

Geography 150: World Geography (Sp 2016) – rev. 4/7

Course Information

Ticket 12752

Lecture: MW 2:00-3:15, Sierra Hall 309

Instructor Information

Name: Ron Davidson

Office phone: 818/677-3513

Geography Department phone: 818/677-3532

Email: rdavids@csun.edu (please include “Geog 150” in subject line)

Fax: 818/677-2723

Office hours: M 1-2 pm

Office location: 130L Sierra Hall

Instructional Materials

1. Rowntree et al, *Globalization and Diversity*, 4th edition plus the website Masteringgeography.com
2. Additional required readings available as .pdf files on the class Moodle page.

Course Description

In this course we will learn about and discuss the major regions of the world, their basic human and physical geographic characteristics, and the important cultural, social, political and environmental processes that have given shape to and continue to affect lives and livelihoods in these places today. This course, therefore, has a number of objectives: to familiarize you with these areas of the world and to cultivate an understanding of important geographic processes at work, such as globalization, migration, the distribution of resources, environmental change and environmental degradation. Beyond this, however, the course will teach students to think critically as geographers. This means being able to interpret and understand places as social and cultural constructions.

GE Information

This class is available for General Education, Social Sciences.

GE Criteria: Students will understand the complexities of social relations and human experiences and the ways in which they have changed over time, as well as the nature, scope, and the systematic study of human behaviors and societies.

This class contains embedded assessment to capture student progress in these areas.

GE Paths Information

GE Paths website: <http://www.csun.edu/gepaths>

Geography 150 is part of the Global Studies path through General Education. The course assists students in learning all five of the Global Studies path learning objectives:

1. Students will be able to define globalization and key concepts related to globalizing trends.
2. Students will be able to recognize a variety of globalized political, economic, socio-cultural, and aesthetic forms.
3. Students will be able to discuss the political, economic, socio-cultural and/or historical underpinnings of globalization.
4. Students will be able to analyze the diverse consequences of globalization including its impacts on various social formations (e.g. identity, culture, art, communities, media, markets, nation-states, among other examples) and/or the environment.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate how globalization affects and is affected by one's own life.

If you would like to sign up for the Global Studies path, please see me.

Schedule

Week 1: Course introduction

M Jan 25: What is geography?

W Jan 27: Student migration activity

Week 2: Globalization and Diversity: Concepts and Themes

M Feb 1:

W Feb 3

Reading: Rowntree chap.1

Week 3: The Global Environment, part 1

M Feb 8

W Feb 10

Reading: Rowntree chap 2 (download from Moodle if nec)

****Complete Masteringgeography assignment #1. (Though may be completed any time before the last day of class.)*

****Masteringgeography assignments 2-5 must be completed by 11:00 pm on Feb 14*

Week 4: The Global Environment, part 2

M Feb 15: Uneven world development over the long durée

Reading: Diamond, "Yali's Question", "Zebras, Unhappy Marriages and the Anna Karenina Principle", "Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes", "The Lethal Gift of Livestock"

Reading quiz 1: Diamond chapters

W Feb 17: Global Warming

Watch AGU presentation on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yaf0DGVAJAg>

****Masteringgeog assignments 6-10 must be completed by 11:00 p.m. on Feb 21*

Week 5: Exam 1, Latin America, part 1

M Feb 22

*****Exam 1: All material weeks 1-4**

Reading: Rowntree, chapter 4

W Feb 24

Reading: Denevan, "The Pristine Myth"

Week 6: Latin America, part 2

M Feb 29

W Mar 2

Reading: Arias, "Guatemala 1954 – Funeral for a Bird"

Reading: Scott, "The High Modernist City"

Reading quiz 2: Arias and Scott

****Masteringgeography assignments 11-16 must be completed by 11:00 p.m. on March 6*

Week 7: Exam 2; Sub-Saharan Africa part 1

M March 7 *****Exam #2: Week 5-6 material**

W March 9

Reading: Rowntree, chap 6

Week 8: Sub-Saharan Africa, part 2

M March 14

W March 16

Readings: Diamond, "Malthus in Africa: Rwanda's Genocide"

Achebe, "Girls at War"

Reading quiz 3: Diamond and Achebe

Masteringgeography assignments 17-21 due at 11:00 p.m. on March 27

Spring Break March 21-27

Week 9: Exam 3; Southwest Asia and North Africa, part 1

M March 28

*****Exam #3, Week 7-8 material**

W March 30 Guest Presentation (Hillary Miller): Shadow Theater

Reading: Rowntree, chap 7

Week 10: Southwest Asia and North Africa, part 2

M Apr 4

W Apr 6

Said, "Orientalism"

Hedayat, "Abji Khanom"

Reading quiz 4: Said and Hedayat

****Masteringgeography assignments 22-26 due by 11 pm. on April 10*

Week 11: Exam 4

M Apr 11

W Apr 13 *****Exam #4, Week 9-10 material**

Rowntree, chap 11

Week 12: East Asia, part 1

M Apr 18

W Apr 20

Reading: Jinnai, "Tokyo: A Spatial Anthropology" pp. 1-6, 7-19

Week 13: East Asia, part 2

M Apr 25

W Apr 27

Reading: Jinnai, Tokyo: A Spatial Anthropology pp. 19-65

Mishima, "Patriotism"

Reading quiz 5: Mishima

***** Extra credit assignment (MA thesis review) due**

Week 14: East Asia, part 3

M May 2

W May 4

****Mastering Geography Assignments 27-29 Due by 11 pm on May 8*

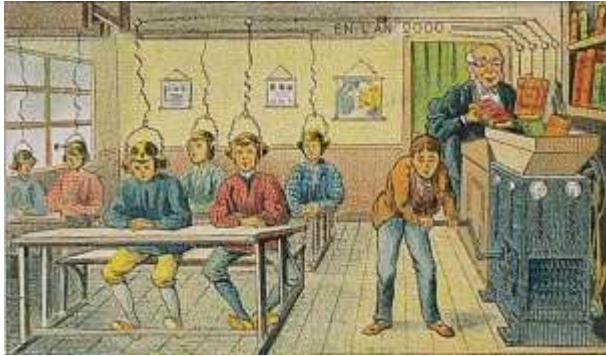
Week 15: East Asia, pt. 4 (video tba)

M May 9

W May 11

*****Exam #5: East Asia material**

****There is NO final exam for this course****



Student Learning Objectives

In accordance with best teaching practices, course objectives are made transparent to students at the beginning of the semester. These outcomes represent the knowledge and skill sets with which students are expected to demonstrate competency during the semester. Assessment and evaluation tools used are designed to determine student success in acquiring these knowledge and skill sets.

Goal 1: Students are knowledgeable- Demonstrate a foundation of knowledge characteristic of the learned individual

1.1: Students recognize, recall and identify facts and ideas constituent of the core content knowledge of physical geography.

1.2: Students recognize, recall and identify facts and ideas constituent of the core content knowledge of human geography.

Assessment/Evaluation tool: Class discussions, unit exams, reading quizzes.

Goal 2: Students are skilled learners – Demonstrate skills necessary to effectively acquire and synthesize new facts in a fashion characteristic of life-long learners.

Student employs an effective strategy for collecting data or information.

Assessment/Evaluation tool: Class discussions, unit exams, reading quizzes.

Goal 3: Students are effective problem solvers- demonstrate abilities as effective evaluators and critical analyzers of information and ideas; creatively and/or productively apply analytical skill to problem or argument

3.1: Student uses logic to effectively argue a point or make a case.

3.2: Student discusses the strength and weaknesses of a research strategy or logical argument.

Assessment/Evaluation tool: Class discussions, unit exams, reading quizzes

Goal 4: Students are effective communicators – demonstrate ability to communicate effectively using textual, oral, graphic or numeric media

Assessment/Evaluation tool: Class discussions

Goal 5: Students are good citizens – demonstrate productive civic and global citizenship; awareness of and respect for human diversity.

5.1: Students demonstrate awareness of, and respect for, the value of human diversity.

5.2: Students will demonstrate awareness of their individual role as global citizens.

Assessment/Evaluation tool: Class discussions

Policies

Grading

Students are expected to complete the readings prior to class and participate actively in the discussions. Grades are based on the following assignments and exams as follows:

80 points: 5 unit exams (20 points each; lowest exam score dropped)

20 points: Masteringgeography assignments

15 points: 5 reading quizzes (3 points each)

10 points: Thesis review assignment (extra credit)

(Yes, 125 points are possible!)

NB: There is **no** final exam in this course.

You must bring a Scantron form 882 to all quizzes and exams.

Quizzes and exams will begin promptly at the start of class and will be collected after a timed interval. The lowest exam (not quiz) score will be dropped. **Students will NOT be allowed to make up either quizzes or exams FOR ANY REASON.** Grades will be awarded based on a curve in which approximately 15% of students receive an A/A-, 30% B+/B/B-, 35% C+/C/C-, 10%D, 10%F. The actual curve will vary depending on natural breaks in final point distribution.

Academic Dishonesty

There is a zero tolerance policy in this course for cheating and plagiarism. The university has policies on a variety of academic honesty and cheating, as well as other issue of importance. See the following policy: <http://www.csun.edu/a&r/soc/legalnotices.html#facultypolicy>

Eating

Eating is not allowed in class.

Accessibility

CSUN is actively revamping its Web presence to make the content universally available.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a services agreement each semester. Staff within the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approve accommodations. Students who are approved for testing taking accommodations must provide a proctor form to their faculty member signed by a counselor in the Center on Disabilities prior to making testing arrangements. The Center on Disabilities is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at (818) 677-2684.

Other campus-wide disclosures are available at:

<http://www.csun.edu/a&r/disclosures/disclosures.html>

**This syllabus is subject to change without notice.