The Euro, Channel and political change

27: Southern Europe

29: Eastern Europe

Feb. 1: Why all the conflicts—ethnicity and power in Europe

Ass: Read ch. 6-7

3: The Russias—physical aspects

5: Imperial Russia, the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation

8: Post-Soviet Union, republics and ethnic competition

10: NATO, the EU and pan-European movements

12: EXAM I (ch. 1-7)

Ass: Read ch. 8-9

15: HOLIDAY

17: What is the Middle East?

19: West Asia?

22: Power, blackmail and religion

Ass: Read ch. 10-11

24: Asia—physical aspects

26: South Asia

Ass: Read ch. 12-14

March 1: Southeast Asia

3: East Asia—the next century?

5: The Middle Kingdom—China

8: The Confucian Center—the Koreans

10: The Power Puzzle—Japan

12: Simulation

15: EXAM II (ch. 8-14)

Ass: Read ch. 15-16

17: Oceania—the Island Pacific

19: Small islands in the largest ocean

Ass: Read ch. 17-18

22-26: Spring Recess

29: Neo-colonialism and independence in the Pacific

31: Africa—physical aspects

April 2: HOLIDAY

5: Africa

7: Africa—lasting legacy of colonialism

9: Africa—change and the future—ethnic identity and nation-states

Ass: Read ch. 19-20

12: Central and South America—physical aspects

14: Central and South America—the legacies of colonialism, spanish-style

16: Social and economic segregation and the world economy—survival in the Americas

Ass: Read ch. 21-23

16: South America as the new world market force?

19: North America—physical aspects

21: Changing patterns of power and ethnic control in the Americas

23: Relations between the NAFTA members

26: Ethnic division in the US, Canada

28: The future of the Americas

30: Summary / Research Paper DUE

May : EXAM III