

GEO 100: WORLD GEOGRAPHY

FALL 2019 – IN-CLASSROOM LECTURE

REMINGTON HALL 117 – M/W/F 10:00-10:50

Department of History and Geography; Missouri Western State University

Instructor Contact

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Office Hours

M/W: 9-10 am; 1-2 pm

T/R: 12:30-1:30 pm

or by appointment

1 COURSE INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

From the MWSU Course Catalog: GEO 100 World Geography is a systematic and regional analysis of the world's diverse cultural realms emphasizing the five themes of geography (location, place, interaction of people and the physical environment, movement, and region).

My description: a common misconception of geography is that it is simply knowing and memorizing the location of places, capitals, and physical features such as oceans, mountain ranges, and climates. While these are all useful and important aspects, geography is much more. Here, I use a common definition of world geography to say that it is the science of understanding space and place. Geographers study the location and distribution of human and environmental phenomena, not just the names of places and things. This course strives to show the importance of looking at the world from a spatial perspective with a regional approach. This includes cultural, environmental, political, historical, economic, and organizational qualities.

1.1 COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify basic spatial relations and how they apply to world geography
- Understand demographic data showing human population patterns and consequences.
- Explain basic physical and human earth phenomena
- Recognize economic factors and influence of globalization
- Understand the interconnectedness of various populations and their environment

1.2 ASSESSMENT METHODS

- Class attendance and participation
- In-class activities and discussions
- Five exams throughout the semester covering each section
- Comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester

2 GRADING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This course will rely heavily on completing the assigned readings and attending the lectures. Some of the test questions will come from not only the readings but the lectures themselves. Your success in this class requires you to develop your own study habits that keep pace with the schedule presented below. If you find that you are having any difficulty, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Grading Structure

	Grading Scale				
Score Percentage	90 – 100	80 – 89.9	70 – 79.9	60 – 69.9	0 – 59.9
Grade	A	B	C	D	F

Final grades are determined by the following assessments:

Class Preparation and Attendance	10%
In-class Participation (Activities and Discussion)	15%
Regular In-class Exams*	40%
Final Exam	35%
Course Total	100%

* To be taken from 4 of 5 exams taken in-class during the semester (lowest exam score dropped).

2.1 CLASS PREPARATION AND ATTENDANCE – 10% OF FINAL GRADE

2.1.1 Class Preparation: Required readings

Each week has a set of required reading assignments that come from a textbook or posted to Canvas. These are essential for you to read **before the assigned class session** as the classroom lectures, discussion, activities, and exams will expand beyond the required readings.

Required textbook:

Title: *World Regions in Global Context: People, Places and Environments (WRGC), 6th Edition*

Authors: Marston, Sallie A.; Knox, Paul L.; Liverman, Diana M.; Del Casino, Vincent; Robbins, Paul F.

Edition: 6th (2017)

Publisher: Pearson

ISBN: 978-0134183640

This book is available at MWSU bookstores, or online for rent/purchase at <https://www.amazon.com/World-Regions-Global-Context-Environments/dp/0134183649>. You may also find cheaper/used copies at your favorite online bookstore. **Some of the required readings may not part of the textbook.** Those readings are noted in the *course schedule* below. I will post PDF versions of the readings on Canvas for you to download.

2.1.2 Class attendance

It is expected that students be active participants in their coursework. Regular class attendance is considered a key element of participation and an essential part of the education experience. If you are involved in a university sponsored activity that will include regular absences, please discuss with me immediately.

Attendance will be taken for each class session. **You are allowed three unexcused absences without it affecting your grade.** After the third absence, one percentage point will be deducted from your final grade for each additional absence. You are paying for the time in the class, so you do what you feel is right for you. However, I want to stress that with freedom of choice comes consequences. Just because you have up to three absences does not mean that you should avail yourself of them. **Students who miss classes, or consistently come late or show up for just half of the class, suffer from missing out on lecture materials and discussion points and will assuredly not do well on the exams.** I am less than sympathetic to concerns about low-test scores and grades from students who clearly have missed a significant number of classes and/or come late-leave early.

2.1.3 Excused absences

Excused absences will be given for the following situations:

- Written notification from staff/faculty of participation in a MWSU sponsored event. The notification must be given *prior* to the absence
- Extended illness. Don't come to class if you are sick, but if you have an extended illness I will require that you provide a note from a health care provider to excuse your absence.
- Emergency situations. This includes bad weather, accidents, deaths, sick children, etc. If this happens, I will ask that you email me directly **before class** to let me know of your absence. I will reply to ask for outside verification (if necessary).

2.2 CLASS PARTICIPATION – 15% OF FINAL GRADE

Most class sessions will include an individual or group activity. While a lecture component will be a regular part of each meeting, you are expected to participate in these accompanying activities as part of your course grade. These activities are designed to be fun and enhance your understanding of the concepts covered in each session. Your ability to adequately complete these activities is based on your preparation for class (as covered in *Section 2.1* above), as we will not only cover what the assigned reading are for the week but go beyond to further explore different concepts when we meet in person.

Your participation is determined in part by attendance, contribution in class discussions and in-class activities, and completion of the readings on the day they are assigned. Just showing up for class is not enough. Participation is recorded on a check (-/+) scale. Students who have more than 10 check minus marks will receive point deductions. I recognize that this is a subjective component of the grade but the general rule of thumb is that if you think you are in trouble in terms of participation you probably are. Please feel free to see me and discuss ways to improve your participation in the course.

How these activities are graded will vary dependent on the activity for that session. Most will be a simple completion grade, but others may have unique elements with different criteria that require unique grading schema. Details on each in-class activity will be discussed before the activities with time for clarification before we begin.

2.2.1 In-class electronic device policy

I will allow appropriate note-taking devices to be used in class (laptops and tablets), provided they do not become a distraction or nuisance to yourself or those around you. **No cell phones will be allowed.** Please silence them before we begin class. If you do not respect your fellow students or myself with appropriate device usage, I will ask you to leave and you will receive a zero.

2.3 REGULAR IN-CLASS EXAMINATIONS – ALL EXAMS COMBINE FOR 40% OF FINAL GRADE

At the end of each section there will be an in-class exam. Each of these exams will cover only the content covered during that section. The exams will utilize different types of questions: multiple choice, map placement, and short answer. These exams may take the entire scheduled class period to be completed.

There are five in-class examinations scheduled throughout the semester. Of these five exams, only your highest four grades will be considered for your course grade. This will allow for one of your exams to be “dropped” in case of a poor test score or any short-term/unexpected situation that prevents you from being present to take the exam. **Note that I do not take any late**

or “make-up” exams as covered in section 2.5 below. If you have a larger concern that will affect your ability to take the exams in class, please speak with me immediately.

2.3.1 In-class Exam Dates

Exam #1	September 6
Exam #2	September 27
Exam #3	October 11
Exam #4	October 25
Exam #5	November 22

2.4 FINAL EXAMINATION – 35% OF FINAL GRADE

A final exam will be given during our assigned time for finals at the end of the semester. Please refer to the *Course Schedule and Timeline* section below for the exact date. The final exam will count for 35% of your final grade for the course.

The final exam will be similar to the exams in its format, and will utilize three different types of questions: multiple choice, map placement, and short answer.. I will provide a handout via Canvas that outlines possible of the final the week before the exam is given. I will allow for one class period to be used as an in-class “review session” to prepare for the test. **The test will be cumulative**, testing concepts and materials presented and discussed during the entire course – so keep your notes to help you be prepared for this important examination.

2.5 MISSING ASSIGNMENTS OR EXAMS

Missing exams, in-class assignments, etc. will be counted as a zero. Remember that your lowest in-class exam score will be dropped. However, I may allow late exams to receive some or complete credit but only in severe situations. Such extreme circumstances will be determined on an individual case basis. If you face a significant or long-term emergency during the semester, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may make the appropriate accommodations. If you are involved in a university sponsored activity that will include regular absences, please discuss with me immediately.

2.6 WITHDRAWAL OR INCOMPLETE

Students may also receive grades of W if they have withdrawn from the course by the designated date. Your absence from class without officially withdrawing will not result in a W on your transcript. A grade of I for incomplete work is only given under specific circumstances. Your failure to complete the work on time without proper procedure will not result in an **incomplete** grade. More information may be found at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/registrar/>

2.7 EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit opportunities are available for up to an additional 5% towards your final grade. There are two possible ways to earn extra credit:

1. Read one chapter/excerpt from a suggested reading that I will assign. After reading, write a 500-word essay that examines your thoughts on the reading. **DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE READING.**
2. Attend an event, lecture, or activity that relates to a topic of geographical relevance to a global region. After attending, write a 500-word essay that examines your thoughts and experiences.

See me for more details regarding a reading or event that you may choose from. All extra credit is **due by November 22. Only one extra credit opportunity per student will be allowed.**

3 OFFICE HOURS AND PROFESSOR AVAILABILITY

Office hours are an opportunity for you to connect with me in person about any questions, concerns, or other issues that you may encounter during the semester. They are a regular part of your academic development. I encourage you to utilize this time throughout the semester as needed.

Anyone that wishes to meet with me in-person may do so during office hours (listed at the top of the first page), by appointment, or as time allows immediately before or after class. There are occasions that I will be unavailable. These are typically only announced school closings and holidays.

I realize that you may not always be available to meet with me in-person during my office hours. If you need to visit with me directly, you may contact me to set up a separate time to meet if needed. In addition to making myself available in-person during office hours, you may also reach me via Skype or Google Hangouts during my office hours. My handles are:

Skype – mpw301

Google Hangout – mpwilliamson301@gmail.com

Please be aware that the easiest way to reach me outside of office hours is via e-mail. PLEASE COMPOSE YOUR EMAILS PROFESSIONALLY. THEY ARE NOT TEXT MESSAGES TO YOUR BUDDY. Include your course name and number in the subject line. **I will not always be able respond to emails immediately**, but should usually reply within two business days. If I have not responded to your email within two days please either re-send the email or discuss it with me in person.

4 STUDENT CONDUCT

Missouri Western State University believes the goal of students enrolling at Missouri Western State University is the pursuit of an outstanding higher education experience. As such, any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct may be subject to the student conduct process. Because inappropriate conduct obstructs the mission and functions of the University, may adversely affect the interests of the University community, or may endanger members of the University community, conduct hearings may take place even if the alleged victim chooses not to participate.

Students found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct are subject to sanctions. These sanctions may include restitution or fines, but generally are considered to be educational in nature, promoting learning opportunities for individuals while preserving a safe learning environment for the University community.

5 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Some aspects of geography include politics that can be regarded with opposing opinions or ideas. This course will protect each student's right to learn in an environment that allows for the pursuit of knowledge. It is important that you feel comfortable articulating ideas and opinions, but each student must be respectful of others whose viewpoints and experiences may not be the same as their own. Grades will not be affected by the subjective beliefs a student expresses in class, in assignments, or on exams, provided that ideas are communicated respectfully, logically, factually, and articulately.

6 ACADEMIC HONESTY, PLAGIARISM, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent classroom activity. **Any violation of academic honesty will be grounds for a "zero" on the assignment/exam and possible submission to the appropriate University review boards for further penalty.**

Plagiarism is a specific kind of academic dishonesty in which you take another's ideas or words and claim them as your own. When you draw on someone else's work, you must indicate the source of that material, whether you are repeating another's words, argument or thought. Even if you paraphrase another's work and are not using the exact wording, you are still required to indicate the source of the material. This material must be clearly identified with appropriate citations. If you do not do that, you have plagiarized those materials. Any time you copy and paste any writing that is not your own for an assignment, you must use quotation marks and give the source of that material. If you cut and paste without noting what you have done, you will be guilty of plagiarism. Even if the writing is your own, if it has been used for a previous assignment that should be indicated.

Course materials prepared by the professor of this course, including the syllabus, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the professor are property of the professor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the professor is prohibited. Upon request, the professor will usually grant permission for audio/video recording of the lectures, PowerPoint slides, or other materials on the condition that these recordings are used as study devices only.

7 STATEMENT OF SAFETY, EQUALITY, AND OPPORTUNITY

The Missouri Western State University actively follows a policy of nondiscrimination in regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, national origin, veteran status, genetic information, disability, and all other legally protected classes.

The Missouri Western State University is committed to creating and maintaining a learning community dedicated to the advancement and transmission of knowledge and creative endeavors, where all individuals who participate in University programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, and freedom. The University is further committed to addressing and eliminating all forms of discrimination and harassment. Complete copies of the "Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity Statement" may be found in the University's Policy Guide online, the Student Handbook, and the University Catalog.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Missouri Western is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please visit the following website:

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/titleix/sexual-misconduct-policy/>

8 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities are not required to disclose to the University that they have a disability unless they need to request an accommodation. We work to minimize the need for

accommodations but sometimes they are still necessary to ensure a student with a disability has the same opportunities as their peers. To request accommodations, please visit the university's Accessibility Resource Center online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/arc>.

Any student who has a disability that may prevent her/him from fully participating in this course, or otherwise demonstrating her/his abilities as needed should contact me personally as soon as possible. Necessary and appropriate accommodations will be made available as needed to ensure full participation and facilitation to all educational opportunities. I will happily work to make reasonable accommodations for students registered with the Accessibility Resource Center as determined in your eligibility letter. If you need to take a test in a proctored testing environment at the ARC, ***you must make arrangements with me no later than one week before the exam*** (not including weekends). I would urge you to be proactive in all this and make arrangements well in advance. Please speak with me separately should you require this.

9 ACADEMIC COUNSELING SERVICES

For students that desire additional academic support beyond myself or our classroom, the Center for Academic Support provides one-on-one and small group tutoring for most courses on campus. Located on the northeast corner of the library building, the Center consists of group study spaces and a large open area for students to receive tutoring or work independently. More information about the Center for Academic Support and other services can be found online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/cas>.

10 STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Missouri Western State University is committed to supporting and advancing the mental health and well-being of our MWSU students. During the course of their academic careers, students often experience personal challenges that contribute to barriers in learning, such as drug/alcohol problems, strained relationships, chronic worrying, persistent sadness or loss of interest in enjoyable activities, family conflict, grief and loss, domestic violence, difficulty concentrating, problems with organization, procrastination and/or lack of motivation. If you or someone you know has a history of mental health concerns or if you are unsure and would like a consultation, a variety of confidential services are available. The Counseling Center is located in Eder Hall 203. You can also call at 816-271-4327 or find more online at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/student-services/counseling/online>. Also, you may call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at (800) 273-TALK or on the web.

NOTE: Passages from some of the sections above have been taken directly or modified from the *Missouri Western State University Student Handbook*. For more information, please refer to the handbook available online at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/Student-Handbook-2018.pdf>

11 TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE AND TIMELINE - *DISCLAIMER: I reserve the right to change due dates and add or delete readings as needed. You will be notified in advance if such changes are necessary.*

11.1 SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

WEEK ONE: AUG. 26 – 30 Course Overview and Intro to World Geography, part 1

Required Readings:

- Course Syllabus
- WRGC Chapter 1 (part 1)

WEEK TWO: SEP. 2 – 6 Intro to World Geography (part 2)

EXAM #1 September 6

NO CLASS or OFFICE HOURS Sep. 2 Labor Day

Required Readings:

- WRGC Chapter 1 (part 2)

11.2 SECTION TWO: THE AMERICAS

WEEK THREE: SEP. 9 – 13 North America

Required Readings:

- WRGC Chapter 6

Week Four: Sep. 16 – 20 Latin and South America

Required Readings:

- WRGC Chapter 7 (part 1)

WEEK FIVE: SEP. 23 – 27 The Caribbean

EXAM #2 September 27

Required Readings:

- WRGC Chapter 7 (part 2)

11.3 SECTION THREE: EUROPE

WEEK SIX: SEP. 30 – OCT. 4 Northern, Western, and Eastern Europe

Required Readings:

- WRGC Chapter 2

WEEK SEVEN: OCT. 7 – 11 Russia/Transcaucasia and Central Asia

EXAM #3 October 11

Required Readings:

- WRGC Chapter 3

11.4 SECTION FOUR: AFRICA

WEEK EIGHT: Oct. 14 – 18 Western and Central Africa

Required Readings:

- WRGC Chapter 5 (part 1)

WEEK NINE: OCT. 21 – 25 Eastern and Southern Africa

EXAM #4 October 25

Required Readings:

- *WRGC* Chapter 5 (part 2)

11.5 SECTION FIVE: ASIA

WEEK TEN: OCT. 28 – NOV. 1 North Africa/Middle East

Required Readings:

- *WRGC* Chapter 4

WEEK ELEVEN: NOV. 4 – 8 South Asia

Required Readings:

- *WRGC* Chapter 9

WEEK TWELVE: NOV. 11 – 15 East Asia

Required Readings:

- *WRGC* Chapter 8

WEEK THIRTEEN: NOV. 18 – 22 Southeast Asia

EXAM #5 November 22

Required Readings:

- *WRGC* Chapter 10

Extra Credit Due November 22

WEEK FOURTEEN: NOV. 25 – 29 Fall Break

No class sessions or office hours

11.6 SECTION SIX: AUSTRALIA AND PACIFIC ISLAND GROUPS

WEEK FIFTEEN: DEC. 2 – 6 Australia and Pacific Island Groups

Required Readings:

- *WRGC* Chapter 11

FINALS WEEK: DEC. 7 – 14

FINAL EXAM DATE IS SCHEDULED FOR

Required Readings:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 8:30 A.M.

- Study guide, personal notes, and other materials that help you prepare for the exam