

GEOG 1303: World Regional Geography

Spring 2014 ~ Section 001 ~ MWF 1:00-1:50

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Milson

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Course Description

Survey of the geography of major world regions. Introduces global issues from a regional perspective with an emphasis on developing an understanding of the connections between and differences among world regions.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and analyze the geographic concept of region.
2. Apply the concepts of geography to understanding the physical and human characteristics of world regions.
3. Locate major geographic features on maps
4. Describe and locate major physical geographic features in world regions.
5. Understand and analyze the role of climate in the physical and human geography of world regions.
6. Explain and analyze the historical geography of world regions and selected countries.
7. Discuss and analyze the significance of historical geography to the relationships within and between regions and countries.
8. Analyze the significance of cultural characteristics such as language, religion, and ethnicity in the history, politics, and economy of world regions and countries.
9. Describe and analyze the political geography of world regions and countries including concepts such as boundaries, borders, and frontiers.
10. Identify major world leaders and understand their influence in geopolitics over time.
11. Describe and analyze the demographic characteristics of regions and countries including population size, fertility rates, dependency rates, literacy rates, and urbanization.
12. Explain and analyze economic characteristics of regions and countries.
13. Investigate current global issues and apply the concepts of geography to understanding these issues within world regions.

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Required Course Materials

Realms, Regions and Concepts, 16th Edition, by Harm de Blij, Peter O. Muller, Jan Nijman ©2014

- **Option 1:** Use *WileyPLUS online* in place of the hard copy textbook (save \$)
- **Option 2:** Buy a new textbook in the bookstore packaged with a *WileyPLUS* registration code.

Important: Do not buy a used textbook or an earlier edition of this text. You must have access to WileyPLUS and this requires a new registration code that will not be available with a used textbook or earlier edition. Once you purchase your WileyPLUS registration code, you will need to register for this section of the course on WileyPLUS. A unique web link for purchasing the book and registering for this section of the class will be provided in an email.

Major Assignments

Your course grade will be determined by your performance on:

- In-class Essays – 40% of course grade (5 @ 8% each)
 - Online Quizzes – 30% of course grade (10 @ 3% each)
 - Map Quizzes – 20% of course grade (4 @ 5% each)
 - Comprehensive Final Exam – 10% of course grade (*optional for those with perfect attendance*)
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Grading Policy

No make-up work or extra credit assignments will be offered or accepted in order to improve your grade. Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Grading Scale: A = 90-100%; B= 80-89%; C= 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = below 60%

Attendance Policy

I will take attendance each class session in order to maintain a record of your attendance. Please be sure to sign in. I do not penalize students for failure to attend class, but those who do not attend class will not be successful on exams. In addition to the benefit of scoring well on exams, students will receive the following for attendance.

- Zero absences = Final exam is optional, plus 3 bonus points on your final course grade
- 1 absences = 2 bonus points on your final course grade
- 2 absences = 1 bonus point on your final course grade

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Drop Policy

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering.

Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity

At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

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I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Student Support Services Available

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication Policy

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>. **I value your feedback very much. Please complete the SFS.**

Final Review Week

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall

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not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and lectures and presentations may be given.

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Course Calendar -- The course calendar is subject to change during the semester.

Date	Topic	Assignments
01.13.14	Introduction to course	
01.15.14	Europe & Russia	
01.17.14	Europe & Russia	Reading Assignment & Quiz 1 - WileyPLUS
01.20.14	MLK, Jr. Day – No class meeting	
01.22.13	Europe & Russia	
01.24.14	Europe & Russia	
01.27.14	Europe & Russia	Reading Assignment & Quiz 2 - WileyPLUS
01.29.14	Europe & Russia	
01.31.14	Europe & Russia	
02.03.14	Europe & Russia Map Quiz 1	
02.05.14	In-Class Essay 1	
02.07.14	Latin America	Reading Assignment & Quiz 3 - WileyPLUS
02.10.14	Latin America	
02.12.14	Latin America	
02.14.14	Latin America	Reading Assignment & Quiz 4 - WileyPLUS
02.17.14	Latin America	
02.19.14	Latin America	
02.21.14	Latin America Map Quiz 2	
02.24.14	In-Class Essay 2	
02.26.14	Africa south of the Sahara	Reading Assignment & Quiz 5 - WileyPLUS
02.28.14	Africa south of the Sahara	
03.03.14	Africa south of the Sahara	
03.05.14	Africa south of the Sahara	
03.07.14	Africa south of the Sahara	
Spring Break		
03.17.14	North Africa & the Middle East	Reading Assignment & Quiz 6 - WileyPLUS
03.19.14	North Africa & the Middle East	
03.21.14	North Africa & the Middle East	

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03.24.14	North Africa & the Middle East	
03.26.14	North Africa & the Middle East Map Quiz 3	
03.28.14	In-Class Essay 3	
03.31.14	South Asia	Reading Assignment & Quiz 7 - WileyPLUS
04.02.14	South Asia	
04.04.14	South Asia	
04.07.14	East Asia	Reading Assignment & Quiz 8 - WileyPLUS
04.09.14	East Asia	
04.11.14	East Asia	
04.14.14	East Asia In-Class Essay 4	
04.16.14	Southeast Asia	Reading Assignment & Quiz 9 - WileyPLUS
04.18.14	Southeast Asia	
04.21.14	Southeast Asia	
04.23.14	Australia & the Pacific	Reading Assignment & Quiz 10 - WileyPLUS
04.25.14	Australia & the Pacific	
04.28.14	Australia & the Pacific Map Quiz 4	
04.30.14	In-Class Essay 5	
05.02.14	Essay Make-up Day	
05.05.14 11:00-1:30	Final Exam Comprehensive Multiple Choice Exam	