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Faculty Profile: Assistant Professor of Geography | Visiting Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Regions are a key concept in geography. The study of regional geography involves considering human and physical characteristics on the surface of the Earth in an attempt to identify common features within regions and contrasts between regions. In this course, we will survey the geography of major world regions with an emphasis on developing an understanding of the connections between and differences among world regions.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS: Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher and, Alex Pulsipher
(2014) *World Regional Geography / Global Patterns, Local Lives*, 6th Ed. MacMillan Learning.
ISBN-10: 1-4641-1070-0; ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-1070-2

- Note: An e-version of the book is available online and is less expensive than a hardcover version. Google the name of the text and MacMillan Learning.

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.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Your course grade will be determined by your performance on:

- **3 out of 4 Exams**
- **Group Presentation**
- **Discussion Participation**
- **Attendance**

Team in class discussions and presentations (25%) Students will be assigned into **12 Teams (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L)** which will lead a Friday discussion, in addition to researching and providing a **15-minute** presentation on specified world regions. Student teams will be assigned by lottery.

- **Team Led Friday Discussions:** the instructor will post on Blackboard a news article or short reading on a particular world region and theme to help prime the discussion. However, team members will be expected to source, read and lead discussions based on an online news article on a particular region. The team, with help from the instructor will lead an in-class discussion.
- **Presentations:** must provide both an environmental and cultural overview of a *different* place. The project will be divided into two components. The first component will consist of a team presentation and accompanying illustrations in PowerPoint. For the second component, students will each submit an individual packet.
 - **PowerPoint files are to be emailed to the instructor 2 days before presentation.**
 - **Individual Student Packet will be due on day of presentation.**

Examination (75%) There will be **4** examinations conducted during this term. Students will be marked on **3 of the 4 exams**, with the lowest mark being dropped.

GRADING POLICY: Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Discussion & Project	25 %	Team discussion delivery 20% presentation delivery 20% , Individual Packet (1000 word essay) 60%
3 Exams	75 %	Book 50% , Lecture 50%
Attendance	Mandatory	After 2 unexcused absences, 1 point will be deducted for each day.
Final Exam	Optional	Cumulative-material from final chapters is emphasized- will replace lowest exam grade.

The grading scale for the course is: **A = 90-100%; B= 80-89%; C= 70-79%; D= 60-69%; F = below 60%**. 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. See “*Student Support Services*” below.

EXPECTATIONS FOR OUT-OF-CLASS STUDY: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional **9-12** hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

LATE PAPER AND MAKE-UP POLICY: Assignments will not be accepted past the due date. See Blackboard for due dates and *plan ahead!*

GRADE GRIEVANCES: 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.

ATTENDANCE: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established following attendance policy: *Attendance will be recorded with a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each class. Please see Blackboard for the rubric that I use to calculate your weekly attendance and participation grade.*

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. (<http://wwwb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification **in the form of a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

- The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) wwwb.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.
- Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) wwwb.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

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.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

TITLE IX POLICY: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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. 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.* UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) 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.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University *MavMail* address as the sole official means of communication with students. *MavMail* is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the *MavMail* system. All students are assigned a *MavMail* account. Students are responsible for checking their *MavMail* regularly. Information about activating and using *MavMail* is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington. To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit: <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at helpdesk@uta.edu.

CAMPUS CARRY: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations

the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online 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>

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 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. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: 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.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

THE ENGLISH WRITING CENTER: Located in the Main Library, Room 411. Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In *Quick Hits* sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs.

Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>.

Please see <www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

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You may also dial 911.

SYLLABUS / COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (08/29-09/02 MWF) Course Orientation: Syllabus Review / Group Assignments. Defining the Geographical Perspective;

READING Chapter 1.

- Friday Instructor Led Discussion / Exercise
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WEEK 2 NO CLASS MONDAY 09/05 LABOR DAY (09/07-09/09 WF) EUROPE, ‘The United States of Europe?’ READING Chapter 4.

WEEK 3 (09/12-09/16 MWF) RUSSIA & EASTERN EUROPE – ‘Feudalism, Communism, Capitalism’ READING Chapter 5.

- Friday Discussion (1): Teams L & K
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WEEK 4 (Mon. 09/19- Wed. 09/21) PRESENTATIONS 1 (Mon. Teams A & B; Weds. Team C & D: Europe, Russia (regions) and Eastern Europe;

EXAM 1 Friday Sept. 23rd: GEOGRAPHY, EUROPE, RUSSIAN & EASTERN EUROPE.

WEEK 5 (9/26-9/30 MWF) NORTH AFRICA & SOUTHWEST ASIA ‘The Cradle of Civilization’ READING Chapter 6.

- Friday Discussion (2): Teams I & J
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WEEK 6 (10/03-10/07 MWF) NORTH AFRICA & SOUTHWEST ASIA ‘The Cradle of Civilization’ READING Chapter 6. FILM viewing and discussion.

WEEK 7 (10/ 10- 10/14) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ‘Colonization to Independence’ READING Chapter 7.

- Friday Discussion (3) Teams G & H
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WEEK 8 (Mon. 10/17- Wed. 10/19) PRESENTATIONS 2 (Mon. Teams E and F; Wed. G and H): North & Sub-Saharan Africa and Southwest Asia.

EXAM 2 Friday Oct. ASIA. 21st: NORTH & SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA/SOUTHWEST

WEEK 9 (10/24 -10/28 MWF) SOUTH ASIA- Monsoon Seasons and the Roof of Heaven 'India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal.' READING Chapter 8.

- **Friday Discussion (4) Teams E & F**
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WEEK 10 (10/31- 11/4 MWF) EAST ASIA, The Four Steps 'China, Mongolia, the Korean Peninsula, Japan and Taiwan.' READING Chapter 9.

- **Friday discussion (5) Teams C & D**
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WEEK 11 (11/7-11/11 MWF) SOUTH EAST ASIA: 'Archipelagos and the Ring of Fire.' READING Chapter 10.

- **Friday discussion (6) A & B.**
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WEEK 12 (11/14-11/18): OCEANIA 'Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific' READING Chapter 11. FILM viewing and discussion

WEEK 13 (11/21-11/23 MW) NO CLASS FRIDAY THANKSGIVING 'MIDDLE AND SOUTH AMERICA' READING Chapter 3.

WEEK 14: (11/28-11/30 MW) PRESENTATIONS 3 (Mon. Teams I and J; Wed. K and L): ASIA, OCEANIA, MIDDLE AND SOUTH AMERICA

EXAM 3 Friday, Dec 2. ASIA, OCEANIA, MIDDLE AND SOUTH AMERICA

WEEK 15 (12/5-12/7 MW) NORTH AMERICA (USA & Canada) READING Chapter 2.

*****FINAL EXAM Wednesday December 14***.**

PRESENTATION AND INDIVIDUAL PACKET GUIDELINES

Imagine that you are presenting information to an International Business, United Nations body or a Non-Governmental Aid Organization, who would be **extremely familiar** with your region- in other words don't fudge- know your facts and assessments!

- **Research Reference List:** You must have at least 5 references, 3 of which must NOT be an internet-based resource. (Should be from a book or journal).
- **Photo/Graphics Source List:** Just as textual sources are referenced, you must reference any photos, maps, graphics or statistical displays that you utilize in both your presentation and accompanying packet.

Presentation: You will provide a 12-15-minute presentation, illustrated by PowerPoint, with 5 minutes for questions (15-20 min. limit). The content of your presentation should include an examination of the following:

1. Describe the location of your region.
 - What are the prominent physical features of the region is located in? (Mountains, rivers, water bodies)
 - What type of regional landscape composes this region? (Desert, tundra, monsoon, island, land-locked, etc.)
 - What physical conditions affect the geography of your region? (Climate, vegetation, land-use, etc.)
 - What type of unique ecology does your region have (plants, animals, forests, wetlands, beaches, etc.)
2. Describe the cultural landscape of your region (language(s), ethnicities, religion(s), architecture, art, sport, music, etc.)
 - Describe the political/economic landscapes inhabiting your region (type of government, parties, economic conditions- employment/agricultural/manufacturing/tourism, etc.)
 - Describe the living conditions in your region -focus on *population density, population increase, life expectancy*.
 - What are the most significant problems facing your region? (environmental, economic ethnic, sectarian, etc.)
 - How is cultural globalization and climate change affecting your region?

Packet: In your individual packet you should have a **1000 word essay** in which you synthesize the information included in your presentation, and imagine yourself as an average citizen of your region. You should include a source page and illustration appendix with this packet

- What is the most important issue facing you in your everyday life? What is your historical perspective and what are the major current affairs taking place in your region? (Political, cultural, etc.)
- What type of employment/educational/ economic opportunities would you have in your region? What types of perspectives and attitudes would you possess regarding your region and rest of the world?