

SYLLABUS  
GEOGRAPHY OF ASIA  
GEO 310 Section 01  
Fall 2019  
MWF 9:00-9:50am, 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 Text:**

1. Weightman, Barbara A. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East, and Southeast Asia*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Hoboken: John C. Wiley and Sons, 2011.
2. Other readings that are provided on Canvas

**Course Objectives:** Geography of Asia is a course designed to engage you with a variety of sub-disciplines of geography as they specifically apply to the continent of Asia, which may include Southwest Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Antarctica. Throughout the semester, students will follow a country they select and learn more about through assignments and a project. We also will be engaging with current events in the region on a weekly basis in an attempt to make you more aware of the world around you. In addition to expanding your knowledge base, this class will teach you to think critically and write academically.

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](http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/2.0.html)):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Culture                               | 6. Power, Authority, and Governance          |
| 2. Time, Continuity, and Change          | 7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption |
| 3. People, Places, and Environments      | 9. Global Connections                        |
| 4. Individual Development and Identity   | 10. Civic Ideals and Practices               |
| 5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions |  |

Students in secondary education are responsible for keeping all quizzes, papers, and examinations as artifacts for their electronic portfolios.

**Course Evaluation:** Your final grade in this class will be based on your performance on 4 exams (50 points each), 4 map quizzes (80 points), 3 assignments (25 points each), Hot Topics postings (60 points total), a final presentation (35 points), and a class participation grade (50 points). 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. Assignments are individual out-of-class written homework. They will apply your knowledge gained in class with outside research and allow you to practice writing skills in geographic settings. They also will build toward your final presentation. Hot Topics postings will make up 60 points of your final total. There will be a hot topic article posted on Canvas each week with a discussion prompt. Responses to the article and your classmates will earn 5 points per week. Class participation points will not only come from attendance, but from participation in weekly hot topic discussions. The following point scale will be used to calculate your final grade for the class.

500-450 = A  
449-400 = B  
399-350 = C  
349-300 = D  
299-0 = 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 449 points, you have earned a B, not an A. If you earned 450 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>.

**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.**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class throughout the semester. If you are late, you will be counted as absent. Failure to attend class will not only result in a penalty born out in a student's inability to perform well on assignments and exams, **BUT ALSO WILL BE A FACTOR IN YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE.** Students must be on time for exams. Once one student has completed the exam no students may begin it. 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. Assignments not turned in due to absences will be subject to point deductions. 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:** In the event that the instructor is unable to make it to a scheduled class session, you will be notified through your university email account, when possible. The email will contain instructions for what you are to do in lieu of coming to class that day. 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 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.

**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 and will be counted as absent. 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. **If any electronic item goes off during a quiz or exam, there will be a mandatory five point deduction to the offender's score.**
- Students may use laptops/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.

**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. **Be aware that after the completion of introductory material and the first exam, the regions covered will be determined by class vote. Once that vote has been completed, the professor will provide and complete schedule with all remaining map quiz and testing dates, as well as assignment due dates. This information will be provided no later than September 15, 2019.** It is your responsibility to make schedule changes.

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments
8/26	Introduction, What is Geography?		
8/28	5 Themes of Geography		
8/30	Tools of the Trade ( <b>DROP/ADD ENDS</b> )		
9/2	<b>NO CLASS: LABOR DAY</b>		
9/4	Defining Asia	Weightman Chapter 1	<b>Select Countries</b>
9/6	Cultural Geography and Religion in Asia	Weightman Chapter 1	
9/9	Religion, and Colonial Influences in Asia	Weightman Chapter 1	
9/11	Colonial Influences in Asia; <b>South Asia Map Quiz</b>	Weightman Chapter 1	
9/13	Physical Geography in Asia	Weightman Chapter 2	
9/16	Physical Geography; Population and	Weightman Chapters	

	Demography in Asia	2 & 3	
9/18	Population & Demography in Asia	Weightman Chapter 3	
9/20	Population & Demography in Asia	Weightman Chapter 3	
9/23	Economic Geography and Development in Asia	Weightman Chapter 4	<b>Assignment 1 Due</b>
9/25	Economic Geography and Development in Asia	Weightman Chapter 4	
9/27	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
9/30			
10/2			
10/4			
10/7			
10/9			
10/11			
10/14			
10/16			
10/18	<b>NO CLASS –LECTURE DELIVERED IN CANVAS</b>		
10/21			
10/23			
10/25			
10/28			
10/30			
11/1	<b>Last Day to Withdraw</b>		
11/4			
11/6			
11/8			
11/11			
11/13			
11/15			
11/18			
11/20			
11/22			
11/25	<b>FALL BREAK</b>		
11/27	<b>FALL BREAK</b>		
11/29	<b>FALL BREAK</b>		
12/2			
12/4			
12/6			

**FINAL EXAM:** Country Presentations, Friday December 13, 2019 from 8:30am to 10:30am in the regular classroom. **Failure to take the final will result in an automatic F in the course**