

Geography 110–701: World Regional Geography

Syllabus

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Leslie North

Email: leslie.north@wku.edu

Office Hours: EST Room 438, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45pm. Email to schedule a phone call or meeting at another time.

**Information in this syllabus is subject to change at any point during the semester. If changes to the syllabus occur, the instructor will let you know as soon as possible.

Required Text:

- Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher and Alex Pulsipher, World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives (Without Subregions), 5th edition, W.H. Freeman, 2010. ISBN: 978-1429232449.
- A good world atlas is also suggested.

Colonnade and General Education Credit: This course satisfies the Colonnade Social and Behavioral Science requirement (Explorations), as well as the General Education Category E World Cultures requirement. If you have an AP Human Geography credit, you are not required to take this class. This course fulfills General Education Category E and is required for the Geography, Meteorology, and GIS majors, and for the Geography minor.

Course Learning Outcomes: This course is an introduction to geographical concepts as they apply to the world's regions. During the semester we will engage in a general survey of the political, social, economic, physical, and ecological systems of the world while applying the five main themes of geography: Location, Place, Human Environment Interaction, Movement, and Regions. The text and associated lectures are intended to help you develop an appreciation for the diversity and uniqueness of world's cultures as well as a deeper understanding of the complex geophysical differences of the world. Our goals are to explore world regions, understand how each of these regions relates to other regions in the world, and how we influence and are influenced by these seemingly distant places. You will be challenged to view the world in new and innovative ways and to think critically about current global issues.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
2. Apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.
3. Understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experience.
4. Integrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences into issues of personal or public importance.
5. Communicate effectively using the language and terminology germane to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.

Goals for this course:

1. Cultivate knowledge of human cultures in the context of the natural and physical world, including:
 - a. An appreciation of the complexity and variety of the world's cultures.
 - b. An understanding of the scientific method and a knowledge of natural science and its relevance in our lives.
 - c. A historical perspective and an understanding of connections between past and present.
2. Academic and practical skills such as:
 - a. Critical and logical thinking.
 - b. Success in reading, writing, and speaking.
 - c. Understanding and application of mathematical skills and concepts.
3. Personal and social responsibility, including:
 - a. An understanding of society and human behavior.
 - b. An understanding of factors that effect health, well-being, and quality of life.
4. Integrative Learning, such as:
 - a. Synthesis and advanced accomplishments across general and specialized studies.

Course Topics: The material for this course is divided into nine distinct sections. Students will first be introduced to the basic geographic concepts and tools utilized in assessing the characteristics of the world's regions. Topics will include: the purpose of regions; significance of globalization; maps and geographic technologies; core vs. peripheral location; basic geologic processes; climate and vegetation classification; oceans and climate change; human-environment interaction; the agricultural and

industrial revolutions; and demographic transition model and patterns of migration. These concepts will first introduced in Section 1, and the will be utilized throughout the course and applied to every one of the regions studied. Following the introductory section, all remaining sections will cover the characteristics and concepts of the individual world regions in an effort to highlight the physical and cultural diversity, which exists across our world. Some of the topics to be introduced are:

- World demographics, populations, and immigration
- Economic development vs. resource protection
- Role of distance, relative location, and physical obstacles on development
- Socioeconomic problems stemming from changes in government
- International geopolitical conflicts
- Water and natural resources
- Colonialism and the situations of indigenous peoples
- The impact of non-native species on ecosystems
- Natural resources and their effects on economic power

Blackboard: Blackboard is required for this course. All assignments, tests, grades, and announcements will be made available to the class through Blackboard at <https://blackboard.wku.edu> Students will also utilize the site for submitting assignments, posting messages, and holding discussions via the discussion board with fellow classmates. WKU email and Blackboard are the only means I have to communicate with you, so is vital that you check your WKU email account and Blackboard regularly (at least once per day).

Technology Requirements: You must have access to a reliable Internet connection. It is suggested that Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome are used as the main browser, as Blackboard often has trouble with Internet Explorer.

Email policy: The best and most efficient way to contact me is through email.

Grades: Grades will be updated via Blackboard under the “My Grades” tab. Ungraded assignments will be marked with a ‘ – ’ and incomplete or late assignments will be marked with a ‘0’. **A failing grade will be assigned if you do not login to the course; it is your responsibility to withdraw form the class. Your relationship with the registrar is your own, and I will not drop you from the class due to inactivity.**

In the event that the university cancels classes, such as for severe weather, because this is a web course students will be expected to continue with readings, videos, and assignments as originally scheduled. Due dates for any assignments scheduled on

canceled days will remain unchanged unless other instructions are posted on Blackboard. Please keep in mind that the online grade book is a courtesy to you, and subject to errors. Therefore, I recommend that you do your own calculations when trying to figure out your grade and not trust the grade book final totals. If you see something that doesn't make sense or is confusing with regards to interpreting your grade, contact me.

Grades in this class will be assigned on the correctness, timeliness, and thought that goes into each assignment. Just because you may be on the border between two letter grades does not mean that you will automatically be bumped up to the higher grade.

A = 90-100%	A = 630-685 points
B = 80-89%	B = 560-629 points
C = 70-79%	C = 420-559 points
D = 60-69%	D = 350-419 points
F = 59 or below.	F = 349 points or below.

Grades of Incomplete (X) will only be assigned if all but a small portion of coursework is left incomplete and the inability to complete the course is due to circumstances beyond the control of the student. An "X" will be given at the instructor's discretion.

Class Assignments:

Assignment	Points
Critical Thinking Exercises (60 pt. each)	240
Chapter Quizzes (15 pt. each)	135
Map Quizzes (20 pt. each)	40
Mid-Term Exam	120
Final Exam	150
Total	685

Critical Thinking Exercises: While there will be prompts for each unit, you only need to complete **FOUR** critical thinking essays! These assignments will pose unique and creative questions and situations related to the region of each unit. You will be asked to write a 3 page paper answering the question. The critical thinking questions will vary

per each unit. For these papers, I ask for in-depth thinking and creativity. Additionally, remember proper citations and grammar are IMPERATIVE!! A rubric for paper grading will be provided on Blackboard and returned with your grade. **These exercises will be worth 60 points each and will be completed for 4 of the 9 units (you will be able to choose which four essays you choose). Assignment must be submitted via Blackboard.**

Chapter Quizzes: At the end of each unit, students will complete a small quiz regarding information from the book and power points. These quizzes will likely contain multiple choice and an essay question. Students will have one opportunity to take the quiz. Once this quiz is opened, it must be completed.

Map Quizzes: You will have two map quizzes. One will occur after the third unit and the other will occur after the seventh unit. For each quiz, you will be responsible for understanding and locating the counties and capitals of the regions covered since the last assessment. You will also have map elements on your mid-term and final exams. These quizzes will only cover specific units and will NOT be cumulative (though you should always know country locations☺).

- Map Quiz 1: Central and South America, Europe
- (Separate) Mid-Term: Russia, North Africa
- Map Quiz 2: Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia
- (Separate) Final Exam: East Asia, Australia + Oceania

These quizzes will be conducted via Blackboard. Standalone Map Quizzes will be worth 20 points each. Students will have one chance to take the quiz and this attempt will be timed. Once the quiz is opened, it must be completed.

Mid-Term: The mid-term exam will occur after Unit 5 and will include information from all units up to that point. The mid-term will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, essay questions, and a map element. **The Mid-Term exam will be worth 125 points and completed via Blackboard. You will only have one chance to take this test and it must be completed all at once.**

Final Exam: The final exam will occur during finals week and will include information from units studied AFTER the mid-term (6,7,8,9). The Final exam will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, essay questions, and a map element. **The Final exam will be worth 150 points and completed via Blackboard. You will only have one chance to take this test and it must be completed all at once.**

Feedback: Feedback and grades will be provided within two weeks of the due date.

Late Assignments: Chapter worksheets, chapter quizzes, and map quizzes will not be accepted late. These are administered via Blackboard and will close after the assignment deadline. Critical thinking exercises and country feature assignments (the written assignments) will only be accepted up to three days after the due date. If the assignment is late, it must be turned in via email. After the due date, 25% will be deducted for every day that it is late. If the written assignment is still not turned in after three days, the student will receive a 0 for that assignment. **If you know that you will not be able to turn in an assignment on time for a valid reason (medical issue, personal emergency, family emergency), please let me know as soon as possible. It is best to let me know ahead of time. A plan will be worked out to get your assignment turn in as soon as you can.**

Plagiarism or Cheating: PLEASE remain honest in your work. It isn't kind, honest, or legal to use the work of others as your own. If a student is caught plagiarizing or cheating, he or she will immediately be given a 0 for that assignment. In any of your assignments, if you use the words or ideas of others, please remember to cite their work. You must use quotation marks, in-text citations, and provide a reference page when you use other peoples' words or work.

I LOVE it when students can integrate others' ideas' in a constructive and creative way. Remember, it is much easier to take the extra time to write a citation then to take a 0 on an assignment.

Class Schedule: The Department of Geography and Geology strictly adheres to University policies, procedures, and deadlines regarding student schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waived. The Student Schedule form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented general stress factors are not considered as legitimate circumstances. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: You will be able to check your grades in an online grade book. You can ask me about grades via email, but in accordance with the federal law I am not allowed to reply in any detail using email, unless I have your written permission. Furthermore, if you are 18 years old or older, I cannot discuss your grades or participation in the course with your parents.

Student Disability Services: In compliance with university policy, students with

disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center A- 200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270)745-5004; TTY is (270)745-3030. Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Technical Support: Technical support can be obtained through the WKU IT Department, which can be linked to here (<http://www.wku.edu/it/>) and can be contacted by phone at 1-270-745-7000. This department can help you with email, Blackboard, or other technical issues. I highly suggest using this service if you are having computer issues. The service is provided free of charge to students.

Student Assistance and Tutoring: Should you require academic assistance with this course, or any other Course, there are several places that can provide help. The Learning Center, located in the Academic Advising and Retention Center, DSU 2141, has tutors in most major undergraduate subjects and course levels throughout the week—they can also direct you to one of many tutoring and assistance Centers across campus. To make an appointment, or request a tutor for a specific class, call (270) 745-5065, email academic.advising@wku.edu, or stop by DSU 2141. Log on to TLC's web site at <http://www.wku.edu/tlc> for tutoring for students at a distance or to learn more. The hours for TLC can be found on the Academic Advising and Retention Center page at [wku.edu](http://www.wku.edu).

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism: WKU adheres to a strict policy against plagiarism and cheating (see Scholastic Dishonesty Code in your Handbook). Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated and appropriate penalties will be faced by anyone who violates this policy. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. When working on your critical thinking assignments, please keep in mind that representing written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism. Other examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to cheating on an exam, allowing other students to copy your work, using work from previous semesters, and plagiarism.