

# **GEO K111 (Section 01): World Regional Geography Spring 2012**

Class Hours: TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Instructor: Jeb Stevens

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Office Hours: By Appointment

## **Course Description:**

“This course provides students with a survey of the lands, peoples, and places in the world's major cultural regions. Students explore the interaction between the physical environment and cultural, political, and economic conditions in the world's regions. 3 credit hours; course fulfills international/intercultural requirement.”

Prerequisite: Placement test score indicating ENG\* K101 or completion of ENG\* K100 with a "C" grade or better.

### *A Brief Comment on the Discipline of Geography*

Geographer Yi-Fu Tuan described the field of geography as “the study of the earth as the home of people.” As such, it seeks understanding of both the human aspects of places (e.g., spatial expressions of demographic change, etc.) and the physical or natural aspects of places (e.g., climatic, geologic etc.). While many geographers focus their attention on investigating either human *or* physical systems, the regional perspective considers both conjointly. Thus, in this course you will examine both human and physical aspects of places (world regions) in order to gain an understanding of global and regional systems. A re-occurring topic will be human-environment interaction.

## **Required Text:**

Pulsipher, Lydia M., and Alex Pulsipher (2012). *World Regional Geography Concepts*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, NY: W.H. Freeman and Company. ISBN-10: 1-4292-5366-5

## **Evaluation and Learning Objectives:**

- 3 Exams (Total 30% of final course grade)
  - *Learning Objective: Synthesis of material to demonstrate mastery of overall course content*
- Quizzes (15% of final grade)
  - *Learning Objective: To demonstrate understanding of course subject matter*
- Weekly IN-CLASS Writing Assignments (20% of final grade)
  - *Learning objective: Selection of information in order to articulate a position (i.e. present and defend an argument)*
- Take-home Assignments (15% of final grade)
  - *Learning objective: Analytical thinking and forging of interconnections between topics or subject matters (i.e. investigation of systems and processes)*
- Term Project (20% of final grade)
  - *Learning objective: Improvement of research and written communication skills*

## **Course Policies:**

### *Attendance*

While attendance is not directly mandated in this course, successful completion of this course will require regular attendance of class lectures. Furthermore, 20% of your final grade will be based on weekly IN-CLASS writing assignments; late IN-CLASS assignments will not be accepted. As a college student, it is your responsibility to be aware of and fulfill course requirements—it is your duty as a student to BE PREPARED. I will provide you with learning tools and guidance but ultimately it is the role of the student to be prepared to execute the course requirements.

### *Late Assignments*

As noted above, late in-class writing assignments will not be accepted. Take-home assignments will be accepted late if submitted no more than seven days past the original due date and will receive an automatic one letter grade penalty. Missed exams will not be able to be made up without a doctor's note or other formal documentation. The final term project will not be accepted past the deadline announced in class.

### *Miscellaneous*

I assume that if you are enrolled in this course you will conduct yourself as an adult. Therefore, I will have little tolerance for academic dishonesty (see below), uncivil classroom behavior, excuses, or the breaking of any college rule or regulation. In addition, the use of cell phones or other electronic devices whose use is not germane to class lecture or discussion is prohibited. Please turn off all cell phones and devices before entering the classroom. Thank-you.

## **Academic Integrity:**

“Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.”

**Disabilities Statement:**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 892-5751. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible.

Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Tentative Lecture Schedule and Readings:**

DATE	TOPICS	TEXTBOOK READINGS
1/19	Welcome	
1/24	Intro to geography (Core Concepts)	
1/26	Intro to geography (Earth Systems)	
1/31	Intro to geography (History in Global Context, Ch. 1)	Ch. 1
2/2 (Classes not in session)		
2/7	Intro to geography (Ch. 1)	Ch. 1
2/9	Europe	Ch. 4
2/14	Europe	Ch. 4
2/16	Exam 1	
2/21	Middle East and North Africa	Ch. 6
2/23	Middle East and North Africa	Ch. 6
2/28	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 7
3/1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 7
3/6	Middle and South America	Ch. 3
3/8	Middle and South America	Ch. 3
3/13	Exam 2	
3/15	TBA	
3/20 (Spring Break)		
3/22 (Spring Break)		
3/27	South Asia	Ch. 8
3/29	South Asia	Ch. 8
4/3	East Asia	Ch. 9
4/5	East Asia	Ch. 9
4/10	Southeast Asia	Ch. 10
4/12	Southeast Asia	Ch. 10
4/17	Oceania	Ch. 11
4/19	Oceania	Ch. 11

4/24	Exam 3	
4/26	TBA	
5/1	TBA	
5/3	TBA	
5/8	Term Project Presentations	
5/10	Term Project Presentations	