

**World Regional Geography**  
**POLS 104, Section 03, Spring 2012**  
**Tuesdays 4:00 – 6:45 pm**  
**Maybank Hall, Room 111**

**Instructor:** Brian Grabbatin

**Office:** 26 Coming Street, Room 302

**Office Hours:** Mondays 3:00 – 5:00 pm; Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:30 pm (and by appointment)

**Mailbox:** 114 Wentworth Street, Room 202

**Email:** [bgrabbat@cofc.edu](mailto:bgrabbat@cofc.edu)

- Type “POLS 104” in the subject line of all emails
- Allow for a 24 hour turnaround for an email reply

**Course Catalog Description**

“World Regional Geography introduces the geographic nature of a variety of topics including population growth, the organization of religions, and resource problems. Both the location of these activities and the processes that led to their patterns are explored using examples from throughout the world.”

**Objectives**

Studying geography means more than simply learning about locations on a globe. Thinking like a geographer involves understanding how places are interconnected by ecological, economic, political, and cultural *processes*. In this course you will learn about the distinct characteristics of particular parts of the world, then connect those places to one another through past and current events. By taking this course you are preparing yourself for a richer appreciation and understanding of human life and the global systems that shape our world. This course also gives you the opportunity to develop skills that will be directly applicable to your everyday life.

- Gain a basic understanding of world regions and their distinct characteristics.
- Increase knowledge of how societies and environments vary across the world.
- Learn a geographer’s approach to understanding global politics and economics by exploring *processes* such as development and globalization.
- Have the opportunity to become a more informed world citizen.
- Gain skills in critical thinking, critical reading and research.

**Required Textbook**

*World Regions in Global Context: people, places, and environments*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition by Marston, S. A., P. L. Knox, D. M. Liverman, V. L. Del Casino, and P. Robbins. 2010. ISBN 0-321-65185-5.

**Required Materials**

Bring colored pencils, markers, or pens to class daily to complete mapping exercises.

## Assigned Reading

Each week, articles and book chapters will be posted on our class website. You are required to read these texts and be prepared to discuss them during class. I suggest taking notes and underlining passages in these articles to help with reading comprehension and class discussions.

## News Articles

To enhance understanding of class lectures, discussions, and writing assignments, you should keep up with current news and international affairs, below are some recommended sources:

- Visit the *BBC News* web site daily. BBS has an international focus and offers more in-depth analysis than sources like CNN. The BBC website has free articles and is available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>.
- Read *The Economist* weekly. You can access this magazine through the library or order a subscription at a reduced student rate.
- Read a newspaper with a strong international focus on a daily basis. The *International Herald Tribune* (<http://www.iht.com>) and *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com>) offer substantial world news coverage.

## Evaluation

### Participation (10%)

During class, you will write essays about the weekly readings and complete mapping exercises. In order to complete these assignments you will need to bring the textbook, colored pencils/pens/markers, and readings assigned for that day.

### Exams (45%)

Three multiple-choice and short answer exams covering lectures, films, textbook, and class readings.

- Exam I scheduled for FEBRUARY 7 (15%)
- Exam II scheduled for MARCH 20 (15%)
- Exam III scheduled for MAY 1 (15%)

### Writing Assignments (45%)

The details of these assignments will be posted on our course website and discussed in class. Make sure you follow the directions and plan ahead so you can complete these on time. These assignments require you to conduct research, analyze what you have learned from that research, and apply concepts discussed in class.

- Assignment 1 (25%): Commodity Chain Project due by 4:00 on Friday MARCH 2
- Assignment 2 (20%): Current Events Report due during class on Tuesday APRIL 17

### Extra Credit (+2%)

Choose ONE of the following extra credit assignments. The first is a culinary investigation project, a 500-word essay about a regional cuisine and its ingredients. The second is a movie review, a 500-word essay about a geographic documentary or feature film. Detailed descriptions of these projects are posted on the course website. Due during the exam period on May 1, no exceptions.

- Extra Credit due in class on Tuesday MAY 1

## Grading Scale

A = 92% or above	C = 77-72%
A- = 91-90%	C- = 71-70%
B+ = 89-88%	D+ = 69-68%
B = 87-82%)	D = 67-62%
B- = 81 – 80%	D- = 61-60%
C+ = 79-78%	F = below 59%

Please keep track of your progress throughout the semester. If you are concerned about your grade, need help preparing for an assignment, or would like to discuss concepts on an upcoming test, please come by during my office hours or make an appointment to see me. DO NOT wait until the last week of class because then it will be too late to turn things around.

## Attendance and Excused Absences

You are expected to attend all scheduled classes. If absent, it is your responsibility to get in touch with a classmate, visit the course website, or contact the professor to make sure you do not fall behind. If you are ill or have an emergency, be sure to document your absence with the Absence Memo Office and bring documentation to the professor to validate you excused absence. Legitimate excuses include:

- Doctor's excuse for injury or illness
- Documentation of a family emergency
- Advanced notice of religious holiday or observance
- Advanced notice of university approved travel

## Make-up work

All work should be turned in on the scheduled due date. Late work will be PENALIZED BY ONE LETTER GRADE FOR EACH DAY IT IS LATE. No credit will be given for assignments turned in one week after the due date. No make-up exams are permitted unless you present written documentation of a medical excuse or family emergency.

## Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, work, or words as your own, without attribution. The minimum penalty for plagiarism and other forms of cheating is an "F" in the course, with suspension and dismissal possible. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* found at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>

## Classroom behavior

You are expected to arrive on time, pay attention, take notes, and raise your hand to ask questions. Talking, whispering, and using your phone during class is disrespectful to me and to your classmates. Before class begins, turn off and put away your cellular phones, iPods, and other electronic devices, they are not permitted for use in this classroom. LAPTOPS ARE NOT PERMITTED unless you present a legitimate reason to the professor.

### Teacher Availability

For any questions, concerns, or interests that are not addressed during class, I am available during regularly scheduled office hours (Mondays 3:00 – 5:00 pm; Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:30 pm in Room 302 of the political science building at 26 coming street) or by appointment arranged via email.

### Support Services

If you have been diagnosed with a learning disability (or believe you may have one) contact the college's Center for Disability Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. If you require more time to complete tests or assistance of any kind, you are required to present a Professor Accommodation Letter to me at least ONE WEEK BEFORE accommodations are needed.

### Course Topics & Due Dates (Subject To Change)

Approximately one week before each class meeting, articles that pertain to each topic will be posted on the course website. Students are required to read these texts before class so they can participate in class discussions and complete assignments.

WEEK/DATES	TOPICS/READING	EXAMS/HOLIDAYS/ETC.
1: January 10	Thinking Geographically (Ch. 1)	
2: January 17	Environment and Society (Ch.1)	
3: January 24	Economy, Culture, and Politics (Ch.1)	
4: January 31	Europe (Ch. 2)	
5: February 7	Exam I Russia, C. Asia, Transcaucasus (Ch. 4)	<b>EXAM I</b>
6: February 14	Middle East & North Africa (Ch. 3)	
7: February 21	Sub-Saharan Africa (Ch. 5)	
8: February 28	NO CLASS: AAG ANNUAL MEETING	<b>Friday MARCH 2, 4:00pm Assignment 1: Commodity Chains Project Due</b>
9: March 6	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
10: March 13	United States and Canada (Ch. 6)	
11: March 20	Exam II In-Class Film: <i>“Even the Rain”</i>	<b>EXAM II</b>
12: March 27	Latin America and the Caribbean (Ch. 7)	
13: April 3	East Asia & South Asia (Ch. 8 - 9)	
14: April 10	South Asia & Southeast Asia (Ch. 9-10)	
15: April 17	Australia & Antarctica (Ch. 11)	<b>Tuesday APRIL 17, in class Assignment 2: Current Events Report Due</b>
16: May 1	Exam III: Tuesday May 1 (4:00 - 7:00 pm)	<b>EXAM III</b>