

GEOGRAPHY 1020

World Regional Geography

Spring 2015
Mon & Wed 2:00-3:50
Fenton 110

Instructor: Dr. Leslie McLees

Office: Condon 107D

Email: lmclees@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: TBA

This is an introductory course on the study of people and their relationships with their place and the environment. In this course we will survey the major regions of the world, study contemporary issues that pertain to each region, and learn conceptual themes that transcend regional boundaries.



In this class, you will be introduced to tools for geographical exploration that range from searching for information to critically processing it. To pass this class, you will not be required to memorize trivial facts. Instead, I expect you to engage with material that will help explain processes that shape world regions. Class meetings are a combination of lectures and discussions. Lectures will NOT repeat what the textbook says, but elaborate certain concepts.

This course by nature is a whirlwind around the world, and as such, we will focus on a few specific themes through the regions to help center the course. Those themes all intersect with places in different ways, and understanding this is a central feature of geography. Examples of themes we will address throughout this course are: globalization, gender, human-environment interactions, legacies of colonialism, agricultural practices, economic reforms, ideas of development

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Identify how political, economic, social and environmental forces influences on different places across scales and how these forces create similarities and differences between places.
- Understand how a spatial perspective that integrates political, economic, cultural and environmental processes can help illuminate a more nuanced understanding of current events and spatial phenomena.
- Identify how our perceptions of places are influenced by various forces, and to utilize the concepts in this course to move past stereotypical images of places, creating a more informed global citizen.
- Understand the depth of experience of people from different places, understand how places and people are misrepresented, and engage in critical think of how to change that.

Requirements:

- **Read the assigned pages in the textbook and articles before coming to class.** The lecture is NOT a repeat of the textbook, but an elaboration of certain concepts.

- **Attend class meetings.** Attendance will be taken occasionally and at random by various means.
- **Participate in discussions.** Please express your thoughts in class. We will have frequent in-class activities and I expect some form of participation.
- We will have **three assignments** (more on this later) and **one in-class midterm**.
- The **final will be cumulative**. However, we will build upon material throughout the session, so there should be no surprises.

Required Book

Marston, Knox, Liverman, Del Casino & Robbins. *World Regions in a Global Context*. 5th Edition.

This book is available at the DuckStore, but is also available for purchase as an e-book or as a loose leaf book. Go to the publisher's website for options:

<http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/world-regions-in-global-context-peoples-places-and-9780321824622?xid=PSSED>

Other expectations

- This class will be very interactive and students are expected to participate and be respectful of their classmates. This includes limiting the use of cell phones, and computers should not be used unless for note-taking. If the instructor considers any classroom behavior disruptive, the student will be asked to be quiet or to turn off any electronic devices.
- You are also expected to arrive to class on time. Classes will begin promptly at noon, and the door will be shut when class begins. Make sure you are on the inside.
- When emailing your colleagues, the teaching assistant or the instructor, please use proper names, grammar and salutations. In addition, put the course name in the subject of the email. It's also helpful to say what class you are in and your own name.
 - For example:

Subject: *GEOG 1020- I enjoyed the class!*

Hi Dr. McLees,

I just wanted you to know that I really enjoyed today's world regional geography class. I can't wait for the next one to begin!

Thanks,

Leslie

Academic Integrity Code

All students are expected to complete assignments in a manner consistent with academic integrity. Students must produce their own work and properly acknowledge and document all sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases). Students can find more complete information about the University of Oregon's Policy on Academic Dishonesty in the University of Oregon Student Handbook. Find links on the Blackboard to clarify what is meant by plagiarism and to find proper ways of using sources.

If you are found to have plagiarized (copied) off a classmate or from other materials for a test or an assignment of any sort, your first warning will be a zero on the assignment. Your second incident will result in an F in the course.

Disability Statement

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me at the beginning of the term if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu .

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is an important part of a student's educational experience. Students are expected to attend every meeting of their classes and are responsible for class attendance. Regardless of what reasons there may be for absence, students are accountable for all academic activities, and I reserve the right to require special work or tests to make up for the missed class or classes.

Etiquette

This course requires a significant amount of in-class participation, discussion and reflection. All students are expected to be engaged and share experiences. Please address each other respectfully and keep any unnecessary electronics stowed unless we are using them for class purposes.

Grading

Attendance, participation in discussions and in-class activities	10 points
Assignments (3 @ 15 points each)	30 points
Discussions	20 points
Mid-term exam	20 points
Final cumulative exam	20 points
TOTAL	100 Points

Weekly outline

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change

- Week 1: Intro to the course
- Week 2: Europe
- Week 3: Latin America & the Caribbean
- Week 4: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Week 5: South Asia & midterm
- Week 6: Middle East & North Africa
- Week 7: Central Asia & Russia
- Week 8: Southeast Asia
- Week 9: East Asia
- Week 10: Oceania

**FINAL EXAM IS MONDAY, JUNE 8TH AT 2:45PM IN THIS ROOM.
DON'T ASK ABOUT SKIPPING TOWN EARLY!**