

SYLLABUS
WORLD GEOGRAPHY
GEO 100 Section 80

Fall 2019 TR 12:30-1:50pm, Popplewell 101

Instructor: Dr. Dawn M. Drake

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Office Hours: M 10:00am-12:00pm; T 10:00am-12:00pm; R 2:00pm-3:00pm; or by appointment (unless otherwise posted by email or on my door)

Students are encouraged to seek help from the professor if you have any questions about assignments, tests, or materials covered in class or the readings. Appointments are available for students who cannot be accommodated within the listed office hours. Weekend appointments can also be scheduled in extreme circumstances. Please do not wait until you are overwhelmed to seek help.

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. Smith, Dan. *The Penguin State of the World Atlas*, 9th edition. New York: Penguin Books, 2012.

Course Objectives: World Geography at MWSU is designed as a course to expose students to the physical and human geography of the Earth. While the focus will primarily be on human geography, including economics, politics, society and culture, we will also engage in some environmental topics. Whereas the traditional sections of World Geography are designed as a survey course covering key topics in every region of the world, the honors section is thematic. In the honors section, some regions will be covered over more class periods than others and no region will be covered in complete detail. The honors course also includes a component examining geography through film where lectures will be complemented with mainstream media movies and/or documentaries that highlight the selected themes for the region. Honors students will not only be expected to produce a film journal where they discuss the geography presented in the films, but they also will complete a project where they develop their own example of teaching geography through film. If a student is uncomfortable with violence or language in the selected films for the course, alternate assignments will be provided. 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.

The Honors Program at Missouri Western State University provides an enriched educational experience for the exceptional student. The program is designed for the student who enjoys learning, and whose personal goals emphasize the pursuit of understanding and knowledge. Ultimately, the program provides students with academic training and skills which will serve them well in both their chosen careers and their personal lives. Goals of the program are to foster the growth of intellectual inquiry, independence, and initiative in honors participants with an array of learning experiences including special courses, colloquia, and independent research and study. Each honors experience is simultaneously challenging, exciting, and enjoyable.

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 | 5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions |
| 2. Time, Continuity, and Change | 6. Power Authority, and Governance |
| 3. People, Places, and Environments | 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 4 exams, four map quizzes, an assignment on ambiguities and biases, a presentation on a selected topic in the *State of the World Atlas*, film reflections, and the final film geography project. Exam material will be drawn from lectures, maps, class discussions, movies shown in class and assigned as homework, assignments, and assigned readings for the section. Anything that happens from the time I begin class until I end class is fair game. There is a possible 590 points to be earned in the class. Each exam will be worth 75 points and consist of a combination of multiple choice questions and an essay related to the themes in the section. Exams will be take home. You will be given the essay prompt in class and then have 48 hours to log into Canvas to complete the multiple choice portion and upload your completed essay. The four map quizzes will be in class and combine for another 100 points. The final film project will be worth 75 points and therefore equivalent to one exam. The film reflections (or their alternative assignments) and the in-class presentation will amount to another 75 points. The ambiguities and biases assignment is worth 40 points. The following point scale will be used to calculate your final grade for the class.

- 590-531 = A
- 530-472 = B
- 471-413 = C
- 412-354 = D
- 353-0 = F

I will not discuss individual grades in the classroom. That must be done in my office. I also do not automatically bump up borderline grades. If you earn 530 points, you have earned a B, not an A. If you earned 531 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 in this class for extra effort. If you turn in the bare minimum work, do not expect to receive that honor. Students who earn A's are attentive, have good attendance records, prepare for lecture, and participate in discussions. They also do well on exams and put extra effort into assignments.

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>.

Students must earn an A or B in this course to be counted for honors credit. Grades of C or D will still be considered “passing,” but will not be counted for honors credit. Students taking A/CR/U must earn an A in the course for it to be counted for honors credit.

Grade Worksheet (double click to edit – only type in the Points Earned column)

Graded Item	Points Earned	Current Point Total	Percentage Grade
Extra Credit		0	
Film Reflection 1		0	0
Film Reflection 2		0	0
Map Quiz 1		0	0
Exam 1		0	0
Map Quiz 2		0	0
Film Reflection 3		0	0
Exam 2		0	0
Film Reflection 4		0	0
Map Quiz 3		0	0
Film Reflection 5		0	0
Exam 3		0	0
Map Quiz 4		0	0
Exam 4		0	0
Ambiguity and Bias		0	0
Film Project		0	0
Atlas Presentation		0	0

Extra Credit: The Department of History and Geography **does not allow** individual students to perform extra credit work to improve their grade, but opportunities will be offered to the whole class throughout the semester.

Early/Late Work: Late work will be penalized, but it is always better to turn work in late rather than not at all. For each day an assignment is late (except for weekends), one point will be deducted, to a maximum of half the value of the assignment. Early work will be accepted. **No assignments will be accepted via email.** Late work must be handed to me directly.

Attendance Policy: “Missouri Western State University has the expectation that students should be active participants in their coursework. Regular class attendance is considered a key element of participation and an essential part of the educational experience” (MWSU Student Handbook). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class throughout the semester. If you are late, you will be counted as absent. **Attendance will not be considered as a direct variable in your final grade, but it does have a direct impact on your grade.** Failure to attend class will result in a penalty born out in a student’s inability to perform well on assignments and exams. Attendance may also be used as a deciding factor in extra credit or exam curves. Exams must be completed within the specified period of time. Take into consideration the possibility of technological problems. Make-up exams are only given if the professor receives 48 hours notice with a suitable excuse. It is at the professor’s discretion to determine if the excuse is justified. The instructor will provide two days for make-up exams each semester. One will be just before mid-term grades are due and the second will be just prior to final exams. Appointments will be scheduled to accommodate the students’ and instructor’s schedules. All make-ups must be completed on those dates. **Only one exam maybe made up per semester.** Final exams will be made up at the discretion of the instructor. All disputes of the exam make-up policy will be taken to the department chairperson for a final decision. Students only attending class to submit assignments will be considered as not attending.

Weather Policy: All class cancellations by the professor for weather-related issues will be sent out through email. Typically, class will be held if the University is open. Campus closures will be sent through the Griffon Alert system. It is your decision to travel to campus in adverse weather. If you are uncomfortable driving, do not risk your life. You will be granted opportunities to turn in assignments without penalties and make-up exams.

Classroom Decorum: I expect you to respect yourself, the professor, and your fellow students by acting appropriately in the classroom. If you are going to sit in class and text message or read outside material, please do not come to class. If you are chronically disruptive to the classroom or the professor, you will be asked to leave. See the Student Handbook section concerning Student Code of Conduct for additional details. To that end:

- All cell phones, pagers, and headphones must be turned off and stored during lectures and exams.
- Students may use laptops and tablets for note taking **only**, assuming they do not disturb others in the class. Other computer use is not permitted. Any non-class related computer usage will result in the student having his/her classroom privileges revoked for the remainder of the semester.
- No disruptive conversations during class. If I have to stop for you, you will be asked to leave.
- No reading of outside materials is permitted during lecture.
- Please be on time for class.
- If you must leave class before the end of lecture, let the professor know in advance. Do not begin to pack up before the professor finishes lecture.

Classroom Recording Policy: 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.

Students are allowed to record course proceedings for their personal use. In fact, it is encouraged. 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.

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.

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 classroom is an open and inclusive 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.

Tentative Class Schedule: Note that this schedule is tentative and is subject to change at the professor's discretion. Please refer to the schedule for lecture titles, assignment due dates, events, and examination dates. It is your responsibility to make schedule changes.

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments, Exams, and Quizzes	NCSS Standards
8/27	Introduction to Geography	Marston Chapter 1		9
8/29	Five Themes of Geography; Tools of the Trade (DROP/ADD ENDS 8/30)	Marston Chapter 1		3,5,9
9/3	Physical, Cultural & Economic Geography	Marston Chapter 1		1,3,7,9
9/5	Economic Geography & Demography	Marston Chapter 1	Map Quiz 1	2,5,6,7,9
9/10	Geopolitics; Historic Geography of Africa	Marston Chapter 1 & 5		1,2,5,6,9
9/12	Slavery, Colonialism, and Apartheid	Marston Chapter 5		1,2,3,5,6,7,9
9/17	<i>Hotel Rwanda</i>			1,2,3,5,6,7,9
9/19	<i>Hotel Rwanda</i>		EXAM 1 DISTRIBUTED - DUE 9/21 2pm	1,2,3,5,6,7,9
9/24	History of Communism and Decline, Russia in the Cold War and Beyond	Marston Chapter 3		2,5,6,7,9
9/26	Middle and South America as a pawn of the Monroe Doctrine and the Cold War	Marston Chapter 7	Film Reflection Option 1 Due	2,5,6,7,9
10/1	Southwest Asia, the Blending of Cultures and Religions; Israel and Palestine	Marston Chapter 4		1,2,5,6,9
10/3	<i>Occupation 101</i>		Map Quiz 2	1,2,5,6,9
10/8	Iran, the Arab Spring, and Syria	Marston Chapter 4		2,5,6,9
10/10	<i>Argo</i>		Film Reflection Option 2 Due	2,5,6,9

10/15	<i>Argo</i>		EXAM 2 DISTRIBUTED – Due 10/17 at 2pm	2,5,6,9
10/17	Singapore as Economic Island	Marston Chapter 10		1,2,3,5,6,9
10/22	China, Children and Minorities	Marston Chapter 8	Film Reflection Option 3 Due Map Quiz 3	1,2,3,5,6,7,9
10/24	<i>China's Lost Girls</i>			1,2,3,5,6,7,9
10/29	India's Pluralism of Religion, the Caste System, and Treatment of Women	Marston Chapter 9		1,2,3,5,6,9
10/31	<i>Water</i> (LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW 11/1)		Film Reflection Option 4 Due	1,2,3,5,6,9
11/5	<i>Water</i>		EXAM 3 DISTRIBUTED – Due 11/7 at 2pm	1,2,3,5,6,9
11/7	Nationalism and Terrorism in the EU	Marston Chapter 2		1,2,5,6,7,9
11/12	<i>The Politics of Hate</i>		Film Reflection Option 5 Due	1,2,5,6,7,9
11/14	US Energy Policy		Map Quiz 4	2,5,6,7,9
11/19	Oceania, History and Treatment of Indigenous Peoples	Marston Chapter 11	Film Reflection Option 6 Due	1,2,3,5,6,9
11/21	<i>Australia</i>		Ambiguities and Biases Assignment Due	1,2,3,5,6,9
11/26	NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK			
11/28	NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK			
12/3	<i>Australia</i>			1,2,3,5,6,9
12/5	<i>Australia</i>		EXAM 4 DISTRIBUTED – Due 12/7 2pm Film Geography Projects Due Film Reflection Option 7 Due 12/12 by 2pm	1,2,3,5,6,9

FINAL EXAM PERIOD: Thursday December 12, 2019 from 11:30am-1:30pm in the regular classroom where you will present your selections from the *Penguin World Atlas*. Attendance is mandatory at the final. Non-attendance will result in failure of the class