**Three Rivers Community College**

**World Regional Geography**

**GEO K111-G1**

**Professor:** Martha Morris

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Class Meeting:** Wednesdays in Rm. KTRCC C101 from 6:00 to 8:45pm

**Reading:** Nijman, et. al**.,** *The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography*, 7th edition (Wiley, 2016); article posted on Blackboard

**Course Description:** 3 CREDIT HOURS

Prerequisite: ENG\* K101 or ENG\* K101S placement∞ or completion of ENG\* K096 with a “C#” grade or better.

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. Course fulfills International/Intercultural Requirement.

**Instructional Objectives:** The student will be able to:

* Identify the major geographical features of each region.
* Examine the relationship between geographical regions and cultures.
* Analyze the impact of a region’s historical geography on the current culture
* Describe the trends and patterns that are woven throughout the topics.
* Apply the themes that are being studied to a discussion with his/her peers.
* Examine the way in which people with differing ideologies interact.
* Demonstrate an ability to use the discussion function in Blackboard.
* Research the relationship between physical geography and culture.

**Grading:** There will be three exams, two quizzes, a Blackboard discussion and a research paper. Each exam will be worth 20 percent of the total grade. The quizzes, discussion and paper will be worth 10 percent each. The instructor will deny students who miss an activity with an un-excused absence the opportunity of taking it or submitting it at a later date.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes as the exams are based substantially on material covered in class. Attendance will be taken, and students who miss more than 15 minutes of a class will be deemed absent. It is expected that non-emergency appointments will be made outside of class and exam hours. Please do not assume I will withdraw you from the course if you unofficially withdraw. You may receive an “F” grade at the end of the term.

**Teaching Procedures: Students will learn by:**

* Reading the articles posted on Blackboard
* Researching study sheet key words in a textbook and/or on the internet
* Participating in a forum discussion
* Viewing film clips
* Participating in classroom lectures and discussions

**Criteria for Evaluating Student Performance**: Exams are based on short answer and essay. A successful performance on the exams will require accurate identification of the features of world regions and an understanding of the strengths and challenges of the different regions. A satisfactory result on the quizzes will require understanding of the concepts in the readings posted in Blackboard. Discussion part I: Students will respond to a question posted in Blackboard (40%). Students must include a question of their own about the subject in their responses (10%). Discussion part II: Students will then respond to two of their peers’ posts and their responses will include answers to the questions posed by their peers (50%). Points for the discussion in Blackboard will be awarded on the basis of insight, effort and creativity. Each post must be a minimum of six sentences; a couple of paragraphs would be better. Part two posts cannot be posted until part one is due. This is to ensure that students read all posts. Early part two postings will not be graded. The research paper, three to five pages double spaced, will examine the impact of a region’s physical geography on the local culture. Please see attached sheet for research paper requirements.

**Academic Honesty:**

It is the policy in this course that cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Any work submitted that is not the students’ own will receive a “0” grade, and, depending on the severity of the offence, the student may be expelled from the course. For questions on what constitutes plagarism, please see the Harvard Guide to Using Sources: What Constitutes Plagiarism? <http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054>

**Acts of Intolerance:** This class, like the college, will not tolerate any form of overt

bigotry towards others, such as acts of sexism, racism, ageism, sexual orientation

discrimination, etc. Any and all incidents will be reported and the offending student will

be asked to leave the class.

**Technology**: Computers and tape recorders are allowed if they are used for class

activities. Cell phones may not be used unless there are extenuating circumstances. In circumstances that require students to be available by phone or pager, the students should inform the instructor before class.

**Accommodations for Students With Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who need accommodations for this class are encouraged to contact Disability Services via the Advising and Counseling Center at 860-215-9017.

**Course Outline:** **The following course schedule is tentative and subject to change.**

**For the Week Topic Reading:**

**Beginning**:

Aug. 28 Introduction; Globalization, Imperialism and Regionalism

Sept. 4 The American Dream: Industrialization, Urbanization and Oil Chapter One

Sept. 11 Middle America: Ancient Civilizations of Central America Chapter Two

and Globalization – Cuba, a Case Study

Sept. 18 South America: The Spanish, Bolivar and a Venezuelan Chapter Three

Revolution?

Sept. 25 Europe: Brexit, the EU and the Irish Question Chapter Four

Oct. 2 **Exam one;** Video: Bloody Sunday

Oct. 9 Russia: the Economic Systems and A Revolution Overthrown Chapter Five

Oct. 16 The Middle East and Oil Dependency; **Quiz One** Chapter Six

Oct. 23 Subsaharan Africa: The Great Scramble and the Struggle Chapter Seven

 For Independence: Ghana, a Case Study

Oct. 30 South Asia: the Indus Valley Civilization and the Contest Chapter Eight

 For Kashmir

Nov. 6 **Exam Two;** Video: The Chinese Revolution

Nov. 13 East Asia: Post-Revolutionary China and Industrialization Chapter Nine

Nov. 20 Southeast Asia: Vietnam and Cambodia – War and a Path Chapter Ten

Forward; **Quiz Two**

Nov. 27 **Thanksgiving Recess (no class)**

Dec. 4 Australia and New Zealand: the Aboriginies, the Maoris and Chapter Eleven

European Settlement; **Research Paper Due**

Dec. 11 **Final Exam**

**Research Paper Requirements**

This paper will examine the impact of a region’s physical geography on the local culture. Students can choose which region they would like to research. Some things to consider could include housing, food, dress, entertainment, economic systems, etc. Feel free to share your topic ideas with me if you would like my prior approval. Papers on other topics will receive a “0” grade.

Double Spaced

Three full pages minimum: long headers, extra wide margins or spaces between paragraphs must be compensated for on a fourth page. Pages less than three full pages will lose a minimum of a full letter grade. Three full pages is still a very short paper. Long headers on the first page, large margins and spaces between paragraphs don't count.

Times New Roman

12 pt. font

Introduction, with a thesis statement

Conclusion

Paragraphs

The word “would” as part of the verb tense should seldom be used.

Bibliography: Use at least three sources and reference them in any style you prefer. Titles, authors and links need to be included for internet sources. The text book and other articles posted in this course may not be used. This is a research paper; you are expected to find the sources.

Quotes: When using quotes, the source must be referenced. Use whatever method you prefer. For example: “The Koutammakou landscape in north-eastern Togo, which extends into neighbouring Benin, is home to the Batammariba whose remarkable mud tower-houses (Takienta) have come to be seen as a symbol of Togo.” (World Reviewer) You are welcome to use formal footnotes or endnotes.

Format: MLA or any other you prefer; just be consistent.

First and second person pronouns should not be included – “I,” “you,” “my,” “your,” “we,” "me."

Edit Carefully: I expect it will be free of errors.

Your paper needs to be saved as .pdf, .doc, .docx, or .rtf. I won't be able to open Mac-only pages file format and Open Office won't work.

Do Not Copy: Plagiarized papers will receive a “0” grade. The paper will also receive a "0" grade if sections of the paper were plagiarized.

Submit through Blackboard