Syllabus

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Spring 2016

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	World Political Geography
Course ID & Section	GEO3471-0W59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2016
Location	Web-based

Course Description

World Political Geography is a one-semester course designed to introduce the student to the various regions of the globe and the unique physical, political, economic, and socio-cultural features of those regions as well as their regional/global interconnectiveness. It is a core requirement for the International and Global Studies

major/minor, a required course for the Social Science Education major and a course option in the International/Comparative Studies track of the Political Science major as well as an elective in various other programs and also fulfills the UCF diversity requirement.

Course Objectives

- Introduce the student to the variables that help us understand how the global system functions in its physical, political, and human/cultural dimensions
- Understand how those variables influence regional development
- Gain an awareness of how these regions are interconnected
- Familiarize the student with the ongoing debate of whether globalization has transformed the international system into convergence or has intensified divergence

The primary purpose of the course is to nurture basic tools for you to better understand the world in which we live. These tools include critical thinking, appreciation of diversity, and accessing technology. **Critical thinking** is central to the analysis and assessment of the varied regional and global issues confronting humankind; **diversity** influences our choices and opportunities both within our community/country and our participation in the global community; and **technology** is an incredible door to introduce you to ideas you may have never before pondered.

Required Text

All students must purchase:

- Les Rowntree, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff, *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development.* 6th ed. Pearson/PrenticeHall. 2015. ISBN 0-321-91006-0

The textbook website is www.pearsonhighered.com/rowntree (http://www.prenhall.com/rowntree)

The textbook is available at the UCF Bookstore and possibly off-campus bookstores as well as Amazon, etc. In addition, you can order the textbook in an eTextbook version at www.coursesmart.com (http://www.coursesmart.com)

Course Requirements

The course will consist of a series of **Learning Modules** based upon **Chapters** in your textbook (including reading each chapter and taking a **Quiz** on each chapter) and completing Learning Module **Assignments**.

Without the confines of scheduled class attendance, you must manage your time wisely. Refer to the **Schedule** for availability and due dates for elements of the course. In order to keep up, you should schedule yourself to do a Module (readings, quizzes, and assignment) every week. Putting off doing all the modules until the deadline will spell disaster for you! Going to competitions, regionals, away sports events, etc. is no excuse for special consideration. The entire course opens at the beginning of the term, so there is plenty of time for you to plan your entire term's schedule.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

There should be no missed quizzes and assignments, since all are available for extended periods of time (see **Schedule**) . If you wait until the last minute and the server is down, the clock strikes midnight, there are technical issues, or your computer crashes, that is not my problem. Give yourself plenty of lead time. Once the clock runs out, that is it. There are no makeups or reopening of closed Modules and there is no extra credit built into the course.

Evaluation and Grading

The course grade is based upon completion of module assignments and quizzes. If it is found that you are submitting work done by someone else, the minimum penalty will be a zero on the assignment or quiz and persistent infractions will lead to academic disciplinary action (see **Academic Honesty** section below).

To calculate your grade, each Module is worth 30 points (5 points for each of the two Quizzes and 20 points for the Assignment) for a total of 210 points. In addition, you will receive 10 points for completing Module 0 (e-mailing me and introducing yourself; and submitting an attachment in course **Conversations**). The Tutorial and student quiz are not a graded component of the course. Thus the maximum point count is 220. Take your total point earned and divide by 220. Move your decimal over two places and you will have your grade (% of the possible total).

Assignment	Points
Module 0	10
Module 1	30
Module 2	30
Module 3	30
Module 4	30
Module 5	30
Module 6	30
Module 7	30
TOTAL	220

Letter Grade	Percent
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

NOTE: There are no + or – grades for the final course grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on a quiz or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to

appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services (http://www.sds.ucf.edu/), Ferrell Commons 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Schedule

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Week/Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1	Module 0: Introductory (opens 01/11/16)	• E-mail Instructor • Conversations attachment	01/17/16 11:59pm
Weeks 2-3	Module 1: The Geography Tool Box (opens 01/11/16)	• Read Chapters 1 & 2 • Take Quizzes 1 & 2 • Complete web essay Assignment (bin Laden)	01/31/16 11:59pm
Weeks 4-5	Module 2: North America; Latin America (opens 01/11/16)	• Read Chapters 3 & 4 • Take Quizzes 3 & 4 • Complete web essay Assignment (Ecotourism)	02/14/16 11:59pm
Weeks 6-7	Module 3: Caribbean; Sub-Saharan Africa (opens 01/11/16)	• Read Chapters 5 & 6 • Take Quizzes 5 & 6 • Complete web essay Assignment (Puerto Rico)	02/28/16 11:59pm
Weeks 8-10	Module 4: SW Asia/North Africa; Europe (opens 01/11/16) Spring Break (week of 03/09/16	• Read Chapters 7 & 8 • Take Quizzes 7 & 8 • Complete web essay Assignment (Migration)	03/13/16 11:59pm
Weeks 11-12	Module 5: Russia: Central Asia (opens 01/11/16)	• Read Chapters 9 & 10 • Take Quizzes 9 & 10 • Complete web essay Assignment (Climate Change)	03/27/16 11:59pm
Weeks 13-14	Module 6: East Asia; South Asia (opens 01/11/16)	• Read Chapters 11 & 12 • Take Quizzes 11 & 12 • Complete web essay Assignment Kashmir)	04/10/16 11:59pm
Week 15	Module 7: SE Asia; Australia/Oceania (opens 01/11/16)	• Read Chapters 13 & 14 • Take Quizzes 13 & 14 • Complete web essay Assignment (Rainforest)	04/26/16 11:59pm
	There is no Final Exam		

Note: All dates are subject to change by Dr. Bledsoe. Routinely check the class **Announcements** for any changes or updates.