GEO 3471 - World Political Geography

Section: BW60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Summer 2025
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Richard Tyre
Office Hours
Mondays and Wednesdays via Zoom @ 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Office Location: 305 B Howard Phillips Hall
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Teaching Assistants

Allyson Monroe

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Allyson will be assisting with YellowDig.

Course Description

GEO 3471 COS-POLS 3(3,0)World Political Geography: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Analysis of factors which affect power relations among nations, including area, location, political styles, ethnic divisions, and the politics of energy. Fall, Spring.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. analyze the impact of Political Geography and its concepts on global issues
2. appreciate the intersection between political science, international relations, and geography
3. understand the actors and stakeholders behind major global conflict issues
4. critically analyze popular media and print for accuracy and political bias
5. participate in real-life simulated work in Political Geography

Required Course Materials and Resources

World Regional Geography
Authors: Caitlin Finlayson
Notes: Available online via an open source material
Online Access: https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=335

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Quizzes

Throughout the semester, quizzes will test your mastery of the information presented. These will not take place every week, rather, just in the weeks we examine different world regions.

Yellowdig

Using Yellowdig

Yellowdig is an online conversation platform for ***World Political Geography***. You receive points for participating in Yellowdig conversations, and the points you receive in Yellowdig factor into your final grade. Each week, you can earn up to ***1000*** points. To get an "A" in Yellowdig, you must have at least ***5000*** points by the end of the course. If you reach the weekly max by the end of each week, you are guaranteed to get an "A" in Yellowdig.

The grading period for Yellowdig will begin on ***June 24*** and end on ***August 2***. Your Yellowdig grade is worth ***15%*** of your final grade.

You receive points for interacting and engaging with your peers in the following ways:

Starting a new conversation:

- ***40*** points for creating a new post
- ***240*** points for the post having more than ***90*** words

Continuing a conversation

- ***50*** points for creating a new comment or reply
- ***160*** points for the comment or reply having more than ***45*** words

Adding specific content

- ***65*** points for adding a video to a post or comment

Connecting with the community

- ***50*** points for each comment from another user on your posts
- ***45*** points for each reaction received from another user on your posts and comments
- +varied points for accolades awarded on your posts and comments:
- ***Taught Me Something New Accolade***: ***100*** points
- ***Great Question Accolade***: ***10*** points
- ***Thoughtful Response Accolade: 90*** points
- ***Early Bird Accolade***: ***15*** points
- ***Great Video Accolade***: ***75*** points
- ***Community Builder Accolade***: ***150*** points
- ***Medal of Bravery Accolade***: ***75*** points

You are encouraged to reward your peers for producing excellent content by commenting on and reacting to their Posts. In addition, I will reward particularly exemplary Posts and

Comments by giving Accolades. To earn as many points as possible, you are strongly encouraged to contribute to our Yellowdig Community early and often. Just keep in mind that, once you reach the weekly max, you cannot earn additional points until the weekly reset deadline on Sundays.

Yellowdig passes back your Yellowdig grade to ***gradebook*** as a proportion (a percentage) that represents your current *pace* toward getting an "A" in Yellowdig. Therefore, the points you see in Yellowdig might not match the points you see in gradebook. If any of this confuses you, just remember: *if you end every week with a Yellowdig grade of 100%, you are guaranteed to get an "A" in Yellowdig*.

What should I do in Yellowdig?

I really want you to read what other people are thinking about and have real conversations about course-relevant content. Please pay attention to the fact that you will earn quite a few points when other people react to your Posts and Comments. Your Posts will also get more points if they get a good conversation started (i.e. if people comment on them). So think about your audience when you participate (i.e., your fellow classmates). Also, be sure to recognize good posts by reacting to them and talking about them.

It is also helpful to realize that you can't get points from people interacting with your posts if you don't have posts up in the community feed for other students to see. Therefore, coming in earlier in the week and getting good conversations started can actually save you work. I (or the TA) will also be dropping in occasionally to give Accolades to exceptionally thoughtful Posts. You'll increase your odds of your posts receiving that recognition if you have them up and I can see you are contributing to a vibrant conversation.

Our Community will thrive when we treat each other with respect and sensitivity. We will be adopting Yellowdig's code of conduct for this course.

A few additional recommendations:

- Watch Yellowdig's student orientation videos.
- Peruse the Features and Functionality section of Yellowdig's Knowledge Base.
- If you have any technical questions or are having trouble, send Yellowdig a support ticket here.
- Take advantage of features like #hashtags and @mentions to bring your conversations to life!

Debate Analysis & Discussion Posts

Throughout the second half of the semester, debate topics will post. Students are asked to examine **BOTH** sides of these debate topics and prepare responses to discuss the merits of **BOTH** sides.

Assignment Topics:

1: Supranationalism & Geopolitics

3: Hegemony

On weeks we analyze a region, a Discussion Post will be assigned. These will always be topics from the world of Political Geography.

Grading for the assignments is based on your performance against other students in the class. I will analyze all of the assignments for their thoughtfulness and analytics and then grade your post based on the class average. For example, if your post is average, it will receive a “B” grade. If it is slightly above average, it will receive a “B+” or “A-“ grade. If it is excellent, it will receive an “A” grade. If you are below the class average, you will receive a “B-“, “C” lower, depending on your writings.

Final Exam

A comprehensive final exam will be available final week of the semester.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Final Letter Grade	Assignment	0
6/27/25	Europe Quiz	Quiz	10
6/27/25	Introduction to World Geography Quiz	Quiz	10
7/25/25	Yellowdig Participation Grade	Assignment	100

Grading Scale

This table displays the course's grade scale.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%

Letter Grade	Percentage
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

No makeup work will be accepted.

Missed/Late Assignments

Due to the nature of this short, six-week course, late or missed materials will not be accepted.

Attendance

This is an asynchronous course, each student must stay on task and complete each week's work.

Course Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires

consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.
b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.
d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity,

which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a “Z” designation on one’s transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let’s avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on access and community engagement, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF’s complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – ONAC – Office of Nondiscrimination & Accommodations Compliance & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or

using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete this activity by the end of

the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Class Schedule

This table provides an overview of course topics by week.

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to World Geography and Europe
2	Russia and North America
3	Middle & South America (Latin America) and Sub-Saharan Africa
4	North Africa & Southwest Asia (Middle East) and South Asia
5	East & Southeast Asia and Oceania (Pacific Island Nations, Antarctica, & Australia)
6	Supranationalism and Hegemony with Final Exam Due Friday, August 1