

**Geography 110: Global Perspectives (Fall 2015)**

TuTh 7:30pm - 8:45pm in 2111 Tydings Hall

Satisfies the following General Education requirements:

*Distribute Studies: History and Social Sciences*

*Diversity: Understanding Plural Societies*

**Instructor:** Dr. Rachel Berndtson

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**Office hours:** 6:15 – 7:15pm T/Th in 2181L LeFrak Hall, or by appointment

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**Required Books**

*The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition; de Blij, Muller, Nijman, WinklerPrins

**Grades**

Exam 1	75 points
Exam 2	75 points
Realm Comparison Paper	50 points
Realm Comparison Presentation	25 points
Realm Comparison Contract	10 points
Lecture quizzes (5 pts. each)	35 points
Lecture presentation	25 points
<u>Discussion activities (10 pts. each)</u>	<u>60 points</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>355 points</b>

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of a History and Social Sciences course:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge on the fundamental concepts and ideas of human and physical Geography from a regional, geographic approach.
- Students will demonstrate critical thinking in evaluating casual arguments in terms of climate change, development, politics, economy, and demography in different world regions by analyzing major theories and the surrounding human and physical contexts of sustainability in which they take place over time.
- Students will understand the impact of historical contexts to analyze why the 21<sup>st</sup> century will so greatly differ from the 20<sup>th</sup> century in terms of culture, social structure, diversity and physical climate.
- Students will be able to analyze contemporary issues such as development, sustainability, colonization, religion and ethnic conflict in order to develop their own policies for social change.

Upon completion of a Plural Societies course:

- Students will be able to understand the basis of human and physical processes from a regional geographic perspective.
- Students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of fundamental concepts and methods that produce knowledge about plural societies from both a human and a physical perspective.
- Students will be able to analyze various forms and traditions of thought or expression as they vary regionally, such as foodways, religion, language, cultural identity and use of natural resources.
- Students will learn to use the regional geographic approach to examine comparative, intersectional and relational frameworks of multiple societies in a cultural and historical context.

## **Objectives**

The world is rapidly changing and we as Americans must adapt to our new place in this changing world. This geography class will familiarize students with the concepts of human geography on a global scale. The 21<sup>st</sup> century will likely not be the same as the 20<sup>th</sup> century in terms of climate change, development, politics, economy and demography. As we study the regions of the world during this semester, the focus of this class will be on the sustainability of both the human and physical processes.

## **Lectures**

Each week we learn about approximately a geographic “realm” of the world. The majority of information pertinent to this learning is covered through lectures, and therefore your attendance is mandatory. I expect your **full and active** attention during lectures. Laptops and tablets are permitted for **note-taking purposes only**. Pursuing extracurricular activities on your electronic devices during lecture will result in a deduction of class points. Pursuing non-electronic extracurricular activities (crosswords, newspapers, sleeping, other classwork, etc.) will also result in point deductions. Lectures will be posted on Canvas based on good class attendance: if class attendance diminishes, lectures will not be posted on Canvas.

## **Readings**

Readings include chapters from our course textbook, as well as external news articles, scholarly articles, and white papers. All non-textbook materials can be accessed through Canvas. **Readings posted next to each class on the schedule below should be completed before coming to that class.**

## **Discussion Activities**

Discussion activities are an opportunity for in-class dialog and application of the concepts from each realm. The class will be divided into groups for discussion activities. **At least one group member must bring his/her laptop to class on DA days, as you will access reading materials and submit your discussion activity electronically through Canvas.** If you do not own one, laptops are available to rent from McKeldin Library. Although only one per group is required, I encourage all students to bring laptops if possible. DAs require that students read and watch materials **PRIOR** to the class in which the DA takes place. Students are expected to come into the DA having read or watched the associated materials.

Three DAs will be “team DAs,” engaging the whole class. Students will be divided into three “teams.” In each of these three team DAs, two teams will research and debate an issue, and the third will act as a neutral council to judge which team made the best case. Students on the team making the best case will receive two extra credit points. Everyone will have a chance to act as the neutral council. The team DAs require students to read and watch materials ahead of time, **as well as submit DA prompts through Canvas ahead of time.**

## **Lecture Quizzes**

Lecture quizzes will assess your active engagement in lecture materials. Quiz questions will not be difficult. If you show up to lecture, listen, and engage in the content, you will do well on each lecture quiz.

## **Current Events Discussions**

Each discussion activity group will make one in-class presentation on a current news article relevant to the lecture content for that week. The group will make a short PowerPoint presentation and end with a discussion question for the class. The group will facilitate discussion amongst the class.

## **Exams**

This course includes two non-cumulative exams of multiple choice and short answer questions. The questions will assess students' understanding of reading and lecture materials. Each exam is worth 75 points.

## **Realm Comparison Project: report, contract, presentation**

For this group project students will write a report comparing two realms across various geographic themes. **Report:** The report audience is an authoritative body: international development NGO, multinational corporation, environmental nonprofit, political assembly, etc. Students will compare and contrast the two realms, and make recommendations on future interaction between the realms to meet that authoritative body's goals and mission. **Contract:** Group's must produce a contract outlining each person's responsibilities for the paper and presentation. All group members must sign the contract. A failure to uphold duties outlined in the contract will result in a deduction of points. **Presentation:** Group's will present reports in PowerPoint presentations in the last week of the class. PowerPoints will be graded on content, format, and presentation skills.

## **Accommodations**

If you have disabilities, learning or otherwise, you should visit the Disability Support Office to fill out appropriate forms that will tell me what accommodations to make. These forms will not be accepted after the **second day of the course**. Please talk to me about what arrangements are necessary to allow you to learn the content of the course. I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the current semester. **It is your responsibility to set up your DSS test services at least one week prior to the exam.**

## **Academic integrity**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that can result in suspension or expulsion from the University of Maryland. Please refer to the following website to determine how the University of Maryland defines plagiarism and academic dishonesty -- <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html>. Plagiarism is the use of another person's work as if it was your own and will not be tolerated. If I believe that there has been plagiarism on an assignment, I will inform you of my determination and you will receive a zero for the assignment. Cases

will be referred to the Student Conduct Office.

**Class absences:**

In the event that a class must be missed due to an illness, the policy in this class is as follows:

1. For every medically necessary absence from class, a reasonable effort should be made to notify me in advance of the class. When returning to class, students must bring a note identifying the date of and reason for the absence, and acknowledging that the information in the note is accurate. **\*\*If the first medical absence is on an exam, discussion activity, or presentation day, a signed medical note is mandatory\*\***
  2. If a student is absent more than one time, he/she is required to bring documentation signed by a health care professional.
  3. If a student is absent on days when exams are scheduled he/she is required to notify me in advance, and upon returning to class, bring documentation of the illness, signed by a health care professional.
  4. For more information on the UMD attendance policies, see <http://faculty.umd.edu/teach/attendance.html>.
- Students who are absent due to religious observances are responsible for notifying me of projected absences on the **first class** of the semester.
  - Turning in assignments late due to illness accompanied by a signed note or religious observances will not result in the deduction of points. Outside these circumstances, turning in assignments late will result in a deduction of **10 points per day**.
  - Missing exams due to illness accompanied by a signed note or religious observances will result in a makeup exam. Makeup exams consist entirely of essay questions.

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture	Readings and other materials (before class)	Quiz	Current Event Presentation	Discussion Activity	Due before class
1	Sept. 1	<u>Introduction</u>	Introduction chapter	Quiz 1			
	Sept. 3	<u>Russian (online)</u>	Chapter 2A	Quiz 2			
2	Sept 8	<u>Europe</u>	Chapter 1A		Group 1: Russia		Group 1 discussion PPT and questions
	Sept 10	<u>Europe</u>			Group 2: Europe		Group 2 discussion PPT and questions
3	Sept. 15		Choose one set of readings: -Spain, Catalonia: Burrige 2012, BBC News 2013 -Spain, Basques: Idoiaga 2006 -UK, N. Ireland: BBC News 2010, Archick 2013			Europe DA	
	Sept. 17	<u>N. America</u>	Chapter 3A	Quiz 3			
4	Sept 22		Bambrick 2012			N. America DA (Team DA)	Prompt responses based on DA groups and teams
	Sept 24	<u>M. America</u>	Chapter 4A	Quiz 4			
5	Sept. 29	<u>S. America</u>	Chapter 5A		Group 3: M. America		Group 3 discussion PPT and questions
	Oct. 1	<u>S. America Exam Review</u>			Group 4: S. America		Group 4 discussion PPT and questions
6	Oct. 6					S. America DA	
	Oct. 8	<b>Exam #1: Intro, Europe, Russia, N/M/S America</b>					
7	Oct. 13	<u>S.S. Africa</u>	Chapter 6A	Quiz 5			
	Oct. 15	<u>S.S. Africa</u>			Group 5: SSA		Group 5 discussion PPT and questions
8	Oct. 20		UNFAO 2011, Ofodile 2013, Kamuaro 1996			S.S. Africa DA (Team DA)	Prompt responses based on DA groups and teams
	Oct. 22	<u>NASWA</u>	Chapter 7A	Quiz 6			
9	Oct. 27	<u>NASWA</u> Realm project assigned			Group 6: NASWA		
	Oct. 29	<u>E. Asia</u>	Chapter 9A	Quiz 7			
10	Nov. 3	<u>E. Asia</u>			Group 7: E. Asia		
	Nov. 5		All must read: UCAR 2011 DA Groups choose one set of materials: -Gobi Desert: Tudela 2012, RealClimateNews -Maldives: World Bank 2013, AFP News			E. Asia DA	
11	Nov.10	<u>Pacific Realm</u>	Chapter 12				
	Nov. 12	<u>Pacific Realm Exam Review</u>			Group 8: Pacific		Realm contracts
12	Nov. 17		Macalister 2011, Economist 2012, Krause-Jackson and Gaouette 2013, University of Cambridge 2013			Pacific DA (Team DA)	Prompt responses based on DA groups and teams
	Nov. 19	<b>Exam #2: S.S. Africa, NASWA, S. Asia, E. Asia, Pacific</b>					
15	Nov. 24	<u>Data source (online)</u>					
	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving					
16	Dec. 1	Groups 1-4 meet with me in class					
	Dec. 3	Groups 5-8 meet with me in class					
17	Dec. 8	Presentations					Realm report Realm presentation
	Dec. 10	Presentations					