

**GEOGRAPHY 121
LANDS AND PEOPLES OF THE WORLD**

BULLETIN INFORMATION

GEOG 121: Lands and Peoples of the World (3 credit hours)

Course Description:

Introduction to the physical and human geography of the world with a focus on selected regions

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW

This course introduces students to diversity, inequality, and interconnectedness in the contemporary world. In terms of diversity, this course highlights the ways that the physical environment, social and economic systems, political relationships, and historical circumstances have produced distinctive regional geographies. In terms of interconnectedness, this course explores the ways in which global processes—world trade, colonialism and neo-colonialism, geopolitical conflict, and climate change—have integrated different world regions into a complex global system. In terms of inequality, this course gives special attention to the way that regional and global processes intersect to produce and reinforce social and geographical inequalities.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of Geography 121, students will be able to:

1. Conduct independent research and to speak in an informed manner on key issues and problems relating to global and regional transformations and inequalities.
2. Analyze diverse regional patterns and relationships between world regions using key concepts, including globalization, colonialism, development, sustainability, and neoliberalism;
3. Analyze the intersections between global and local processes and how these generate diverse patterns of resource use, inequality, and socio-political conflict in different world regions;
4. Evaluate interactions between the natural environment and human systems in different parts of the world and to discuss the potential impacts of global environmental change on particular places;
5. Analyze current events through an understanding of the complex environmental, political, economic, social, and cultural processes that shape them;
6. Conduct independent research on regional-geographical topics using academic and journalistic sources and to communicate geographical analyses of world regions and globalization to others through writing and discussion.

SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS

1. Rowntree, L., Lewis, M., Price, M., and Wyckoff, W. (2012). *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, and Development* (5th Edition)
2. In addition to the textbook, students will be assigned a variety of supplementary articles (both academic and journalistic) that will be available on Blackboard.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS

1. **5 multiple-choice quizzes:** The five multiple-choice quizzes test students' comprehension of textbook readings. These quizzes will be given at the START of each section of the course, rather than at the end. Mastering the textbook material at the start of each section will allow us to explore in depth current issues relating to specific regions. Students will be given a set of study questions to guide their reading and to prepare for quizzes.
2. **4 short research-and-writing assignments:** Students will conduct independent, interdisciplinary research on a specific topic relating to four of the six world regions covered in the course (options for topics will be listed on Blackboard). They will write up their findings in a short (500-600 word) discussion paper. The paper should address the historical and geographical context of the topic at hand and why this topic is significant to the region and its people. Students should be prepared to discuss their findings in class. Papers should be submitted on the day of the final lecture for each regional section.
3. **Final exam:** The final exam is cumulative and will include both multiple-choice and written questions based on reading, lecture, and discussion material.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

- Week 1:** Foundational concepts
Capitalism, industrialization, and urbanization
Colonialism, de-colonization, neo-colonialism, and core/periphery relations
Historical and contemporary globalizations
Neoliberalism and global institutions
Emerging economies
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 1
- Week 2:** Foundational concepts
QUIZ 1
Development, natural resources, and 'sustainable development'
Population, demographic transitions, and migrations
Climate change and biodiversity
Understanding regions
Gender, race, and inequalities
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 2

- Week 3:** Europe
QUIZ 2
 Basic physical geography of Europe
 Capitalism, agricultural transformations, the Industrial Revolution, urbanization, and demographic transition
 Liberal democracy, the nation-state system and nationalism
 Imperialism
 The Cold War, the European Union, and European integration
 Contemporary ethno-national conflict
 Post-industrial cities
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 3
- Week 4:** Europe
 Special Topic 1: Immigration
 Special Topic 2: The Euro Zone Crisis
Reading: 2 non-textbook readings posted on Blackboard
- Week 5:** Latin America
QUIZ 3
 Basic physical geography of Latin America
 The Columbian Exchange and demographic collapse
 Colonial production and labor systems
 European/American neo-colonialism
 Demographic changes and urbanization
 Racial hierarchies and social inequalities
 Import Substitution Industrialization and export dependency
 Structural adjustment and neo-liberalism
 Deforestation and related environmental issues
 Emigration
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 4
- Week 6:** Latin America
 Special Topic 1: The 'war on drugs'
 Special Topic 2: Agricultural export industries and environmental degradation
Reading: 2 non-textbook readings posted on Blackboard
- Week 7:** Southwest Asia and North Africa
QUIZ 4
 Basic physical geography of SW Asia and North Africa
 Islamic empires and Islamic cities/ European/Islamic encounters
 Western colonialism
 Oil and geopolitics
 Modern industry and urbanization

Terrorism, geopolitics, and the Gulf Wars
The Arab Spring
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 5

Week 8: Southwest Asia and North Africa
Special topic: Israel and Palestine
Special topic: Water resource politics
Reading: Two non-textbook readings posted on Blackboard.

Week 9: Sub-Saharan Africa
QUIZ 5
Basic physical geography of Sub-Saharan Africa
African trading empires
The slave trade and European colonialism
Urbanization and 'development' in post-colonial Africa
Apartheid in South Africa
Export-oriented agricultural production, resource extraction, and Chinese investment
Contemporary environmental problems
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 6

Week 10: Sub-Saharan Africa
Special topic 1: South Sudan
Special Topic 2: AIDS politics in Africa
Reading: Two non-textbook readings posted on Blackboard

Week 11: East Asia
East Asia overview:
Basic physical geography of East Asia
Rice and wheat agricultural systems
Western colonialism
Post-War communist regimes and the one-child policy
Post-War industrialization and the rise of the Asian Tigers
China's transition to state capitalism
Chinese urbanization
Migration
Environmental degradation
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 7

Week 12: East Asia
Special Topic One: Environmental change in Mongolia
Special Topic Two: Tibet and the Tibetan diaspora
Reading: Two non-textbook readings posted on Blackboard

Week 13: South Asia
Basic physical geography of South Asia
Sacred landscapes of Hinduism
The East India Company and British colonialism in India, Burma, and 'Ceylon'
The post-independence partition of India
The Green Revolution
Climate change and the fate of Bangladesh
Demographic transitions?
The geopolitics of Kashmir
Reading: Textbook, Chapter 8

Week 14: South Asia
Special Topic: India's high-tech economy and outsourcing industry
Special Topic: The Indian Diaspora
Reading: Two non-textbook readings posted on Blackboard

Week 15: Summary and Review

Final Exam according to University exam schedule