

SYLLABUS
WORLD GEOGRAPHY
GEO 100 Section 40
Fall 2019 (ONLINE)

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Office Hours: M 10:00am to 1:00pm; T 10:00am-1:00pm, and R 2:00-3:00pm or by appointment (unless otherwise posted by email or on my door). Office hours can also be conducted virtually through email. Skype sessions are available upon request.

Students are encouraged to seek help from the professor if you have any questions about assignments, tests, or materials covered in lectures or the readings. Please do not wait until you are overwhelmed to seek help. This course is self-paced with the exception of a few assignments that have specific deadlines. Lectures are delivered via Panopto and require a high-speed internet connection. Exams are completed online through Canvas and assignments are submitted via discussions or assignment links in Canvas. Students must be proficient in the use of Canvas to succeed in the class. I can provide some guidance on the use of Canvas and instructional videos are provided on the course's Canvas website. Please email me if you are confused. I will try to provide emails to keep people on track, but it is not my responsibility to make sure you complete the coursework on time. **ALL WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED BY DECEMBER 9, 2019 @ 11:59pm CT.** The last day to withdraw from class is **NOVEMBER 1, 2019.**

Recommended Texts:

1. Marston, Sallie, Paul Knox, Diana Liverman, Vincent Del Casino, and Paul Robbins. *World Regions in Global Context*, 6th edition. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education, 2017.

Required Resources:

1. Assigned additional readings made available on Canvas

Course Objectives: World Geography at MWSU is designed as a course to expose students to the physical and human geography of Earth. While the focus will primarily be on human geography, including economics, politics, society and culture, and religion, we will also engage in environmental topics in the regions we study. Throughout the course, we will study each region to better understand the complexities of different cultures and nations and how they interact with each other and the greater world. Through the study of distant cultures and countries, students will be challenged to think critically, write effectively, and develop a broader world view whereby they understand how they can impact and be impacted by divergent places and people. As a 100-level course, World Geography should not be viewed as “easy,” but as a broad foundation for a lifelong appreciation of cultures and societies around the globe.

This General Studies course contributes to the Missouri Goals for General Education in the skill areas of **Communicating, Higher-Order Thinking, Managing Information, and Valuing** and in the knowledge area of **Behavioral and Social Sciences**. It will promote the development of the following skills by students, which were identified by Missouri Western State University as critical to a General Studies Education:

1. Communicate effectively in groups by listening, reflecting, and responding appropriately and in context.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to defend conclusions using relevant evidence and reasoned arguments.
3. **Locate, organize, store, retrieve, evaluate, synthesize, and annotate information from print, electronic, and other sources in preparation for solving problems and making informed decisions.**
4. **Consider multiple perspectives, recognize biases, deal with ambiguity, and take a reasonable position.**
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate the interconnectedness of people and places around the globe.

These skills will be assessed through a variety of formative assessments in the virtual classroom including discussions, as well as the summative assessments outlined in the University's General Studies Assessment Plan for the student learning outcomes listed in bold face.

Additionally, the content of this course, as established by the professor, satisfies the following thematic standards suggested by the National Council for Social Studies (for detailed information on all ten themes refer to www.socialstudies.org/standards/2.0.html):

1. Culture
2. Time, Continuity, and Change
3. People, Places, and Environments
5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
6. Power Authority, and Governance
7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption
9. Global Connections

Students in education programs are responsible for keeping a copy of the syllabus, as it could be required to receive credit from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education if you transfer to another Missouri institution of higher education. History majors seeking teacher certification may want to keep copies of quizzes, papers, and examinations as artifacts for portfolios.

Course Evaluation: Your final grade in this class will be based on your performance on 12 exams and 3 assignments. Exam material will be drawn from lectures, maps, movie links assigned in lecture, assignments, and assigned readings for the section. There is a possible 460 points to be earned in the class. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Assignments are individual written homework. They will apply your knowledge gained in lecture with outside research and allow you to practice writing skills in geographic settings as well as place location skills. The point break down for exams and assignments is described below. This is a self-paced class, with few exceptions. It is the responsibility of the student to complete all exams and assignments by DECEMBER 1, 2019 @ 11:59pm CT. Other than the news articles and discussions for assignment 1, which will appear approximately once a week, everything that must be completed for the class, including optional extra credit assignments, will be available on the first day of class. Mid-term grades will be issued for all work completed, including hot topics 1-6, as of October 18, 2019. The following point scale will be used to calculate your final grade for the class.

460-414 = A
413-368 = B
367-322 = C
321-276 = D
275-0 = F

POINTS BREAK DOWN:

Chapter 1 Exam: 50 points
Chapter 2-11 Exams: 25 points each (250 points total)
Reading excerpts test: 25 points
Assignment 1: 60 points
Assignment 2: 35 points
Assignment 3: 40 points

I do not automatically bump up borderline grades. If you earn 413 points, you have earned a B, not an A. If you earned 414 points, you would not want me to bump you down to a B instead of the A that you earned. Do not expect to receive a higher grade than you earned and do not ask for that consideration. Also be aware that an A is only awarded for extra effort. If you turn in the bare minimum work, do not expect to receive that honor. Students who earn A's do well on exams and put extra effort into assignments. Furthermore, be aware that Canvas does not accurately calculate grades for this class. An Excel spreadsheet will be provided in Canvas to help you track your grades throughout the semester and students can always make an appointment to discuss their current grade in the course.

Grade appeals should be done following procedures outlined in the MWSU Student Handbook and the Department of History and Geography. For more details see <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wpcontent/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/StudentHandbook2016.pdf>.

Extra Credit: The Department of History and Geography **does not allow** individual students to perform extra credit work to improve their grade, but opportunities are available to the whole class on Canvas.

Students with Disabilities: Students seeking accommodations must first provide documentation of needed accommodations to the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) located in Eder Hall, Suite 203N. Once accommodations have been approved by the ARC, students are responsible for notifying their instructors of those accommodations. This should be done within the first two weeks of classes. Accommodations are not retroactive.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students, 226 Blum Student Union, for a list of resources and support.

The Campus Cupboard is a free resource with pantry and hygiene items, located at 214 Blum Student Union. The pantry is typically open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 pm and by appointment. You can stop by the Vice President for Student Affairs Office, Blum 228, or contact the Dean of Students with questions or concerns. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable him/her to provide any resources that he/she may possess.

Copyright Permissions: The course materials that I author, including, but not limited to, PowerPoint slides, Panopto recordings, Canvas screenshots, class handouts, web-based and social media content, and course syllabi, are my intellectual property and are protected by copyright law. Students in the course may download and make copies of my course materials for the course student's own use. Publicly reproducing or distributing these materials or enabling others to do so without my express written consent is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply with this direction may constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook and result in disciplinary action by the University.

MWSU Policy on Academic Honesty: 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 activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms. Please see the Student Handbook for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. For information about Academic Regulations and Standards Committee, go to <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/facsenate/academic-regulations/>.

A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct: Consistent with its mission, Missouri Western seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and University policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Missouri Western encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to someone from the Campus and Local Resources list found in the Student Handbook about what happened so they can get the support they need and Missouri Western can respond appropriately.

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, see the MWSU sexual-misconduct policy

Students have received information via email regarding training regarding Title IX. Student employees may have additional required training. Please follow the link in the email sent to your MWSU student account to complete the training. Students who do not complete the training will receive a hold on their account, prohibiting future semester enrollment until the training is complete. These training courses will ensure that all students are appropriately educated about these important regulations.

Note on Course Content: Geography as a discipline covers a broad spectrum of topics including some that might be uncomfortable or controversial to certain students. Feel free to discuss with the instructor any materials that concern you. The virtual classroom is an open and inclusive place where all opinions will be heard. No one should be attacked for their opinions, but incorrect assumptions or opinions based on inaccurate information will be dealt with accordingly.

Note that this syllabus acts as a contract. If you remain in the class, you are responsible for the policies contained herein. The professor will inform you of any policy or scheduling changes and it is your responsibility to adjust accordingly.

Accessing Course Content: You must complete the introductory videos, and practice quiz before you can begin working on course materials. If you do not complete those assignments by the deadline of September 1, 2019 at 11:59pm CT, you will be locked out of the course and unable to proceed to subsequent sections. Each chapter of the textbook is contained in a separate module within Canvas. You must view all lectures in Panopto and open the study guide for a chapter prior to completing the exam for that chapter and continuing on to the next module. The lectures within each chapter are labeled in sequential order to guide you. Below is the order you will be working through the chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction to Geography
Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa
Chapter 4: Southwest Asia and Northern Africa
Chapter 3: Russia, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus
Chapter 9: South Asia
Chapter 8: East Asia
Chapter 10: Southeast Asia
Chapter 11: Oceania
Chapter 7: Middle and South America
Chapter 6: North America
Chapter 2: Europe

REMINDER: This class runs from August 26, 2019 to December 9, 2019. After you complete introductory assignments, you can complete the work at any pace you are comfortable (with the exception of the assignment 1 hot topic discussions), but all work must be completed and submitted by DECEMBER 9, 2019 @ 11:59pm CT.

Suggested Calendar for Pacing and Due Dates for Hot Topics (all times CT)

Week of August 26: Chapter 1 (Lectures 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3)

- Practice Hot Topic Open August 26 12:01am to September 1 11:59pm

Week of September 2: Chapter 1 (Lectures 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6)

- Hot Topic #1 Open September 2 12:01am to September 8 11:59pm

Week of September 9: Chapter 1 (Lectures 1.7 and 1.8) and Chapter 5 (Lectures 5.1 and 5.2)

- Hot Topic #2 Open September 9 12:01am to September 15 11:59pm

Week of September 16: Chapter 5 (Lectures 5.3, and 5.4) and Chapter 4 (Lecture 4.1)

- Hot Topic #3 Open September 16 12:01am to September 22 11:59pm

Week of September 23: Chapter 4 (Lectures 4.2, 4.3a, and 4.3b)

- Hot Topic #4 Open September 23 12:01am to September 29 11:59pm

Week of September 30: Chapter 4 (*Occupation 101* and Lectures 4.4 and 4.5)

- Hot Topic #5 September 30 12:01am to October 6 11:59pm

Week of October 7: Chapter 3 (Lectures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3)

- Hot Topic #6 Open October 7 12:01am to October 13 11:59pm

Week of October 14: Chapter 9 (Lectures 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3)

- Hot Topic #7 Open October 14 12:01am to October 20 11:59pm

Week of October 21: Chapter 9 (Lectures 9.4, 9.5, and 9.6) and Chapter 8 (Lecture 8.1)

- Hot Topic #8 Open October 21 12:01am to October 27 11:59pm

Week of October 28: Chapter 8 (Lectures 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, and 8.5)

- Hot Topic #9 Open October 28 12:01am to November 3 11:59pm

Week of November 4: Chapter 10 (Lectures 10.1 and 10.2)

- Hot Topic #10 Open November 4 12:01am to November 10 11:59pm

Week of November 11: Chapter 11 (Lectures 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, and 11.4)

- Hot Topic #11 Open November 11 12:01am to November 17 11:59pm

Week of November 18: Chapter 7 (Lectures 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3) and Chapter 6 (Lecture 6.1)

- Hot Topic #12 Open November 18 12:01am to December 1 11:59pm

Week of November 25: FALL BREAK

- NO NEW HOT TOPIC – HOT TOPIC #12 STILL OPEN

Week of December 2: Chapter 6 (Lectures 6.2 and 6.3) and Chapter 2 (Lectures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3)

- HOT TOPICS COMPLETE – Work on Current Events Extra Credit as necessary
- ALL WORK IS DUE AT 11:59 PM CT on December 9, 2019