

GEOG 2723
World Regional Geography
Fall 2018
Department of Social Sciences

Classroom: Online
Section: GEOG2723.W1
Professor: Brad Watkins, Ph.D.
Office: Off-Campus
Email: bwatkins@se.edu
Skype ID: I will provide my Skype name *if* you would like a video conference.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comparative study of the cultural regions of the world.

No prerequisites

OBJECTIVES

In order to pass this course, you must demonstrate at least minimal proficiency in the following geographic concepts. Of course, greater levels of proficiency will result in a better grade.

You will be able to:

1. Define the dual nature of the geographic perspective (i.e., descriptive and analytical);
 2. Discuss the importance of maps and GIS as tools of the geographer;
 3. Describe the basic processes of physical geography, including endogenic (i.e., plate tectonics) and exogenic processes (erosion and deposition), basic weather and climate mechanisms, and global vegetation patterns;
 4. Describe 5 specific examples of how the natural environment is affected by humans;
 5. Describe 5 specific examples of how human patterns are affected by the natural environment;
 6. Describe the major physical and human characteristics of the world regions
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ONLINE ETIQUETTE

Please respect the online learning environment of students and the professor. I encourage questions in the Q&A Discussion, but derogatory comments, negativity, and poor attitudes will not be tolerated and will be considered disruptive behavior. If you engage in these disruptive

activities, I will remove your post. If you commit multiple violations of the stated policy disciplinary action will be initiated as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

1. I will post announcements frequently. It is your responsibility to check announcements regularly.
 2. When you have a *general question* about the course material, please first check the Bb Discussion called Q&A because your question may already be answered. If not, please post your question and I or a fellow student will answer it as soon as possible.
 3. For help with *private questions* (grades, problems with your Bb account, personal issues, etc.), please email bwatkins@se.edu or set up a Skype conference with me. You need to have the course name in the subject line and be sure to address the professor as Dr. Watkins and put your name at the end of the email. I will respond only to your university email account.
 4. I will be civil and courteous when communicating. I expect you to do the same.
 5. If you decide to drop the course, please do not block my emails. You will no longer receive my emails once you are officially dropped from the course.
 6. Email me only from your official @se.edu email account. No other email account is valid and I will not receive your message.
 7. Put the course prefix and number (GEOG 2723) in the subject line of you emails to me.
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REQUIRED BOOKS

Rowntree, Les, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff. 2018. *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development with MasteringGeography Course Access*, 7th ed. New York: Pearson.

Turabian, Kate L. 2013. *A Manuals for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

You may wish to have a webcam for video conferences (if preferred). This is NOT required. Some students prefer to see the professor during meetings. I'll leave it up to you. I can provide you with my Skype ID if you would like a web meeting.

ONLINE COURSES

This online course has no prerequisites. However, it is intended only for motivated students who do not need the reinforcement of a traditional lecture format. There are no audio or video lectures in the course. My teaching strategy is completely textual and visual. There are no long exams requiring you to go to campus or a proctored location--everything is entirely online and you will complete a number of short assignments based on various regions.

The course has very strict deadlines and you will be required to complete the assignments by the deadlines or receive a grade of zero on them. **All assignments are graded after their deadlines. Due to the number of students enrolled in the course, it may take up to two weeks for the assignments to be graded.**

SUMMARY OF COURSEWORK

The course follows the textbook's 14 chapters. The book opens with two introductory chapters that are followed by 12 chapters on each major world region (North America, Europe, East Asia, etc.). Each regional chapter is organized by five sections that examine the region's environment, population, cultural patterns, political organization, and economies.

Since this is an online course, it is much more flexible. You may find that you like doing one short chapter section each day of the work week. Allowing great flexibility is my goal; I want you to have a rewarding experience in the course. There is, however, a schedule and I do require work to be done on time, and this demands self-discipline.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings

You will read an entire 14-chapter textbook, cover-to-cover. Most chapters are divided into five sections. It is VERY important that you study the maps, graphics, and photos in the text. I recommend you look at the photos and maps and read their captions before reading each section. The textbook's maps, graphics, and photos will be the subject of several of your assignments, so you will need to have analyzed each carefully before attempting the assignments. In addition, the MasteringGeography site has a Study Area where you can

practice answering map labeling questions in the same format as the quiz. Take advantage of this opportunity.

Assignments

The assignments will focus on one region or ask you to compare two or more regions. It is important that you read all chapters, including the first two, which will help you build your vocabulary of geographical terms and concepts. Assignments are due **Mondays at 9:00 am**.

Syllabus Quiz

The first quiz is over the syllabus and will require a grade of 10/10 before you can proceed in the course. This does not factor into your course grade, but you must score a 10/10 to proceed to the other quizzes. The syllabus quiz is due by the **second Monday** of the semester at **9:00 am**.

Map Quizzes

There are 12 regional map quizzes. Map quizzes contain 5-10 multiple part questions. You will be given 40 minutes to complete each quiz. Access the map quiz through the Pearson MyLab and Mastering link. Once in the Pearson course, you will click on Assignments. Each map quiz is worth 30 points. Quizzes are due **Mondays at 9:00 am**.

Participation

You will receive up to 40 points based on your participation. This is earned by completing all assignments in the course. The participation grade will be given at the end of the course.

GRADES

Final grades are based on points earned out of 1,000 possible and will be based on the grade scale below.

Assessment	Points Each	Points
Assignments (6)	100	600
Map Quiz (12)	30	360
Participation	40	40
		1,000

A 1,000-900 B 899-800 C 799-700 D 699-600 F 599 and below

ACCESSING ASSIGNMENTS

Links to the assignments will be found on the “Assignments” page. You can click on the Assignments link in the tools area on the left side of the Blackboard window once you are in the course.

ACCESSING TIMED MAP QUIZZES

Links to the 12 timed map quizzes are accessed from the **MasteringGeography Course Home** link in the **Map Quizzes** content area (link on left side of home page). Once in the Pearson course site, click on **Assignments** to view that week’s quiz. You are NOT allowed to open, close, and reopen the online quizzes. Do not take the quiz until you are prepared to do so, but you must begin the quiz within the release time shown in the syllabus. You will have **50 minutes** to complete a map quiz. If you exceed the time limit before finishing, all unanswered questions will be counted incorrect. This format is a trade-off for the convenience of an un-proctored online course. If it seems unfair, please drop the course. Quizzes are due **Mondays at 9:00 am**.

LOST CONNECTIONS -- VERY IMPORTANT

If your browser locks up while taking a quiz, you should immediately reboot your computer and contact me by email to explain what happened. If it is not too late (a few hours before the deadline) and I am able to, I will review Bb to verify your story. If Bb records show that you paged through the quiz without saving questions, then your request for a reset will be denied. I will record all resets so that no one will be allowed to make a habit of requesting them. Then, if your story can be verified and you do not have a history of reset requests, I will reset your quiz and allow you to retake it before the regular deadline. The new quiz will likely be composed of different questions. Absolutely no time extensions will be granted for any reason. You are encouraged to work ahead whenever possible.

MAP QUIZ SUBMISSIONS, ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS AND GRADING

When you have completed all questions in a quiz and have saved each answer, you must submit the quiz for grading. You will be able to view your grade quiz only after its respective availability period ends. Map quiz scores will not be curved.

Submit all assignments in PDF format. If you are using Microsoft Word, you may save your document as a PDF. Follow the instructions for each assignment.

I will make every attempt to grade assignments within one week of their due date.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Use a reliable, high-speed internet connection to take quizzes;
 - Map quizzes may be opened only once;
 - Quiz feedback is not released automatically as soon as you finish.
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ONLINE MAP QUIZZES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This special-format course can only be offered if its integrity remains intact, and for its integrity to remain intact requires that students be held to a high standard of accountability. Student collaboration on map quizzes is strictly prohibited. Students suspected of unauthorized collaboration will receive a formal complaint against them through established university protocol.

DEADLINES AND LATE WORK POLICY

It is your responsibility to submit work before deadlines. No one will be allowed to take a quiz after the deadline. If deadlines occur on holidays or conflict with your schedule, you should complete the work early.

SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Southeastern Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration on homework or assignments, plagiarism, multiple submissions of the same assignment, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, having unauthorized advance access to quizzes, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action.

LIABILITY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The instructor assumes no liability for your failure to complete required work in this course. As a fee-paying enrolled SEOSU student, it is assumed that you are utilizing SEOSU student computer labs, software, and Internet connections to complete the course requirements. **Use of personal computer hardware, software, and/or non-university internet connections is at your own risk.** Failure of your personal computer, software, or non-university Internet connection is no excuse for failing to complete or submit work. If you need technical assistance

with your personal computer or your personal Internet connection, you should contact your retailer or Internet service provider. If you need assistance using the SEOSU Bb website, you should get help from IT at <http://www.se.edu/contact/>

COUNSELING CENTER

Any student experiencing mental or emotional issues who desires free, confidential, clinical counseling is encouraged to contact the SE Counseling Center at (580) 745-2988 to schedule an appointment during normal working hours Monday-Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM. For after-hours mental health emergencies, please call SE Campus Police at (580) 745-2911 or the Mental Health Crisis Hotline at 1- (800) 522-1090.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

Any student needing special accommodations due to a disability should contact the Office of Compliance and Safety, Administration Building, Suite 311 or call (580) 745-3090 (TDD# 745-2704). It is the responsibility of each student who anticipates or experiences barriers to their academic experience to make an official request for disability related accommodations in a timely manner.

EQUITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, procedures, or programs. This includes, but is not limited to: admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination and equity policies may be directed to: Michael Davis, Director of Compliance and Safety & Title IX Coordinator, (580) 745-3090, or mdavis@se.edu.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week (Starting Day*)	Topic	Reading Assignment (from textbook unless otherwise noted)
1 (Aug 20)	Course Orientation Chicago Manual of Style, author-date	Syllabus Turabian Chs 15, 18-19
2 (Aug 27)	Globalization and Diversity	Chapter 1
3 (Sep 3)	The Changing Global Environment	Chapter 2
4 (Sep 10)	North America	Chapter 3
5 (Sep 17)	Latin America	Chapter 4
6 (Sep 24)	The Caribbean	Chapter 5
7 (Oct 1)	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 6
8 (Oct 8)	Southwest Asia and North Africa	Chapter 7
9 (Oct 15)	Europe Fall Break (Oct 19-20)	Chapter 8
10 (Oct 22)	The Russian Domain	Chapter 9
11 (Oct 29)	Central Asia	Chapter 10
12 (Nov 5)	East Asia	Chapter 11
13 (Nov 12)	South Asia	Chapter 12
14 (Nov 19)	Thanksgiving Break	no reading
15 (Nov 26)	Southeast Asia	Chapter 13
16 (Dec 3)	Australia and Oceania	Chapter 14
17 (Dec 10)	Finals Week (No Final Exam)	

**Each week begins on Monday at 9:00 am and ends the following Monday at 9:00 am.*

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Week (Starting Day*)	Assignment	Due
1 (Aug 20)	Know Your Syllabus Quiz	Sep 4
2 (Aug 27)	Assignment 1	Sep 4
3 (Sep 3)	no assignment	no assignment
4 (Sep 10)	Map Quiz: North America	Sep 17
5 (Sep 17)	Assignment 2 Map Quiz: Latin America	Sep 24 Sep 24
6 (Sep 24)	Map Quiz: The Caribbean	Oct 1
7 (Oct 1)	Assignment 3 Map Quiz: Sub-Saharan Africa	Oct 8 Oct 8
8 (Oct 8)	Map Quiz: Southwest Asia and North Africa	Oct 15
9 (Oct 15)	Assignment 4 Map Quiz: Europe	Oct 22 Oct 22
10 (Oct 22)	Map Quiz: The Russian Domain	Oct 29
11 (Oct 29)	Assignment 5 Map Quiz: Central Asia	Nov 5 Nov 5
12 (Nov 5)	Map Quiz: East Asia	Nov 12
13 (Nov 12)	Assignment 6 Map Quiz: South Asia	Nov 19 Nov 19
14 (Nov 19)	Thanksgiving Break	no assignment
15 (Nov 26)	Map Quiz: Southeast Asia	Dec 3
16 (Dec 3)	Map Quiz: Australia and Oceania	Dec 10
17 (Dec 10)	Finals Week (No Final Exam)	

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