Syllabus

GEO 3471 "World Political Geography"

Summer 2020

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	World Political Geography
Course ID & Section	GEO3471-BW60
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Summer "B" 2020
Location	Web-based

Course Description

UCF Catalog Description: (Prerequisites: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or consent of instructor) Analysis of factors which affect power relations among nations, including area, location, political styles, ethnic divisions, and the politics of energy.

Course Overview: World Political Geography is a 6-weeks online 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, services the Social Science Education major and is 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 *et al.*, *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development.* 7th ed. Pearson. This edition is only available as a digital version. You can either buy it (ISBN 9780134642703) or rent it (ISBN 8220103633543). If you prefer a hard version of the textbook, the 6th ed. is that (ISBN 9780321910066) and is substantially the same except perhaps for a few quiz questions where the data is updated in the 7th ed.

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. Our course is part of the First Day access initiative. You can access the eBook in either buy or rent mode by Opt-In on the first day of class (June 22) until Friday (June 26) at a discounted price. To see how to Opt-In, go to **https://vimeo.com/306061595** **(https://vimeo.com/306061595)** In addition, you can order the textbook in an eTextbook version at **www.coursesmart.com** **(http://www.coursesmart.com)**

Be aware that some sources may take time to get to you and in a 6-weeks course this can be a serious problem. Timeliness is more important than money.

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. If this course is part of a 3 or 4 course summer term and you are working, then you need to rethink your commitments. This course alone will consume a significant amount of your time. Putting off doing all the modules until the deadline will spell disaster for you! If your calendar during our course is filled with competitions, regionals, away sports events, etc., then you should not be taking this course. 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. Do that as soon as the course opens and post the schedule by your computer!

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** and **Syllabus** on Toolbar) . If you wait until the last minute and the server is down, the clock strikes midnight, there are technical issues, your computer crashes or there are family emergencies, that is not my problem. Give yourself plenty of lead time. Once the clock runs out, that is it. 11:59 is 11:59. If your clock is different, that is your problem for living on the edge. There are no makeups or reopening of closed quizzes. Late essay assignments are to be submitted as an e-mail attachment and there will be a letter grade reduction for each day it is late, except in serious medical emergencies (documentation required) or religious holidays. 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, take your total point count and divide by 180. Move your decimal over two places and you will have your grade (% of the possible total). The **Tutorial** and **Student Quiz** are not a graded component of the course.

Assignment	Points
Module 0	10

Module 1	30
Module 2	30
Module 3	25
Module 4	30
Module 5	25
Module 6	30
TOTAL	180

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

Week/Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1	Module 0: Introductory (opens 06/22/20)	• Conversations/Inbox attachment	06/26/20 11:59pm
Week 1	Module 1:The Geography Tool Box (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapters 1 & 2 • Take Quizzes 1 & 2 • Complete web essay Assignment (bin Laden)	06/29/20 11:59pm
Week 2	Module 2: North America; Latin America (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapters 3 & 4 • Take Quizzes 3 & 4 • Complete web essay Assignment (Ecotourism)	07/05/20 11:59pm
Week 3	Module 3: Sub-Saharan Africa (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapter 6 • Take Quiz 6 • Complete web essay Assignment (Africa's Future)	07/11/20 11:59pm
Week 4	Module 4: SW Asia/North Africa; Europe (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapters 7 & 8 • Take Quizzes 7 & 8 • Complete web essay Assignment (Migration)	07/17/20 11:59pm
Week 5	Module 5: Russia (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapter 9 • Take Quiz 9 • Complete web essay Assignment (Climate Change)	07/24/20 11:59pm
Week 6	Module 6: East Asia; South Asia (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapters 11 & 12 • Take Quizzes 11 & 12 • Complete web essay Assignment (Kashmir)	07/31/20 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.

Protocols

Classroom Expectations

The following ground rules will help your work in this course to go much more smoothly. Please carefully review these expectations and follow them.

1. Academic integrity will be appraised according to the student academic behavior standards outlined in The Golden Rule of the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook. See **http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu** **(http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu)** / for further details.
2. Don't turn in late assignments. A letter grade is deducted for each day an assignment is late.
3. Keep up with the readings. You have ten chapters to read; ten quizzes to take; and six web essays to complete. Students who keep up with the modules tend to do much better in this kind of class than those who put everything off until the last minute.
4. Don't miss a quiz. Missed quizzes may not be retaken.
5. All of your work is to be done individually. There are no Group projects in this course.
6. Please be aware that this is the equivalent of a full semester course compressed into a 6-week summer term. It is not an abbreviated version of a Fall term or Spring term course. Structure your daily routine accordingly.

E-mail (Conversations/Inbox)

E-mail is not a graded component of this course (other than Module 0) but is an integral part of communicating and, if necessary, submitting assignments. Make sure you:

1. Check your in-box (e-mails) at least daily (more often is better).
2. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered a reasonable amount of time to receive a reply (not counting weekends). Do not wait until the evening before or morning of an assignment being due to e-mail me (see previous sentence).
3. Inside the course Conversations/Inbox function, when you are asking about a quiz question or topic, be sure to refer specifically to quiz #s or module assignment so I know what you are talking about. If you are communicating outside of Conversations, use the course title in the Subject heading so I know you are a student in the class. If there is nothing that identifies your e-mail to our class, I will delete it as spam. Also include your name at the end of the message so I know who you are (it shows automatically in the course Conversations, so no problem there).
4. Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
5. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much

of the meaning in face-to-face communication.
6. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
7. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
8. Sign your e-mail messages if they are outside of the course Conversations function. Otherwise, I will not likely recognize you.
9. Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself and the person to whom you are sending your message; others may be able to read or access your mail. Never send or keep anything that you would not like seeing on the evening news.

Note: Review the Netiquette and Viruses section below

Discussion

Many of the "rules of the road" or protocols that apply to Conversations also apply to the use of Discussions. Use the following conventions when composing a discussion posting:

1. There are no discussion assignments as part of your course grade but it is an excellent means of communicating with your peers, asking questions about assignments or seeking help in finding correct links to material in modules. Since you may be encountering a similar problem that one of your colleagues already has asked and received information or help, it is a good practice to always check the Discussions function multiple times during the week.
2. I encourage all of you to help one another if there are difficulties or confusion. Be a good Samaritan.
3. If you want to send a personal message to the instructor or to another student, use Conversations rather than Discussions.
4. Use the Discussion function for assistance with technical issues or for questions about course material or assignments. The Announcements function is reserved for me. I will use this for all important messages to the class, so check it every time you log into the course. Do not respond to my announcements in the Announcement - e-mail me.
5. A helpful hint for use with both discussions and e-mail --- Compose your message in your word-processing application in order to check spelling, punctuation, and grammar --- then copy and paste your composition into e-mail or the discussion. This also saves online time. Poor spelling, punctuation, and grammar reflect poorly upon you. There are certain words that are central to a subject and your inability to spell them correctly is the equivalent to functional illiteracy. If you were applying for a professional grade civil service position and spelled government "goverment" or applied for a foreign service position with the State Department and spelled it "foriegn," do you think your application would likely be viewed favorably?
6. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely, but being considerate of others is just as important and expected online as it is in the classroom.
7. Avoid posting large blocks of text. If you must, break them into paragraphs and use a space

between paragraphs.

Note: Review the Netiquette, Viruses and Technical Resources sections below.

Netiquette

"Netiquette" has evolved to aid us in infusing our electronic communications with some of these missing behavioral pieces. "Emoticons" and other tools have become popular and I encourage their use when it will add to the clarity of your communication.

:-)
happy, pleased
:-(
sad, displeased
:-O
surprised
>:-|
angry

Abbreviate when possible. Examples:

LOL
laugh out loud, "I find this funny"
ROFL
rolling on floor laughing, really funny
BTW
by the way
grin
smiling
IMHO
in my humble opinion
FYI
for your info
Flame
antagonistic criticism

Netiquette continues to evolve and I am sure that we will have constant additions to this growing language. The important thing to remember is that all of the "cute" symbols in the world cannot replace your careful choice of words and "tone" in your communication.

You can learn more about Netiquette and electronic communication by visiting Learning Online.

Viruses

A virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course (good ones include Avira, McAfee or Norton). In addition, do not use obscure software programs or a computer where you work (if they allow you to do coursework on their nickel) if it does not use Microsoft Word. There are way too many students in the course for me to have to take time to track down and convert other software products. If I cannot open it, it is the equivalent of having not been submitted (students using Macs, iphones, etc. beware). That is why I have you submit an attachment using your software you will do you assignments with in Module 0 so we can make sure I can open it when you submit essay assignments.

Also, back up your files: "My hard drive crashed." "My modem doesn't work." "My printer is out of ink." "The power went out." "Lightning struck my computer." These are today's equivalents of "My dog ate my homework." And these events really do occur and they are really inconvenient when they do. However, these are not valid excuses for failing to get your work in on time. Waiting until the eleventh hour to do a quiz or an assignment is courting disaster and 1 minute late is still late and the window is closed. Period.

Technical Resources

For specific problems, go to Technical Support and/or the Service Desk (both links in your Canvas Student Tour).