

Geography of World Regions
Geography 1300 – CRN 10019
Fall 2010

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Class times:	10:00 – 10:50 MWF
Class location:	Irby 311
Office Hours:	M - F: 8:00 – 10:00
Home Page:	www.brooksgreen.net
Prerequisite:	None
Required Texts:	Harm De Blij, <i>Why Geography Matters</i> Harm De Blij, <i>The Power of Place</i>

The General Education Context

This course is one of the Behavioral and Social Science General Education Electives. As such, after you complete this course, you should be better able to: 1) use a variety of concepts, principles, models, laws, and theories to explain human behavior, 2) understand how the study of human behavior is founded on empirical/scientific observation, and 3) recognize the effect of the environment on individual behavior, or recognized the effect of social institutions and processes on human interaction.

Additionally, this course is designed to assist in improving your information and computer literacy skills. As such, after you complete this course, you should be better able to: 1) locate information from a variety of sources, 2) utilize technology to create written and graphic documents, and to retrieve and communicate information effectively and efficiently, 3) critically evaluate information and its sources, 4) incorporate information gained outside of textbooks into your knowledge base, 5) utilize technology skills to more effectively write, conduct research, and produce graphic representations, and 6) understand ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information sources.

Finally, this course is designed to broaden your attitudes and to help clarify your values regarding your geographical world. As such, after you complete this courses, you should be better able to: 1) perceive and understand ongoing world events, 2) perceive and understand other peoples and cultures, 3) perceive and understand the forces and processes of nature, 4) perceive ongoing physical and cultural processes at the local, national, and global scales, 5) perceive and understand environmental concerns and problems, and 6) understand the relationships between humans and their natural environment.

Course Description:

Geography is part of your every day life and part of your understanding of the world in which you live. Every time you ask where something is, why something is located where it is, how an event or

phenomenon is influenced by where it is, or what is the best location for something, you ask a geographical question. Your experiences and your knowledge of the world are, among other things, geographical. Because you live in rapidly globalizing world, the intent of this course is for us to explore key regions of the world and examine a few carefully selected topics that are globally important.

To assist you in gaining the knowledge expected of you in this course, each of you will work toward achieving the following objectives: 1) learn what geography is, 2) learn why geography matters, 3) gain some knowledge of key regions of the world, 4) understand the power of place and why the world is not flat, and 5) how certain global issues are better understood by employing a geographic perspective.

Activities

1. Each of you is expected to read the assigned chapters in the textbooks as well any other assigned reads. If you fail to read them you may fail the exams. I test from the text, the readings (if there are any), and lectures, so read the items carefully and take good notes during class. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and get notes from a fellow student.

2. During the semester, you will be assigned three short papers. Topics will be related to information in your textbooks. Each paper will be worth 50 points. Any plagiarism will result in an “F” on the paper. Plagiarism on more than one paper will result in an “F” for the course. Papers are due on specific dates. I do not accept later papers, so please pay attention to due dates. Paper topics are as follows: Paper 1 – “Why is understanding geography a matter of national security?” Paper 2 – “Where on Earth are there religious conflicts? Why are they occurring there?” Paper 3 – “Is China a developed country?”

Papers MUST consist of the following: 1) a title page, 2) no more or no less than two pages of text, 3) a References Cited page, and 4) in-text citations. Papers are given to the professor at the beginning of the class on the date on which they are due.

3. There are four exams during the semester. Exam questions come from class lectures, the textbooks, PowerPoint slides, and reading assignments (if there are any). Exams will consist of multiple choice and map questions. Anything I say in class or anything you should read in the text or other assignments can be tested. If exams are missed for “excusable” reasons (illness, family emergencies, etc.) they may be made up after consultation with me.

Attendance and Grading Policies

You are required to attend each class period. A grade will be given for attendance. If you happen to enter the classroom late, and I have already taken roll, you are absent unless you inform me at the end of class that you were in attendance. I do not drop students for missing a specified number of classes. No excuse for an absence is accepted unless I have a document stating that you were participating in an authorized university function. Notes from doctors are never needed.

Final grade: Your final grade will be based upon the percent obtained from dividing the scores of the four exams, the three papers, and attendance, by the total possible points. My grading scale is: 0-59%=F; 60-69%=D; 70-79%=C; 80-89%=B; 90-100%=A. In borderline cases—such as 79.4, 69.3, etc., I reserve the

right to determine which grade is assigned. All grades and your attendance will be posted on UCA Blackboard for your review.

3 papers	150 points	25.5%
Attendance	38 points	6.5%
Exam #1	100 points	17.0%
Exam #2	100 points	17.0%
Exam #3	100 points	17.0%
Exam #4	100 points	17.0%
	TOTAL 588 points	100.00%

(The total points may change if the number of points on exams change)

Topics and Reading Assignments

	Date	Reading Assignments and Topics
1	Friday, August 27	Introduction, WGM "Preface"
2	Monday, August 30	WGM Chapter 1 – "Why Geography Matters"
3	Wednesday, Sept. 1	WGM Chapter 2 – "Reading Maps and Facing Threats"
4	Friday, Sept. 3	WGM Chapter 2 – "Reading Maps and Facing Threats"
	Monday, Sept. 6	LABOR DAY
5	Wednesday, Sept. 8	WGM Chapter 3 – Earth's Changeable Environments"
6	Friday, Sept. 10	WGM Chapter 3 – Earth's Changeable Environments"
7	Monday, Sept. 13	WGM Chapter 4 – "Climate and Civilization"
8	Wednesday, Sept. 15	WGM Chapter 4 – "Climate and Civilization" (Paper 1 due)
9	Friday, Sept. 17	WGM – Chapter 5 "A Future Geography of Human Population"
10	Monday, Sept. 20	WGM – Chapter 5 "A Future Geography of Human Population"
11	Wednesday, Sept. 22	EXAM #1
12	Friday, Sept. 24	WGM – Chapter 8 "Terrorism's Widening Circle"
13	Monday, Sept. 27	WGM – Chapter 8 "Terrorism's Widening Circle"
	Wednesday, Sept. 29	NCGE
	Friday, Oct. 1	NCGE
14	Monday, Oct. 4	WGM – Chapter 9 "From Terrorism to Insurgency"
15	Wednesday, Oct. 6	WGM – Chapter 9 "From Terrorism to Insurgency"
16	Friday, Oct. 8	PoP – "Preface," and Chapter 1 "Globals, Locals, and Mobals"
17	Monday, Oct. 11	PoP – "Preface," and Chapter 1 "Globals, Locals, and Mobals"
18	Wednesday, Oct. 13	PoP – Chapter 2 "The Imperial Legacy of Language"
	Friday, Oct. 15	SWAAG
19	Monday, Oct. 18	PoP – Chapter 2 "The Imperial Legacy of Language"
20	Wednesday, Oct. 20	EXAM #2
	Friday, Oct. 22	FALL BREAK
21	Monday, Oct. 25	PoP – Chapter 3 "The Fateful Geography of Religion"
22	Wednesday, Oct. 27	PoP – Chapter 3 "The Fateful Geography of Religion" (Paper 2 due)
23	Friday, Oct. 29	PoP – Chapter 4 "The Rough Topography of Human Health"
24	Monday, Nov. 1	PoP – Chapter 5 "Geography of Jeopardy"
25	Wednesday, Nov. 3	PoP – Chapter 5 "Geography of Jeopardy"
26	Friday, Nov. 5	PoP – Chapter 7 "Same Place, Divergent Destinies"
27	Monday, Nov. 8	PoP – Chapter 7 "Same Place, Divergent Destinies"

28	Wednesday, Nov. 10	PoP – Chapter 10 “Lowering the Barriers”
29	Friday, Nov. 12	PoP – Chapter 10 “Lowering the Barriers”
30	Monday, Nov. 15	EXAM #3
31	Wednesday, Nov. 17	WGM – Chapter 7, “Red Star Rising: China’s Geopolitical Gauntlet”
32	Friday, Nov. 19	WGM – Chapter 7, “Red Star Rising: China’s Geopolitical Gauntlet”
33	Monday, Nov. 22	WGM – Chapter 10, “European Superpower?”
	Wednesday, Nov. 24	THANKSGIVING
	Friday, Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING
34	Monday, Nov. 29	WGM – Chapter 10, “European Superpower?”
35	Wednesday, Dec. 1	WGM – Chapter 11, “Russia: Trouble on the Eastern Front” (Paper 3 due)
36	Friday, Dec. 3	WGM – Chapter 11, “Russia: Trouble on the Eastern Front”
37	Monday, Dec. 6	WGM – Chapter 13: Hope for Africa?
38	Wednesday, Dec. 8	WGM – Chapter 13: Hope for Africa?
	Friday, Dec. 10	STUDY DAY
	Wednesday, Dec. 15	8:00 am - FINAL EXAM

Other Items

- ❖ “The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 450-3135. For information or advice on the services available, go to <http://www.uca.edu/divisions/student/disability/index.htm>
- ❖ You are expected to do your own work. If you are caught cheating on an exam or class assignment in any way, these are some of my options: 1) your grade in the course or on the exam or assignment affected by the misconduct may be reduced to an extent, including reduction to failure; 2) you may be placed on probation or suspended from the university for a specified period of time; 3) you may be expelled from the university; 4) or, I may simply drop you from the course with a WF (withdraw failing).

If you present someone else’s work (for example copy material from an Internet site) and present it as your own, your name will be turned over to the university to prosecute in any manner it sees fit. Plagiarism (stealing someone else’s words or ideas) is an intellectual property crime. The *Student Handbook* provides a full discussion of students’ rights and responsibilities with reference to academic honesty and other topics. The full text of the *UCA Student Handbook, 2001-2002*, can be found at: <http://www.uca.edu/divisions/student/handbook/>

“The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university’s Academic Integrity Policy. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student’s acceptance of this university policy.”

- ❖ Cell phones and other electronic devices **must** be turned off while in class and kept off your desk. They may not be kept on your desk unless explicit permission is granted!!

- ❖ Laptop computers may be used in class as long as they are not disruptive to other students.
- ❖ Sexual harassment by any faculty member, staff member, or student is a violation of both law and university policy and will not be tolerated at the University of Central Arkansas. Sexual harassment of employees is prohibited under Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and sexual harassment of students may constitute discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Go to the following link for full discussion:
<http://www.uca.edu/divisions/student/handbook/>
- ❖ The university calendar listing all deadlines (for adding and dropping classes, etc.) can be found at: <http://www.uca.edu/calendar/>
- ❖ I reserve the right to change any and all parts of this syllabus, including assignments and their relative point value. You are responsible for being in class to hear any change in the syllabus.