

Course Syllabus - Spring 2000

Geography 102⁶⁰
World Regional Geography
Thursday 4:45 - 8:55 PM

This course is rated:



Critical Thinking

Lecturer: M. Richard Hutton
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Geography, to explore the world

You are about to embark on a journey of discovery. An exploration of time and space. Of a world which is the stage of a never-ending story. A story about people, places and nature. A story of a world which is unique and rich in diversity. By taking a course in world regional geography you are expanding your knowledge about your home; the Earth. It is hoped that this course will be the beginning of a life long trip of geographical exploration. The world is a fascinating place. Go explore it!

Course Description

This course introduces us to a world of human and environmental diversity. The major topic themes that will be explored include society and culture, politics, economic activity, and the physical environment. This course is designed both for those students that plan to major in a social science, and/or for anyone who has a desire to expand their knowledge about the world.

Course Textbook

Salter, Christopher., Hobbs, Joseph., Wheeler, Jesse., Kostbade, J. Trenton. (1998): *Essentials of World Regional Geography*. Harcourt Brace College publishers, USA.

Course Goals

- ~ to help each student become better informed;
- ~ to broaden one's horizons about the world, and in the process gain a new appreciation for its diversity, its richness, its uniqueness;
- ~ to assist students to think critically;
- ~ to promote written and oral communication skills; and
- ~ to foster student interest in current world affairs.

Course Requirements

This course will center on the material conveyed during the lectures. The textbook is used to provide you with a foundation from which to acquire a knowledge base from. There will be times in which the topics discussed in class are not necessarily covered in the textbook. Given this fact, student attendance is highly recommended. Overall student performance in this course will be based on three areas of evaluation:

1. News Article Review (40 points) You are to select one international news item, either from a newspaper, magazine or the Internet, and write an article review. The topic of the news item you choose to review may be on any subject matter excluding sports. Each news article review must be written on a specific sheet, which will be given out in class. As part of this exercise, each student will be required to give a brief oral summary of their news article to the class. A schedule indicating the relevant date each student has been assigned to give their oral review in class, will be handed out on a subsequent date. The news article review is due on the day that you give your oral review in class.

2. Tests (180 points) There will be a total of three tests during the semester. These will consist of two-essay tests and the final exam. Each test will be worth the following points:

Essay Test 1	40 points
Essay Test 2	60 points
Final Exam	80 points

The final exam will not be cumulative, and will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answers or word matching questions. The tests will be based on the material covered in class. The scheduled dates for each test are indicated on the course outline sheet located at the end of the syllabus. The final exam will take place on **Thursday June 8, 2000 starting at the beginning of class.** (Note: In order to receive a passing grade in this class, each student must sit all three tests.)

3. Class Exercise (25 points) A number of class exercises will be used during the semester to reinforce the ideas covered throughout the course. A selection of these class exercises will be formally evaluated. This provides the opportunity for students to earn course points while playing an active role in the learning process. The specific class exercises chosen to be evaluated, and the amount of total points assigned to each assessed class exercise, will be determined at my discretion. Course points are intended to be awarded to those students who are present in class on the day the exercise is given. The ability to make-up a class exercise, and the rules governing such a provision, will be made at my discretion.

Grading Policy

Final Grade. The award of a final grade in this class will be based on a number points system. Each of the three areas of evaluation will be worth the following number of points:

News Article Review	16%	40 points
Tests (3)	74%	180 points
Class Exercises	10%	25 points

Course Total	100%	245 points
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A final grade will be determined on the following basis:

Points	Grade
220-245	A
196-219	B
172-195	C
147-171	D

Make-Up Tests. If you miss a test for reasons of illness or some other unforeseen emergency, then see me as soon as possible regarding taking a make-up test. This provision is intended for those students who have a genuine reason for missing a test. This option is not made available to be used and abused.

Incomplete Work. In order to obtain a passing grade in this course, you must complete all the assignments as required. If by the end of the semester there is still work pending, and your name remains on the active class list, you will receive an **I** (incomplete) as the contingency grade. If the work continues to remain outstanding than the **I** (incomplete) will be converted to an **F** as the final grade. If at any time you wish to discontinue from this course, it is your responsibility to notify student admissions and have the appropriate records amended.

Attendance. It is the policy of Chaminade University that a student not miss more than two class sessions per semester. No credit will be given for attending class per se. The responsibility for coming to class is left up to each individual student. However, having said this, the overall final grade a student receives in this class will ultimately be determined in part on how often they attended class. It is advised that you make the most of the class time provided.

Extra Credit. No extra credit will be offered in this class.

A Word on English. I believe that one of the important responsibilities of an institute of higher education is to help each student acquire a high level of written proficiency. The ability to write effectively is becoming essential in today's working environment. A review of current job vacancy notices shows that employers are looking to hire graduates who possess excellent written

and oral communication skills. Upon marking any written work or test I will take into consideration English comprehension, spelling and grammar.

General Policies

Cheating and Plagiarism. I draw your attention to the more detailed statement on student responsibilities in the Chaminade University general catalog. There is zero tolerance for either cheating or plagiarism at this campus. Both acts amount to academic dishonesty. Anyone found to have violated the student code on cheating and plagiarism will receive an F on the particular assessment in which the offense occurred. The academic standing of a college or university is underscored by the academic honesty of its faculty and students.

Classroom Code of Conduct. In my class, everyone has the right to learn in a safe and open learning environment. For this to occur it is necessary that we all observe certain standards of professional conduct:

~ Disruptive and rude behaviour will not be tolerated in my class. This includes, but is not limited to: "mouthing off," coming to class late and leaving early without providing me with a valid reason, excessive talking - the classroom is not the place for idle chit chat, writing notes, and sleeping - the best geographical location for sleep is your bed not the classroom. If you consistently engage in anyone of these activities, you will be subject to disciplinary action involving a grade penalty of no more than 5 points for each offense that occurs. It is not my wish to be a taskmaster. However, I will maintain certain standards of edict so as to promote a professional and positive learning environment.

~ The use of cellular phones and electronic pagers are not permitted in class. Please ensure that all pieces of electronic equipment are turned off while you are in the classroom.

A Guiding Philosophy - WHY?

A fundamental role of any college or university is to promote, and, in an effort to achieve this end, at times provoke individual thinking. One of the most effective ways in which one can facilitate the thinking process is by

being critical about the world in which we live. Being critical does not imply that one is being negative. Far from it. Rather, to be critical is simply to ask the who? what? why? and when? of life, and in doing so become better informed. Being informed does of course have practical real life significance in that we make everyday decisions based on what we know, or think we know. For some, being critical means questioning one's assumptions, and, in the process, coming to terms with one's own ideas, beliefs and opinions. Such personal resolve should not be viewed with tribulation, but as a healthy state of affairs. Being critical allows us to more independent in our thinking. An underlining goal of this course is to stimulate individual thinking. For this reason, I make no apologies for being critical.

Disclaimer

Attached you will find a course outline. Every attempt will be made to follow the schedule as stated in the outline as closely as is possible. However, there may be unforeseen circumstances that influence the overall structure of this course. Thus, the course outline should only be regarded as a guide not etched in stone. In order to accommodate any eventuality that may occur, I reserve the right to change any part of the course during the semester. If I do find it necessary to make any changes, I will make an announcement in class.

YOU

How much you get out of this course is based on how much you decide to put into it. You hold the key to success. It is up to you to unlock the door and determine how wide you want it to be opened. I am here to help you at every opportunity. However, in the end, you are responsible for your own education. In my class, I consider it your responsibility to...

- > attend class on a regular basis
- > come to class prepared
- > complete all the requirements of this course
- > collect any work that was returned in class on a day you were absent
- > acquire any notes and or handouts from a lecture you missed
- > ask for help
- > bring me a donut each time we meet and
- > learn.

If at anytime during the semester you have any questions or concerns, or just want to shoot the breeze, then please do not hesitate to come and see me.
Aloha!

H. Richard Hutton
B.Sc., BA (Hons)., MA.

Course Outline - Spring 2000*

**Geography 102
World Regional Geography
Th 4:45 - 8:55 PM**

Wk 1 Th Apr 6	Geographical Insights New Zealand Y6B	4-6, 19-21 377-380, 391-394 45-50
Wk 2 Th Apr 13	McSociety of the USA Latin America - the Amazon Rainforest	506-508
Wk 3 Th Apr 20	TEST ONE Canada - French speaking Quebec Russia	546-552 153-155, 164-173
Wk 4 Th Apr 27	The world of culture	
Wk 5 Th May 4	China - the Three Gorges Dam	317-321, 330-332
Wk 6 Th May 11	TEST TWO India - the Ganges River	275-277, 285-287
Wk 7 Th May 18	the African continent TNCs	397-400, 406-412
Wk 8 Th May 25	Save the Earth - Feed The World	
Wk 9 Th Jun 1	Australia The Pacific Region	377-381, 390 365-377
Wk 10 Th Jun 8	FINAL EXAM Baraka Course Review	

*** subject to change**