

Geography 40
World Regional Geography
Spring 2009
115 Keller
MWF 2:30pm – 3:20pm

Instructor: Thomas Sigler

Office: 332 Walker

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:15-2:15 and by appointment

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Required Course Texts:

- *Contemporary World Regional Geography*, Bradshaw, White, Dymond, and Chacko, 3rd Edition

Course Objective(s)

World Regional Geography (Geog 40) provides a broad introduction to the complex social, political, economic, and environmental processes that are currently reshaping the world's geography. In this course, we will use geographic concepts to explore how such global transformations have had, and continue to have, divergent outcomes in the different regions of the world.

The course examines a number of contemporary themes—such as globalization, war, human rights, uneven development, nationalism, rural-to-urban migration, tourism, and environmental politics—while also maintaining a focus on the regional variation in these global patterns and processes. In order to understand contemporary events, it is crucial to consider the historical context that has led to the present state of affairs. Therefore, the course explores the history of European colonialism and imperialism in the different world regions as well as the process of de-colonization. We shall critically examine how concepts like 'the West' and 'the Third World', as well as the more recent global 'North' and 'South' (*e.g.* 'core' and 'periphery') have shaped the geographical imagination of contemporary popular discourse.

By emphasizing patterns and processes, this course moves beyond a narrow focus on memorizing geographical 'facts'. Instead, a greater emphasis is placed on learning to think *critically* about the structural forces that are actively re-shaping the world's regions as well as how each individual plays a role (whether consciously or not) in re-making the geography of the world.

Learning Outcomes

This course is meant to serve as a general-education level introduction to geography and geographic themes. Students will learn to examine geographic issues – including current events and broader phenomena – from a critical and informed perspective.

Requirements

Readings. All assigned readings are listed in the Syllabus Schedule below. You are expected to have read the assigned material prior to attending the corresponding lecture. The majority of the assigned readings will be from the textbook, *Contemporary World Regional Geography*, THIRD edition, by Bradshaw, White, Dymond, and Chacko, which is available in the Penn State Bookstore.

During certain weeks, there will also be supplementary readings from other sources such as Harper's magazine or the New York Times. These can be accessed free of charge at lias.psu.edu by using services such as ProQuest or Lexis-Nexis. The lectures will draw on major themes from the readings as well as material not discussed explicitly in the readings. The exams will cover material from both the lectures as well as the readings. You will also be responsible for the material covered in films shown in class.

Examinations. There will be three exams over the course of the semester (see Schedule below for dates). The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and one longer essay question, and they will cover material from the lectures, readings, and films. There will not be a cumulative exam during finals week. Each exam will only include material covered since the previous exam.

Map Quizzes: There will be four map quizzes throughout the course of the semester (see Schedule below for dates). For each of these quizzes you will be given a blank outline map of a region or regions that we have discussed in class and will be asked to label geographic features such as countries, water bodies and physical features. Map quizzes will not be cumulative; each will include material covered since the previous quiz.

Policy Paper: One week before the due date (see below), I will hand each student a "prompt". This will relate current world affairs to a particular topic from the course. Each student is required to submit a two-page policy paper that critically examines the issue and puts forth a position on the matter. We will be discussing this more as the due date approaches.

All direct quotations must be properly cited in the body of the text (providing the author's last name, the date, and page number) as well as in the bibliography using APA or other standard formats. If you are not familiar with proper formatting please see me during my office hours. Additionally, if you present specific information that is not common knowledge (*e.g.* statistics), you are required to include an in-text citation (including the author's last name, date, page number, etc.) to document the source of such information.

Attendance and Participation. All students are required to attend the course lectures. There will be material discussed in lectures and films that is not covered in the course readings, which will be tested on the exams. In order to do well on exams, therefore, attending lectures is crucial. Attendance will be taken each day the class meets, and absences may be excused only for family

or medical emergencies with proper documentation. Make-up exams will only be permitted with documentation of family or medical emergencies. All make-up exams will be in the form of essay questions based on the materials covered in class and the book.

News Quizzes. All students are required to read at least one major newspaper on a regular basis. The New York Times is available for free at numerous points on campus, and you are encouraged to gather news from a variety of domestic and international sources such as The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, The Guardian (UK), or Al Jazeera (Qatar). There will be three news quizzes over the course of the semester. These will be unannounced (i.e. “pop”) quizzes. The purpose of these is twofold: to check attendance as well as to confirm that you have been following major news events. Quizzes will cover only major events that relate directly to material covered in class.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following calculation:

1st exam:	25%
2nd exam:	25%
3rd exam:	25%
Map Quizzes:	10%
Policy Paper:	10%
News Quizzes:	5%

Final grades will not be curved. The following ranking system will be used to determine final grades for the course:

A:	93-100
A-:	90-92
B+:	87-89
B:	83-86
B-:	80-82
C+:	77-79
C:	70-76
D:	60-69
F:	<60

Note: Final grades will not be rounded up to the nearest whole number, or letter grade. For instance, if you have a total of 92.75, you still get an A-, rather than an A (see above). In order to get an A, you must have a 93 or higher. Exceptions may be made only if the student has demonstrated significant improvement on exams over the course of the semester. There will also be no extra-credit opportunities in the course.

Class Schedule. The course schedule for lectures and important dates (*e.g.* exams, paper due dates) is listed below. I shall do my best to stick to the syllabus schedule, although I reserve the right to modify it if something unexpected comes up during the semester.

Policies

Office Hours. I strongly encourage you to come to my office hours. As the course instructor, my main goal is to help you learn, so if you have any questions about the material, or the class in general, you are more than welcome to come speak with me during office hours. If you are not available during that time, email me to set up an appointment.

Students with Disabilities: Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. If you need to be accommodated in any way, please contact me as soon as possible. For university policy on the matter, please consult: http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/current_studs.asp

Email and ANGEL: Send all email to me using the email address listed on the first page of the syllabus (tjs316@psu.edu) or via the ANGEL web page for the course. I will do my best to respond promptly to your questions. ANGEL can be accessed by typing the following into a web browser: cms.psu.edu You will then be prompted to type your Penn State User ID and Password. Next, click on the course GEOG 040.

To make sure that you will receive Angel emails, please do the following in Angel: Click on the "In touch" tab, and then click on "Read Course Mail". Click on "Preferences" and fill in your forwarding address (*i.e.* write your Webmail address and if you prefer you can also write another email address that you normally use). Make sure that the "Forwarding mode" is set to "Forward my course mail" and make sure to save your settings! If you send an email through Angel, please make sure to check "Send a copy of this message to recipients' internet email accounts". Otherwise the before mentioned settings will not make a difference for those people you send it to. In case those who send out emails through Angel forget to do this, you should check your Angel email account regularly.

Deadlines. All exams will be given during the regularly scheduled lecture times on the dates listed in the syllabus schedule (see below). Students cannot re-take exams. Make-up exams can only be taken if the student has official, written documentation of a death in the family or a personal medical emergency. Late assignments will be marked down one letter grade, regardless of when they are turned in. Late submissions will be accepted for partial credit until the next-to-last week of class.

Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic 'F' for the course grade, as well as possible disciplinary action by the university. This consists of cheating on exams or plagiarism on the papers. Plagiarism includes using another author's work as your own or fabricating information or citations in your paper. Properly citing sources is absolutely fundamental to academic writing, so if you have any questions about whether you are adequately citing your sources, please discuss them with me during office hours. For further information on the EMS College's academic dishonesty policy, see the following website: <http://www.ems.psu.edu/students/integrity/index.html>

SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Topic	Assignment
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Week 1

Mon	1/12	Introduction	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	1/14	South Ossetia, Georgia, and the New World Order	http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2008/aug/13/georgia.russia (Explore interactive features)
Fri	1/16	History of the World Political Map	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 3-19; 22-33

Week 2

Mon	1/19	NO CLASS: UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	1/21	Globalization	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 47-57
Fri	1/23	Film: <i>No Logo</i>	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 35-47

Week 3

Mon	1/26	Urbanization in the Developing World	“Et in Suburbia Ego”, “The World Goes to Town”, and “The Strange Allure of Slums” from <i>The Economist</i> , May 5, 2007. Vol. 383, Iss. 8527.
Wed	1/28	Urbanization in the United States	“The Long Emergency” by James Kunstler, <i>Rolling Stone</i> , Available online at http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/7203633/the_long_emergency
Fri	1/30	North America Guest Lecture: Representing and Imagining the American West	“Orlando Beyond Disney”, from National Geographic, March 2007. Available online at http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2007/03/orlando/allman-text

Week 4

Mon	2/2	Central America	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 460-465; 485-488
Wed	2/4	Panama and the Global Economy	http://www.acp.gob.pa/eng/index.html (Explore canal expansion plans)
Fri	2/6	Film: <i>Life and Debt</i>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

Week 5

Mon	2/9	The Caribbean	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 489-493
Wed	2/11	Mexico	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 526-527; 479-484
Fri	2/13	South America MAP QUIZ #1	“Lean, green and not mean” <i>The Economist</i> , Jun 26th 2008

Week 6

Mon	2/16	EXAM 1	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	2/18	Europe and the European Union	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 84-85
Fri	2/20	NO CLASS: THON	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 66-99

Week 7

Mon	2/23	Guest Lecture: France POLICY PAPER ASSIGNED	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	2/25	Film: <i>People Power</i>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Fri	2/27	Central and Eastern Europe: Cold War Legacy	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 116-127

Week 8

Mon	3/2	Russia & the Newly Independent States POLICY PAPER DUE	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 140-161
Wed	3/4	Southwest Asia MAP QUIZ #2	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 306-335
Fri	3/6	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 346-354

Week 9

Mon	3/9	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	3/11	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Fri	3/13	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

Week 10

Mon	3/16	Film: <i>Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</i>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	3/18	North Africa	“THE LIBYA FALLACY”, By David Gargill. <i>Harper's Magazine</i> . New York: Nov 2004. Vol. 309, pp. 80-81
Fri	3/20	Film: <i>The Magnificent African Cake</i>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

Week 11

Mon	3/23	NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR AT AAG CONFERENCE	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Wed	3/25	NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR AT AAG CONFERENCE	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Fri	3/27	NO CLASS: INSTRUCTOR AT AAG CONFERENCE	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

Week 12

Mon	3/30	The Conflict in Sudan	www.savedarfur.org (Explore site content and links)
Wed	4/1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 363-387; 390-391
Fri	4/3	Film: <i>The Great African Scandal</i>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

Week 13

Mon	4/6	South Africa MAP QUIZ #3	“BEYOND APARTHEID: South Africa's Long Journey”, By Barry Bearak. <i>The New York Times</i> , Nov 3, 2008. Page 14.
Wed	4/8	EXAM 2	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Fri	4/10	South Asia	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 260-295

Week 14

Mon	4/13	East Asia	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 180-214
Wed	4/15	Film: <i>China Blue</i>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Fri	4/17	Film: <i>China Blue</i>	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>

Week 15

Mon	4/20	China	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 215-228
Wed	4/22	China (continued)	“THE GREAT LEAP” By Bill McKibben. <i>Harper's Magazine</i> . New York: Dec 2005. Vol. 367, pp. 42-52
Fri	4/24	Southeast Asia MAP QUIZ # 4	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 232-245

Week 16

Mon	4/27	Oceania	Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> 417-432
Wed	4/29	SRTEs & Exam Review	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
Fri	5/1	EXAM 3	* <i>No Assigned Reading</i>
