

## Course Outline

World Regional Geography (GEO 111)

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 11-12:20

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris

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Office Hours:

Mondays through Thursdays – 10-11; 12:30-1:30

Or by appointment

Spring 2008

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: The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 2007

Tentative Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Content</u>	<u>Text book Reading and Assignments</u>
January 22	Intro to Course; Introduction to World Regional Geography	Introduction
January 29	Introduction to World Regional Geography (cont); Europe – Part A	Introduction and Chapter 1
February 5	Europe – Part B and C	Chapter 1

February 12	Russia - Parts A and B	Chapter 2; Current Events article for Europe due
February 19	North America – Parts A and B	Chapter 3; Current Events article for Russia due
February 26	First Test ; Middle America – Part A	Chapter 4; Current Events article for North America due
March 4	Middle America – Part B; South America – Part A	Chapter 4 and 5; Current Events for Middle America due
March 11	South America – Part B Sub-Saharan Africa – Part A	Chapter 5 and 6; Current Events article for South America due
March 18	None – Spring Break	None
March 25 Note: Final project proposals due	Sub-Saharan Africa – Part B; North Africa/ Southwest Asia – Part A	Chapter 6 and 7; Current Events article for Sub-Saharan Africa due
April 1	North Africa/Southwest Asia – Part B; South Asia Part A	Chapter 8; Current Events article for North Africa/ Southwest Asia due
April 8	Third Test; East Asia – Part A	Chapter 9; Current Events article for South Asia due
April 15	East Asia – Part B and C	Chapter 9
April 22	Southeast Asia – Part A and B	Chapter 10; Current Events article for East Asia due;

April 29 – Note: Final projects due on May 1	Make up class (if needed) In-class presentations;	Current Events for Southeast Asia due
May 8	Fourth 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 questions and a longer essay. 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 25% 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 25% 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/](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/writing_center/)

### 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 late final project unless we have made arrangements beforehand.

### 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.

College Withdrawal Policy:

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> week of classes. From the 11<sup>th</sup> until the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor.

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