



Geography 213
Wednesdays 5:00 – 8:00 (Section 85 RC)

Fall Semester 2011
He Sapa (Rapid City) Center

WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Kirk Costion, Ph.D.

Email: kcotion@olc.edu

Office Hours: I will be available for questions before and after class or by appointment.

Prerequisites:

English 113 (Freshman English 2) with a “C” or better

Course Purpose and Goals:

This course is suitable for those who have not taken courses in geography before. Geography is one of the few disciplines that regularly links the physical or natural sciences (like biology, ecology, and geology) to the social sciences (like anthropology, history, and political science). We will explore these connections by studying processes associated with the globalization. Therefore this class will tend to emphasize historical and modern examples rather than earlier ones.

This course is organized into two parts. The emphasis we place on one or the other is up to you as a class. The first section will explore the environmental, cultural, technological, and demographic contexts of different parts of the world. We will touch upon issues of environmental change and population concentration. The second part of the course will explore the geopolitical connections between parts of the world, including topics such as human rights, warfare, black markets, and social revolutions. We will conclude by using both parts of the course to evaluate historical trends and assess current developments in the globalization debate. By the end of this class, you will be able to:

- 1) identify the majority of the different countries in the world on a map,
- 2) identify and describe diverse cultures from throughout the world,
- 3) describe what globalization is,
- 4) evaluate how globalization is (or is not) changing the world, and
- 5) explain to your colleagues the causes and consequence of global inequities.

All learning objectives will be assessed through written exams, written assignments, and in-class participation throughout the semester.

Geography can be big and complicated mess of names, places, dates, and theories that you may never have heard before. Do not try to memorize all these specifics (although you are expected to memorize country names and identify them on maps). It will not be important to remember that, for example, Panama used to be part of Colombia prior to the November of 1903. However, it **will** be important to remember how and why Panama was successful in separating from Colombia. In other words, you need to concentrate on the stories presented in class and in your readings. To maintain a fun and engaging classroom atmosphere, we will use combinations of class discussion, short lectures, video clips, and hands-on exercises in our classes.

Course Documents:

Required textbook:

Rowntree, Les, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff (editors)
 2008 *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World* (Third Edition).
 Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.

This course will occasionally utilize the instructor’s webfolder located at <http://www.olc.edu/~kcostion/webfolder/>. Although I will hand out copies of required readings that are not in our book, these readings will also be placed in my webfolder as Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files by author name and year. For example, if a 1938 article by Laurel and Hardy is assigned as homework, it will appear in the webfolder as *Laurel&Hardy_1938.pdf*. To download the reading to your own computer or flash drive, you must right-click the file name, and choose the Save As option, and save the document where you like. It will be your responsibility to check this webfolder as appropriate as the semester progresses.

Course Requirements & Grade Values

Midterm	200 pts. (20%)
Final Exam	200 pts. (20%)
Map Quizzes	200 pts. (20%)
Research Paper	200 pts. (20%)
Reading Response Questions	120 pts. (12%)
Participation	<u>80 pts. (8%)</u>
TOTAL	1000 pts (100%)

Grading Rubric

A = 1000-920	C+ = 799-770
A- = 919-900	C = 769-730
B+ = 899-870	C- = 729-700
B = 869-830	D+ = 699-670
B- = 829-800	D = 669-630
	D- = 629-600
F = 599 and below	

Exams in this course will consist of short answer questions and a few short essay (2-3 paragraphs) questions at the end. Exams cover both in-class and reading materials. Short answer questions at times can be answered in just a few words but at other times you will need to answer with a few complete sentences. The essay questions are almost always comparative in scope. For example, similar theses may be studied with different approaches, and can ultimately lead to different insights. You will be expected to compare and contrast these approaches in your short essays. To be successful, you must do the homework and discuss the connections between the reading and in-class material with both the instructor and each other. The final exam will be comprehensive, but only in the sense that it will include the big themes taught prior to the midterm. Makeup exams will only be given in extraordinary circumstances.

Your **Research Paper** will summarize your individual research on globalization's impact and its future directions. This paper *must* review and properly cite at least 2 literature sources outside of the homework assignments (wikipedia is not an appropriate source). This will be a short paper, minimally 5 pages double-spaced (at 12pt font). You will need to choose a specific region of the world that is of interest to you and then identify and explore a topic related to globalization that you find particularly important. The paper must explore some of the past research that has been done on your topic and argue for why this topic should be of interest to people other than yourself.

You will need to turn in your chosen research topic for approval on **October 19th** and an outline of this paper is due to me on **November 9th**. I will be happy to read rough drafts of your paper; the last day that I will accept rough drafts will be **November 16th**. The final draft of this paper is due to me on **November 30th** the week immediately before the final exam. Although I would prefer hard copies of your paper, e-mailed versions to kcotion@olc.edu are acceptable. It is your responsibility to make sure the e-mailed version of your paper is compatible with Microsoft Word.

Your **Map Quizzes** will consist entirely of blank maps, and you will be expected to label the modern countries, physical features (i.e. rivers, mountain ranges, deserts, bodies of water), or cities correctly. The purpose of these quizzes is to familiarize you with the places and names that we will be talking about in detail. There will be nine quizzes in total. You are allowed to miss one quiz without penalty. If you take all nine quizzes, only your eight best scores will count. Each of the eight required quizzes is worth 2.5% of your final grade. Quizzes will take place on the day we cover each region in class so you will need to study the map for each region **before** we go over them in class. I will hand out study sheets the week before each quiz takes place.

Quiz 1 covers North America

Quiz 2 covers Latin America AND the Caribbean

Quiz 3 covers Europe

Quiz 4 covers the Russian Domain AND Central Asia (countries ending in 'stan')

Quiz 5 covers East Asia

Quiz 6 covers South Asia AND Southeastern Asia

Quiz 7 covers Southwest Asia (the Middle East) AND North Africa

Quiz 8 covers Sub-Saharan Africa

Quiz 9 covers Australia AND Oceania

Each week you will be assigned a supplementary article to read in addition to your textbook reading. Along with these articles **Reading Response Questions** will also be assigned each week. These questions are designed to help guide you through the readings by keeping you focused on the main points that we will be discussing in class and are also a way for me to make sure you are doing each week's readings prior to class. In your answers to these questions I will be looking for you to demonstrate that you both read and thought about the reading. Your answers do not necessarily have to be long; *quality of content* and not *volume* will be much more important in your answers. You will be graded on your level of effort and ability to communicate what you have learned from the readings more than anything else. Answers to the reading response questions are due at the start of class each week and **CANNOT** be turned in late. You will be answering a total of twelve sets of reading response questions; each set of questions will be worth 10 points, or 1% of your final grade, so in total your reading response questions will make up 12% of your final grade. Repeated failure to turn in reading response questions will be an indication to me that you are not properly preparing yourself for in class discussions and will thus have a negative affect on your overall participation grade.

Your **Participation** grade is related to the initiative one takes to come to class prepared and to ask questions actively. Minimally, half of this final grade is earned by simply adopting a professional approach that would be expected in any future job (essentially the Lakota concept of *Waohola*). This means missing no more than one class (unexcused) and showing respect to other individuals in the class. I encourage you to voice your disagreements or concerns with me or others in the class when they arise, but Lakota conventions of respect in formal situations dictate that we frame any disagreements on professional (rather than strictly personal) grounds, and allow equal opportunities for opposing viewpoints to be explained. Respectful behavior also involves not annoying or distracting other students by talking, reading newspapers, repeatedly arriving to class late, doing something other than taking notes with one's laptop, falling asleep, or eating loudly.

Cell phones should be turned off for class and kept in your bags or pockets. If you *need* to have your cell phone on, please turn it to vibrate and take any calls outside the classroom. If I see you texting in class I will ask you to leave the classroom. We will often watch short videos in class; just because the lights are off during the videos it is not an invitation to start using your phones. This syllabus constitutes the only warning on this count, and points will be subtracted from offenders.

The other half of your participation grade is earned by answering and raising questions in class, making honest efforts with in-class exercises, or by writing reflective responses to questions at the end of class. Your participation grade is not influenced by being 'right' or the most outspoken individual in the room; it is simply influenced by the amount of personal effort you make in this class. For those who find talking in class intimidating, scheduling times to talk with me individually are an appropriate time to discuss class issues one-on-one. I am always happy to discuss issues and concerns over email. Since everyone has the occasional bad or quiet day, particularly active participation in one class can make up for a general lack of participation in another, however, consistent or improving participation will be valued higher.

Late Work, Make Ups, Extra Credit, and Other Policies

Exams:

Make-up exams for those who have an officially documented excuse will be entirely essay in format. Missing an exam due to an undocumented excuse will generally result in a zero score. Please plan ahead. Requests for make-up exams must consist of (a) one typed, double-spaced page explaining the reason for missing the exam, and (b) relevant corroborating documentation such as a doctor's note (if appropriate). Both must be in my hands within one week before or after the scheduled exam date.

Written Assignments:

Starting the minute after the conclusion of class and for each of the subsequent 24 hour periods from the end of class (so if class ends at 4 pm, that periods last from then to 4 pm the following day), late exercises will be docked five percentage points, and no exercises will be accepted more than 7 days after they are due without a documented excuse. You may e-mail late assignments to me at kcotion@olc.edu to save yourself penalties. It is your responsibility to make sure the e-mailed version of your paper is compatible with Microsoft Word.

Reading Response Questions:

If you are in class your reading response questions cannot be turned in late. If you miss a class for some reason you can turn in your reading response questions for the class you missed the next time you are in class. However, if you miss a class you are still responsible for the reading response questions for the next week even though you were not in class. It will be your responsibility to download the next week's readings and questions from my webfolder (<http://www.olc.edu/~kcotion/webfolder/>) and have those questions answered when you come to class.

Quizzes:

There will be no make up opportunities for quizzes without proper documentation for your absence. If you know in advance you are going to miss a class it is your responsibility to arrange with me a time to take your quiz early. If you do miss a class and have proper documentation you must take your makeup quiz the next time you are in class; this will be your only opportunity to take the makeup quiz. There are nine quizzes in total, and you are allowed to miss one without any penalty. If you choose to take all nine, only the best eight will count towards your final grade.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit assignments will be assigned at my discretion; however, there will be very little extra credit available in this course, so please plan accordingly. The only guaranteed source of extra credit, worth a maximum of 50 points (or 5% of the final grade), may be achieved by writing reaction papers on your homework readings. Each reaction paper is worth 25 points (or 2.5% of your final grade) and you can only turn in a maximum of two reaction papers for extra credit. These reaction papers can be turned in at any point during the semester, the last day I will accept them is **December 7th**, the day of the final exam. There will also be an opportunity to obtain a small amount of extra credit on each map quiz; this extra credit can add up over time so it is in your best interest to study well for each quiz.

Grade Change Policy

In case of unexpected happenings that prevent a student from finishing the course work on time, the student can contact the instructor and ask for an extension. Such an extension is only granted if the student has acquired between 40 and 69% at the end of the semester and is counted as present for at least 11 weeks. In addition, the student must have a properly documented legitimate excuse (such as an extended hospital stay) for not finishing their work before the end of the semester. My general policy is that grades for work that is handed in after the end of the semester are reduced by 50%. Also, additional work will only be accepted until the beginning of the following semester. The highest grade that can be achieved after a grade change is a C (exceptions at the discretion of the instructor). Grade changes will **only** be granted to those students with legitimate excuses for not finishing the course work on time; you **cannot** obtain a grade change simply because you are not happy with your final grade. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to make arrangements for a grade change; if you do not finish your course work and do not make arrangements for a grade change with the instructor you will receive a grade for the work completed. This instructor does not give any incompletes under any circumstances.

Special Considerations:

This class requires extensive reading and writing, if you have a disability that prevents you from completing these tasks or that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, it is your responsibility to notify me *and* the OLC Coordinator of Support Services by the second week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Support Services call 605-455-6000, the office is located in the Piya Wiconyi center near Kyle.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:

Plagiarism (copying the work of others, or using the work of others without proper citations) and all other forms of cheating will not be tolerated and can lead to a failing grade in the class, or expulsion from the college (http://www.olg.edu/local_links/policymanual/Section_70-79/76-300.php). Although you are highly encouraged to work with other students on your exercise dataset or reading questions to save yourselves time, you are expected to independently write up the results of each. Abrupt changes in the writing tone or tempo through the course of a paper, or two or more papers that sound suspiciously alike, are all it takes to begin an investigation that can have very severe consequences.

Oftentimes students plagiarize without intending to do so. It is **never** acceptable to simply cut and paste text from another source into your papers without proper citation. You need to cite authors not only when you use their exact words, but also when you paraphrase them or even just refer to their ideas. If you use more than 60% of an author's exact words, you must cite the page number. If you work with others, be sure that your papers are not word for word. Be careful. You are strongly encouraged to share rough drafts of your written work with your instructor *prior to* the respective due dates.

In order to help you avoid plagiarism, a handout on how to properly cite and write in your own words will be provided to you prior to your first assignment.

Academic Freedom Policy:

Academic freedom is the absence of restrictions placed upon the spirit of investigation, free inquiry and open discussion. In this spirit, the instructor exercises a professional judgment to select and interpret ideas, and the student has the right to challenge ideas and interpretations. (Basically this means that you should feel free and are encouraged to express your opinions in this class, either in discussions or in your written work, even if you disagree with the instructor. Your grade in the course will not be detrimentally affected by expressing an opinion that is contrary to the instructor's)

Official OLC Attendance Policy:

Students are required to attend classes regularly. Instructors will submit attendance on-line weekly to the end of the semester.

If a student wishes to be excused from a class, it is the **student's** responsibility to clear the absence with the instructor. At that time the student must arrange for a makeup assignment. However, an excused absence is the same as an absence until the student has completed work equivalent to being in class within **one week** of the absence. Once the make-up assignment is completed, the instructor may then change the absent to present depending on the circumstances and the quality of the work. This will only apply to no more than two absences. (Note: it is at my discretion whether or not an absence gets changed to a present and I only make such changes if arrangements are made with me before the absence takes place. Makeup assignments are not automatically given if you miss a class, you must have a documented legitimate excuse for missing a class to receive a makeup assignment).

A student may be dropped from a course after **three consecutive** absences and will be dropped by the Registrar after **five total** absences (This includes excused absences). There are **NO** reinstatements and **NO** exceptions for students who are dropped for five absences. Students who miss the first two classes of the semester will be dropped from this course by the instructor.

September 9th is the last day you can drop this course for a full refund; after this date if you drop the course you will receive a Withdrawal (W) grade for the course that will appear on your official transcript.

Class Cancellations

It is **not** the policy of this instructor to cancel classes because of bad weather. We will have class regardless of bad weather or predicted storms unless the college center closes down. Thus, it is not a legitimate excuse to miss a class because it is snowing or raining; you need to plan accordingly and make arrangements to be in class even if the weather is bad. In the unlikely event that a class does need to be cancelled for weather or some other unforeseen reason I will inform the entire class via e-mail as soon as I know the class is cancelled. All cancelled classes need to be made up at some point during the semester.

Tentative Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Your required textbook is abbreviated as DIV
Reading Response Questions are abbreviated as RRQ's

Disclaimer: The instructor may modify the course content and schedule during the term

Date	Classroom Topics	Readings	Assignments
Aug. 31	Introductions		
Sept. 7	Physical Environment	DIV Ch. 1 & 2 Fire and Rain	RRQ's Due
Sept. 14	North America	DIV Ch. 3 Cable; Coming to America... & Dobb; Alaska's Choice...	Quiz 1 RRQ's Due
Sept. 21	Latin America	DIV Ch. 4 Weatherford; Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia.	RRQ's Due
Sept. 28	The Caribbean	DIV Ch. 5 Wise; How Cruise Ships Shortchange the Caribbean.	Quiz 2 RRQ's Due
Oct. 5	Europe	DIV Ch. 8 Theil; The Incredible Shrinking Continent.	Quiz 3 RRQ's Due
Oct. 12	MIDTERM EXAM	Same Place, Same Time	
Oct. 19	Russian Domain/Central Asia	DIV Ch. 9 & 10 Forrest; The New Silk Road	Quiz 4 Research Paper Topics Due RRQ's Due
Oct. 26	East Asia	DIV Ch. 11 Powell; Suburbia Comes to China.	Quiz 5 RRQ's Due
Nov. 2	South Asia	DIV Ch. 12 Chaudhuri; A Two-way Diaspora & Belt; The Coming Storm	RRQ's Due
Nov. 9	Southeast Asia	DIV Ch. 13 The Other Oil Spill & Larmer; Land of Shadows	Quiz 6 Research Paper Outlines Due RRQ's Due
Nov. 16	Southwest Asia and North Africa	DIV Ch. 7 Molvai; Sudden City...	Quiz 7 Last day to turn in Research Paper Rough Draft RRQ's Due

Nov. 23	Sub-Saharan Africa	DIV Ch. 6 Teague; Southern Sudan... & Sayers; Success Through Shea...	Quiz 8 RRQ's Due
Nov. 30	Australia and Oceania	DIV Ch. 14 Johannes; excerpt from <i>Words of the Lagoon...</i>	Quiz 9 Research Paper Due RRQ's Due
Dec. 7	FINAL EXAM	Same Place, Same Time	Last Day to Turn In Extra Credit
Dec. 14	Make up week; class will only meet if necessary.		

Course Bibliography

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1981 *Words of the Lagoon: Fishing and Marine Lore in the Palau District of Micronesia*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.
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2007 Sudden City: A Feverish Dream of the Future Springs from the Sands in Dubai. *National Geographic*, 211(1): 94-113.
- Powell, Bill
2008 Suburbia Comes to China. *Fortune* 158(3): 120-128.
- Sayers, Ian
2008 Success through Shea. *International Trade Forum* 3-4: 31.
- Teague, Matthew
2010 Southern Sudan: A Shaky Peace. *National Geographic* 218(5): 62-89.
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1999 How Cruise Ships Shortchange the Caribbean. *Fortune* 139(6): 44-45.