

Course Outline

World Regional Geography (GEO 111)

Mondays 6:30 - 9:15

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris

Email Address: ppatsouris@trcc.commnet.edu

Office Phone: (860) 892 - 5703

Office: Annex Room 1

Office Hours:

Monday – 2-4 p.m.; 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays – 2-4 p.m.

Or by appointment

Fall 2006

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will introduce basic principles of geography, using the context of world regions, in order to gain an insight into relevant global issues. To study world regional geography is to study the dynamic and complex relationships between people and the world they inhabit. Students will gain knowledge of basic geographical tools and concepts needed to understand the complexity of regions and to appreciate the interconnections between their own lives and those of people in different parts of the world. Emphasis will be placed on the following topics: *Globalization and the links between the global and the local; the unevenness of political and economic development; and linking society and nature.*

Required Texts:

De Blij, H.J. and Muller, Peter O: Concepts and Regions in Geography, Second Edition.
John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 2005

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Content</u>	<u>Text book Reading and Assignments</u>
August 28	Intro to Course; Introduction to World Regional Geography	Introduction
September 4 – Note: no class due to Labor Day	None	None
September 11	Europe	Chapter 1
September 18	Russia	Current Events article for Europe; Read Chapter 2

September 25	First Test; North America	Current Events article for Russia; Read Chapter 3
October 2	Middle America	Current Events article for North America; Read Chapter 4
October 9 - note: no class due to Columbus Day	None	None
October 16	South America	Current Events article for Middle America; Read Chapter 5
October 23	Second Test; Sub-Saharan Africa	Current Events article for South America; Read Chapter 6
October 30 Note: Final project proposals due	North Africa/ Southwest Asia	Current Events article for Sub-Saharan Africa; Read Chapter 7
November 6	South Asia	Current Events article for North Africa/Southwest Asia; Read Chapter 8
November 13	Third Test; East Asia	Current Events article for South Asia; Read Chapter 9
November 20	Southeast Asia	Current Events article for South Asia; Read Chapter 10
November 27	The Austral Realm; Research Day	Current Events article for Southeast Asia; Read Chapter 11

December 4 Note: Final Projects due	The Pacific Realm Final Presentations given	Current Events article for The Austral Realm; Read Chapter 12
December 11	Final Test	None

Method of Evaluation:

This course will focus heavily on reading, writing, and research, and the assignments will be reflective of that.

Tests

You will be given a test after every three or four units of learned, which will consist of identification sentences and paragraphs, a longer essay, and map questions. The test material will come from lectures, readings, video presentations, and class discussions. Each test will be worth 10% of your final grade, making an overall total of 40%.

Current Events Journal

Each week, you will be required to choose an article from a newspaper, magazine, or journal that is directly relevant to a region or a topic that we will be discussing in class, and write a detailed summary that will serve as a basis for class discussion. The journals will be worth 20% of your grade.

Final Research Project

Near the end of the semester, you will be required to complete a research project that covers an important topic during the course. I will allow students to have a certain

amount of freedom to choose how to complete the assignment, but here is a list of *possible* ways to fulfill the assignment:

1. A 5-10 page paper.
2. A 10-15 minute formal in-class presentation.
3. An art project.

The more creative and challenging the project is, the more points I will award. There will be a date at roughly the mid-point of the semester where I will ask that you hand in a topic proposal so that I am sure you are on the right track. This component will be worth 30% of your grade.

Individual Contribution

This consists of how much your presence in the class enriches the learning environment. Are you involved in discussions? Do you ask questions in order to get a deeper understanding of the subject matter? Since attendance directly affects your ability to participate, I expect students to make every effort to attend all classes scheduled and to be in the classroom on time. This component is worth 10% of your grade

Grading System:

A = 94-100	C = 74-77
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-73
B+ = 88-89	D+ = 68-70
B = 80-83	D = 64-67
B- = 80-83	D- = 60-62
C+ = 78-79	F = Below 60

Paper Information

All written materials that are handed in must be typed and double spaced. If you have any trouble with writing, I strongly advise you visit the writing center in room 106 at Mohegan and TASC in the library at both campuses. They are resources that you should use. Furthermore, the following web site will help answer many, if not all of your questions on writing: http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/writing_center/

Attendance:

Please look at the student handbook regarding the college's attendance policies. I take attendance at the beginning of each class, and it goes without saying that habitual absences or lateness will negatively affect your individual contribution grade.

Late Assignments/Make-Up Exams

(Please note that none of following applies if we have made arrangements beforehand.)

My policy on late assignments and make-up exams is as follows: I will accept the first late writing assignment during the same week that it is due, and give you partial credit. The second and subsequent late assignments will be given minimal credit during the same week, with none given afterwards.

A first missed exam must be made up in the same week that it has been given. A second missed exam will be penalized severely.

I will not accept any late final project unless we have arrangements beforehand.

Disabilities Statement:

If you have a hidden or visible disability, which may require classroom or assignment modifications, you are obligated to come see me as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the college immediately, and may result in the failure of an assignment or the course itself.

Civility in the Classroom:

The classroom is a place of learning. In this setting all ideas and opinions are to be heard and respected, even if you disagree with what is said. Anyone who upsets this environment, or who disrespects anyone in the class, will not be tolerated.

Current Events Assignments

Beginning with the material in chapter one of your textbook, I would like you to choose an article in a reputable newspaper, magazine, or journal (web sites are fine) that ties in directly with the issues that are covered in the course. The topic may be an issue that is universal but focused in that particular region, or is something that is very specific to that particular region.

I would like you to do the following: summarize the main points of the article; show how the article directly links to the issues discussed in class; finally, give me your opinions about the central themes raised, especially things that interested you or that you learned for the first time.

I expect that the assignment will be approximately 2-3 typewritten pages in length, and you should be ready to discuss it during class. Also, please include a copy of the article or the link to the website, so that I can compare it to what you have written.

By reputable sources, I am referring to publications that are not directed for mass consumption, but rather have reputations for high journalistic standards and/or ethics. I have included a list of unacceptable and acceptable sources that are easy to find in the Mohegan Campus library or are available in online editions. Please note that this is not an exclusive list, as there are numerous other sources that you can use.

Unacceptable Sources

Any wire service reports (Associated Press, Reuters, etc) in local and regional

newspapers

USA Today

Time

Newsweek

U.S. News and World Report

Acceptable Sources

Wall Street Journal

New York Times

The Economist

National Geographic

Atlantic Monthly

Current History

National Review

New Republic

Harper's Monthly