

Course Syllabus, GEOG 100: World Regional Geography

Lindley Hall: Room 317

MWF 2:00-2:50

Instructor: Luke Struckman

Office Hours: Monday: 1:00-2:00; 3:00-4:00

Wednesday: 1:00-2:00; 3:00-4:00

Also by appointment

Office: Lindley 500

Mailbox Room: Lindley 218

E-Mail: lstruckm@ku.edu

Office Phone: 785-864-2473

Course Description and Goals:

In this course students will take a penetrating look into the geographical – or spatial -- relationships between human societies and cultures, the natural environment, and historical changes that have shaped the contemporary world. More than answering the question “*What is where?*” this course adopts a largely conceptual approach to understanding and explaining the dynamic human and natural features of the earth’s surface. Important themes include the necessary link between history and geography, historical and cultural settlement processes, urbanization, ethnic conflict and nation-building, globalization of economy and culture, political and international conflict, cultural diversity, and global environmental concerns. To that end, a deeper understanding of current events from a historical and geographical perspective is imperative. Thus, timely issues and events in the news will be tied into the overall framework of the course.

Course Objectives:

1. To have a better understanding of world physical and cultural landscapes.
2. To become further aware of geographic issues and processes.
3. To obtain the critical thinking skills necessary to recognize the interconnectedness of geographic phenomenon at work in the world.

Required Text: Pulsipher and Pulsipher. 2007. *Global Patterns, Local Lives. Fourth Edition.* W.H. Freeman Pub.

Assignments and Evaluation Methods:

Exams: Exam format will be mixed, including short answer, essay, multiple choice, and fill in the blank. Each exam WILL cover material from the textbook. There are NO dropped tests (Total of 4 Exams).

Missed exams cannot be made up, unless you notify me either in person or via email PRIOR to the exam date.

Film Review: We will be watching two films in their entirety during class time this semester. You will be required to write a short (two-page, double spaced) summary and

review on one of the two films. I will provide more details on the requirements of this assignment before we watch the first film.

Regional Map Exercises: This is the creative part of the class. Within the first week, I will provide blank maps of the regions we will be examining. You are required to fill blank maps in with information including the names of countries, major urban areas, and major physical features (major rivers, major mountain ranges, etc.). *You can't finish the course without completing this bare minimum requirement.* What you do from there will determine how many points you will receive. This exercise will be due on Friday, April 11th.

Grading: Four Exams (including final) @ 20 points each = 80%
One, Film Review @ 10 points = 10%
Regional Map Exercise (REQUIRED!!!!) @ 10 points = 10%

Attendance Policy: Attendance is MANDATORY for this class. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. You are allowed two(2) unexcused absences during the semester. After two unexcused absences, each subsequent absence will subtract 5 percentage points from your final grade.

If you miss more than two unexcused class meetings, you may read a book and write a two page, double-spaced review in order to make up for the missed class. You can write up to two book reviews during the semester. A list of book titles will be provided on Blackboard after the first exam.

I understand that students sometimes cannot avoid missing class for various reasons. If you find yourself in a situation in where you will be missing more than two class periods during the course of this semester, please see me in person or contact me by email. I will do my best to accommodate your situation.

Students with disabilities:

If you have a learning and/or physical disability, you are encouraged to make arrangements for class assignments/exams so your academic performance will not suffer because of the disability or handicap. If you have questions about special provisions for students with disabilities, contact the KU Services For Students With Disabilities <http://www.ku.edu/~ssdis/>. If you do not notify the instructor of your disability, he is not responsible for making special arrangements.

Blackboard Information:

If you have never used Blackboard before, don't panic. It is extremely easy to use and provides all the external information you need for the course. You may use it to check grades, download outline maps for the Map Book, download related course documents, get more information about the assignments, check out interesting links, and much more.

The Web Address to login for Blackboard is: <http://courseware.ku.edu/>

Cell Phone Usage Policy:

The use of cell phones during class time is strictly prohibited. This includes text messaging. If I observe a phone being used while class is in session, I will take it away and return at the end of the class period. If you feel the need to use a phone during class, please exit the room.

IMPORTANT DATES (Very Tentative)

February 11	EXAM I (Globalization, Post-Colonialism, Europe, Russia)
February 13,15,18	FILM I: <i>Battle of Algiers</i>
March 12	EXAM II (Africa, Southwest Asia)
March 15	FILM II: <i>Motorcycle Diaries</i>
March 17-21	NO CLASS: Spring Break
March 24, 26	FILM II
April 16	EXAM III (South America, Middle America, Caribbean)
April 21	REGIONAL MAP EXERCISE DUE

FINAL EXAM: (South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia)
Thursday, May 15: 1:30-4:00

The Final Exam will be held in our usual room: Lindley Hall, Room 317