Course Outline

World Regional Geography

123456 (GEO 111)

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:00 – 12:15

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris

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Office: C108

Phone: (860) 215-9462

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays – 12:15-1:30 p.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

Spring 2017

Course Description:

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.*

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

A. Identify locations of the major physical, political and urban features on earth.
B. Identify key characteristics which explain the economic, political and cultural processes affecting individual location choices and spatial patterns.
C. Define and describe how the concepts of population settlement, geopolitical frameworks and cultural diversity contribute to geographic development.
D. Explain the major aspects of the human/environment interaction (e.g. resource use and natural hazards).
E. Explain the major geologic and meteorological processes and the resulting patterns in the environment.
F. Define and explain the methods used for geographic investigation

Required Texts:

Nijman, Jan; Muller, Peter O; De Blij, H.J: The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography 7th ed. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 2016

Tentative Schedule:

Dates	Class Content	Text book Reading and Assignments
1/19	Intro to Course; Introduction to World Regional Geography	Introduction
1/24 & 1/26	North America	Chapter 1
2/7 & 2/9	Middle America	Chapter 2; Current Events article for North America due.
2/14 & 2/16	South America	Chapter 3; Current Events article for Middle America due.
2/21 & 2/23	Europe	Chapter 4; Current Events article for South America due.
2/28 & 3/2	First Test Russia/Central Asia	Chapter 5
3/7 & 3/9	Russia/Central Asia (cont.) North Africa/Southwest Asia	Chapter 5 and 6; Current Events article for Europe due

3/14 & 3/16	No class – spring break	None
3/21 & 3/23	North Africa/Southwest Asia (cont.)	Chapter 6; Current Events article for Russia/Central Asia due.
3/28 & 3/30	SubSaharan Africa	Chapter 7
4/4 & 4/6 Note – Final project proposals due on April 4	South Asia	Chapter 8; Current Events article for North Africa/Southwest Asia due.
4/11 & 4/13	Second Test East Asia	Chapter 9
4/18 & 4/20	East Asia (cont.)	Chapter 9; Current Events article for South Asia due.
4/25 & 4/27	Southeast Asia	Chapter 10; Current Events article for East Asia due.
5/2 & 5/4 - Note: Final Projects (written papers and creative projects) due on May 4th.	In class Presentations	Current Events article for Southeast Asia due.
5/9	Third Test	

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 units of learned material, which will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and map questions. The test material will come from lectures, readings, video presentations, and class discussions. Each test will be worth 100 possible points of your final grade, making an overall total of 300 possible points.

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. Please read a description of what I am looking for later on in the syllabus. Each journal will be worth 30 points for a total of 300 possible points (with a chance for a bonus 20 points).

Final Research Project

In December, 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 and what topic they choose (even if I do not cover it in class), 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.

If you have ideas about doing something different and/or unique (such as the art project), I encourage you to speak to me directly so that we can work something out that satisfies both of us.

I ask that you hand in a topic proposal on April 4th, so that I am sure you are on the right track. Please see the attached sheets for information on the written paper and oral presentation. This component will be worth 400 possible points

Grading System:

A = 950-1000 points	C = 740-770 points
A- = 900-940 points	C- = 700-730 points
B+ = 880-890 points	D+ = 680-700 points
B = 840-870 points	D = 640-670 points
B- = 800-830 points	D- = 600-620 points
C+ = 780-790 points	F = Below 600 points

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/tutoring center. Furthermore, the

following web site will help answer many, if not all of your questions on writing: http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Div_academics/TASC/WritingCenter/WritingCenter.shtml

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. No credit will be given if handed in later

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 final project after the due date unless we have an agreement beforehand.

Attendance:

Please look at the student handbook regarding the college's attendance policies.

Having said this, I would like to give you my philosophy on attendance: You are all adults and have paid to take this class. What you choose to do with that is up to you. I will never penalize any grade directly because of attendance. Furthermore, you do not need to supply me an excuse for any classes missed. If you have a problem, personal or academic, which will require you to miss class for any length of time, please come talk to me so that we can come to an agreeable solution.

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.

Digication Statement

All students are required to maintain a learning portfolio in Digication that uses the (Three Rivers) College Template.

Finally, I would like to add that the best part of my job is getting to know all of you better and helping you in whatever your goals may be. I believe in and am truly committed to the mission of the community college, but I know that there is a chance that real life intrudes. If at any point during the semester you are struggling in the course or have a problem for any reason (personal, academic, etc), I encourage you to talk to me so that we can come up with a solution that works for both of us. I want to see you thrive and succeed, and any way that I can help you in doing that is worth the investment.

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. If you are unsure about a source, please write or see me and we can discuss it.

Unacceptable Sources

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

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

Sources from educational databases found through the TRCC library

In the past, students have approached this assignment in many ways. Most will just find an article for that week regardless of what the topic might be. Others will focus on a particular issue or theme (environment, women's rights, politics, etc) and use it as the common theme for every current events assignment. A bonus for the latter is that the articles can be used as research documents for the final project.