GEOG150  World Geography

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Class Meeting  SH 120, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45am

Office Hours  2:00-3:30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Textbook


The textbook we use is a customized version of the original book, which contains two more chapters (Chapter 2 and 10). It is fine if you have purchased the original version: we simply will skip the two chapters.

Introduction and Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the regional approach in the discipline of geography. We will explore the interaction of cultural, economic, political, physical and social processes acting in major geographic regions of the world. Through the semester we will use readings, lectures, exercises and videos to discover the diversity of people and places and the way in which geographic concepts aid in our understanding of this diversity. By the end of the semester students will gain increased understanding of the world as well as the perspectives, tools, and techniques of geographers. We shall conform to the textbook as much as possible and use five geographic themes that essentially present opportunities to interrogate driving processes in the regional mapping of the world. These are Environmental geography, Population and Settlement, Geopolitics Framework, Cultural Coherence and Diversity, and Economic and Social development.

I will adopt a mixed approach for this class. We will meet in class once a week (Mostly on Tuesdays, except the two exams which are scheduled on Thursdays so that you can have more time to prepare) to discuss the major concepts and issues, though we are assigned two meetings a week for this class. Meanwhile, we will have an online quiz for each chapter. I hope that students will use the other meeting time to do the reading and study by themselves. I will distribute the questions for each quiz in advance to guide your study. We will also have three exams, which are largely based on the questions from the weekly quizzes.
### Tentative Weekly Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Introduction, Syllabus and Geography</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/29</td>
<td>Globalization and Diversity</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2/28</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1: Chps 1, 3, 4 and 5</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>SW Asia &amp; N. Africa</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>3/18</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Europe</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>The Russian Domain</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td><strong>Exam 2: Chaps 6, 7, 8, and 9</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Southeast Asia</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Australia and Oceania</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5/15</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM: 8:30-10:00 AM (NOT 8:00-10:00 AM) CHPS, 11, 12, 13, AND 14</strong></td>
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### Grading Policies and Requirements
The term grade will be calculated as follows:

Weekly Quizzes (5 % each) 60%
Three Exams (10 % each) 30 %
Class attendance and participation 10 %

### Grading Scheme
The department’s grading scheme is based on 100 point grade scale, with the following letters and corresponding numbers:

- **A** >= 93
- **A-** 88 – 92
- **B+** 85 – 87
- **B** 82 – 84
- **B-** 78 – 81
- **C+** 75 – 77
- **C** 72 – 74
- **C-** 68 – 71
- **D+** 65 – 67
- **D** 62 – 64
- **D-** 60 – 61
- **F** 0 – 59
Final grades will depend on the students’ absolute performance. In other words, the students’ scores will not be curved. Therefore, there are no limits of “A”s.

Online Quizzes
For each chapter, students will be asked to complete an online quiz through WebCT. Each quiz will account for 5% of your final grade and the twelve quizzes will account 60% of your final grade. All the quizzes are open book and open notes and you have one week to finish it. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions. You have to submit it through WebCT online. Allow yourself plenty of time to complete the test. After taking a test, click the submit button. Make sure you submit the test after answering all the questions. I would also advise that you keep a hard copy record of your answers. WebCT has, on occasion, experienced problems so it’s always best to have a copy of your test answers for future reference. There will be absolutely no make-up tests unless you’ve made PRIOR arrangements with me.

Exams
We will also have three exams, which are largely based on the questions on the quizzes, and they are not open-book or open-notes anymore. Each exam accounts for 10% percent of your final grade and three exams account for 30 percent in total.

Class Attendance and Participation
It is important for you to attend the class on a regular bases (only once a week anyway). If you missed three classes or more without my prior approval, you will lose the 5 % from your final grade. It is also important for you to actively participate in the class discussion. Otherwise, you may lose 5% of your final grade. For those who are very active in class discussion, I will award them 5% bonus to their final grade.

Academic honesty
Each student is expected to work independently, and any cheating on exams could lead to a grade “F”.

Note: this syllabus is tentative and it is subject to change. It is the students’ responsibility to be aware of all the changes that are announced in class.
About WebCT

In order to use WebCT, you need a CSUN account. For information on getting a CSUN email account and working with WEBCT, review the following websites:

- On setting up your account: [http://www.csun.edu/account](http://www.csun.edu/account)
- On using your csun Webmail: [https://www.csun.edu/webmail/](https://www.csun.edu/webmail/)
- On WEBCT: [http://www.csun.edu/~webteach/webctinstr.htm](http://www.csun.edu/~webteach/webctinstr.htm)

(If you have problems with this, call the ITR HelpDesk at 818-677-1400)

1. Set up a CSUN email account, if you have not done so. To obtain a CSUN account, go to the website: [https://www.csun.edu/webmail/](https://www.csun.edu/webmail/)

2. Follow link to **How to Obtain a Campus Account**, and read the information on the page carefully.
How to Obtain a Campus Account
(for Email and Internet Access)

Any current full- or part-time CSUN student, faculty or staff member can obtain a CSUN campus account, which may be used to access email and other Internet resources.

- **Students**: Use the campus account utility at [http://www.csun.edu/account](http://www.csun.edu/account) to obtain a personal campus account or change the password on an active account. Instructions are provided below.
- **Faculty and Staff**: To obtain a personal campus account, complete and submit an account request form — accessible online from the ITR website at [http://www.csun.edu/itr]. To change the password on an active account, you may use the account utility at [http://www.csun.edu/account]. Log in with your account and password and select “Change Your Password” from the Options Menu.

**Some Notes Before You Begin**

- To obtain and use a campus account you must agree to abide by the [University Policy for Use of Computing Resources](http://www.csun.edu/policy). This and other campus computing and Internet policies can be found at [http://www.csun.edu/policy](http://www.csun.edu/policy).
- Make sure you know your student ID and University PIN. You will be asked to provide these so that the system can verify your university status. If you don’t have or don’t remember your PIN, contact a counselor.

3. Log on to your account. After you obtain the account, go to [http://www.csun.edu/webmail/](http://www.csun.edu/webmail/), in order to log in and send and read your emails.

4. Access WebCT. Go to website [http://webteach.csun.edu/](http://webteach.csun.edu/) and log on to WEBCT.

5. Remember, you MUST have a CSUN account for this class in order to access WEBCT to download course materials and complete quizzes etc.