

Geography GEOG G120: World Regional Geography

Instructor: Brian Johnson
bejohns@indiana.edu

Course Descriptive and Objectives

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the world's regions. Regions are complex units that combine both human and physical characteristics. Therefore, examining the world's regions requires an understanding of the basic human and physical processes, as well as how these processes interact. For each region, we will cover spatial aspects such as: defining the region, physical geography, land use and human adaptations, historical geography, cultural geography, population geography, economic geography, geopolitical issues, regional subdivisions.

Textbook Readings

Required textbook available at the campus bookstore/online/etc.:

Hobbs, J.J. (2009). *World Regional Geography* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole, Cengage Learning.

Readings for a particular day are to be completed before you come to class. In doing this, you will have the essential background knowledge to fully understand that day's lecture and participate in classroom discussion. The readings *supplement* the lecture content, neither is a *substitute* for the other.

Where topical or contemporary events arise, which help illuminate urban issues, there may be additional assigned readings drawn from journals or other texts. These additional readings will be posted online.

Grading**Scale**

Europe Test	20 points	200-194 A+	193-186 A	185-180 A-
Russia/Near Abroad Test	20 points	179-174 B+	173-166 B	165-160 B-
Middle East/N. Africa Test	20 points	159-154 C+	153-146 C	145-140 C-
Monsoon Asia Test	20 points	139-134 D+	133-126 D	125-120 D-
Oceania Test	20 points	119-0	F	
Sub-Saharan Africa Test	20 points			
Latin America Test	20 points			
North America Test	20 points			
Executive Summary	10 points			
Essay	40 points			
Participation	10 points			

There is no extra credit. Also, I do not curve the grades. No exceptions. Honest.

Tests

Students will be tested on over geographic concepts applying to each of the regions. Tests may have a mix of multiple choice, map, matching, true/false, and essay questions. Students must take the tests in class on the days designated on the syllabus calendar. The lowest test grade will be dropped. The last test will ONLY be administered at the time listed on this syllabus. Don't ask if you can take it early, because the answer will be no.

Attendance on test dates is mandatory. If you miss a test, you will receive a zero on that test unless you have had an emergency documented by a dated doctor's note or accident report attesting to your inability to make it to the test.

Essay

Each student will write an original essay paper on a topic that connects at least two regions, such as the examples below. You do not have to choose one of these topics, but the topic must examine a geographical relationship between at least two world regions. You will need to submit an executive summary for approval before writing your essay. The paper should meet the necessary grammatical requirements expected of a social and behavioral science paper, be correctly referenced, and typed.

Possible topics:

Colonialism- relate European colonialism to at least one other region. For example, how did circular trade networks fuel colonialism and slavery between Africa, the Americas, and Europe? Alternatively, examine the distribution of European languages around the world because of colonialism.

Global warming- the source locations of greenhouse gas emissions and those areas most likely to suffer the worst from climate change and sea level rise are different regions (United States, Europe, China, India versus the Pacific region).

Religion- Islam has spread to many places in the world, but is centered in the Middle East. How did this religion spread and how has it changed in other regions? What has stayed the same?

Globalization- which regions/countries tend to push for globalization and which resist, and why? (For example, the economic union FTAA: Free Trade Area of the Americas).

Population- Examine the different causes of declining populations in different regions (Western Europe, Russia, and Japan).

General essay grading criteria; specific details are forthcoming:

Content - Content of the essay will be evaluated based on the ability of the writer to convey the information of the chosen topic to the reader.

Readability - Each essay must use correct grammar and punctuation. Readability will also be graded on the overall flow of the essay. It should be easy to follow the writer's progression through ideas as they pertain to the chosen topic. Make sure to proofread your essay carefully!

Format - Essays should be double-spaced and 2000-2,500 words pages in length. Essays must have at least 3 sources cited, one source can be the textbook, the others can be book, journal article, media, or Internet sources, but NO Wikipedia (or other non-expert reviewed, publicly-open encyclopedias). Make sure to use APA-formatted in-text citations. If you are not sure how to cite a source come ask me as soon as possible.

Class Participation

Students who want full credit for participation will attend class, actively pay attention, take complete notes, contribute to the discussion, and ask intelligent questions. These model students will also refrain from walking in late/leaving early, talking at inappropriate times, reading the newspaper, cramming for another test, using a mobile phone, and generally annoying their fellow classmates and professor.

Late Assignment Policy

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Students who want an opportunity to earn full credit will submit their assignments at or prior to that point. Any assignments turned in late will be penalized 10% for each day late. Assignments turned in more than 3 days late will be scored a 0. **Students are encouraged to turn in assignments early. Remember, the due date is the last possible day something may be turned in; you can certainly turn your work in early.**

Communications

I reserve the right to send official communications to students by email with the full expectation that students will receive e-mail and read these e-mails in a timely fashion. Class communications will be sent to students' official college email addresses. Students are expected to check their e-mail on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with class-related communications.

Students who choose to have their email forwarded from their official college email address to another address do so at their own risk. The college is not responsible for any difficulties that may occur in the proper or timely transmission or access to email forwarded to any other address, and any such problems will not absolve students of their responsibility to know and comply with the content of official communications sent to their official college email addresses.

Academic Integrity

Each must student do his/her own quality work to receive credit. The minimum penalty for academic misconduct is a zero credit for the entire work. Any academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance with college policy, whose penalties for academic misconduct include failure of the course and/or expulsion from the college.

Calendar

Monday	Wednesday
January 19 No class-MLK Day	January 21 First day of class
January 26 Read Europe (4) chapter	January 28
February 2 Read Russia (5) chapter	February 4 Europe Test
February 9	February 11 Russia and the Near Abroad Test
February 16 Read Middle East and North Africa (6) chapter	February 18
February 23 Read Monsoon Asia (7) chapter	February 25 Middle East and North Africa Test
March 2	March 4 Monsoon Asia Test Essay Executive Summary due
March 9 No class-Spring Break	March 11 No class-Spring Break
March 16 Read Oceania chapter (8)	March 18
March 23 No class-Association of American Geographers Conference	March 25 No class-Association of American Geographers Conference
March 30 Read Sub-Saharan Africa chapter (9)	April 1 Oceania Test
April 6	April 8 Sub-Saharan Africa Test
April 13 Read Latin America chapter (10)	April 15
April 20 Read U.S. and Canada chapter (11)	April 22 Latin America Test
April 27	April 29 Essay due U.S. and Canada Test

This syllabus is subject to change. If changes are necessary, a new syllabus will be issued to the students to reflect these changes.

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