

Florida International University
Global and Sociocultural Studies
GEA 2000-U03 (32343)

Spring 2017
Fridays 10:00 - 11:50AM
Classroom: Ziff Education Bldg 150

World Regional Geography

Instructor: Young Rae Choi

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or by appointment

TA: TBD

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Office hours: N/A

Course description

This course will provide an introductory overview of world regions from a geographic perspective. Geography has a rich heritage of investigating the relationships between people and places. You will learn about major regions and countries of the world, with regard to their physical, cultural, and political characteristics. You will learn key concepts and critical perspectives in geography to interrogate various themes including globalization, climate change, development, underdevelopment, and inequalities. Connection is another word that you may want to keep in mind throughout this course. We will explore local, regional, and global levels of connections between people and places and examine how these connections are constructed, maintained, and changed. By the end of the semester, you will be able to contextualize global issues (whether environmental, economic, political, social, or a combination of these) and use this knowledge to better understand different places and understand the complexity of world regions in global context.

The course fulfills the Global Learning Foundations requirement and the University Core Curriculum requirement for Foundations of Social Inquiry. GEA 2000 is designed to “investigate social, political, and economic configurations; cultural and psychological features of human life; gender, race/ethnicity, and social class; consciousness and identity; social interactions with the natural environment; and local, national, and global aspects of the human world.” For more information, visit <http://goglobal.fiu.edu>.

This is a hybrid course (half in-classroom and half online).

Learning objectives and outcomes

1) Students will demonstrate a foundational knowledge of the world’s human and physical geographic features, institutions, and processes (such as trade, religion, environmental degradation and migration) and how they relate to each other:

- Understand key geographic concepts and themes
- Understand the earth system and know its main features applicable to the physical geographies of world regions
- Understand the world economic system and the history of development and underdevelopment

2) Students will be able to identify, differentiate between, and apply multiple perspectives (including physical science, social science and popular perspectives) to critically examine key geographic issues:

- Question the assumptions on development and develop alternative conceptualizations
- Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of different models of development
- Develop spatial thinking by recognizing the complex connections and relationships between places, people, and social and environmental processes

3) *Students will gain the ability to engage in actions that impact local and global processes, by coming to understand their connections to these processes (especially via their location in Miami):*

- Thoughtfully articulate complex ideas and perspectives and apply them to your everyday life
- Develop critical thinking on how world regions are constructed
- Explore solutions to the existing local, regional, and global problems
- Develop public communication skills for presenting the complexities of the world

Resources

Textbook (required): Marston, S.A., P.L. Knox, D.M. Liverman, V.L. Casino, and P. Robbins. 2016. World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environments, 6th edition, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

This course will use Pearson's Mastering Geography online learning platform that is embedded on Blackboard (Modified Mastering). You MUST purchase a code for using Modified Mastering from the FIU Barnes & Noble. There are two ISBN codes available. Purchase either one that better suits your need:

ISBN 9780134587776: Modified Mastering + a loose-leaf textbook copy

ISBN 9780134245348: Modified Mastering + eText (textbook that you can read online)

If you already own a textbook copy and are only in need of purchasing the Modified Mastering code, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

Additional readings are mandatory and the links to the additional readings will be announced during class.

Software:

- Google Earth: <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>
- Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces>

Film/documentary:

- Culture unplugged: <http://www.cultureunplugged.com/festival/films.php#view=thumb>

Course structure

In-classroom activities: There is one in-classroom activity per week. Students are required to attend all scheduled class periods. Class will be composed of student presentation, lecture, and discussion/debate. There will be material presented in class that is not found in the readings, so students must make arrangements to get any information they may have missed. Students will be responsible for all material presented in class during exams.

Textbook, additional readings, and virtual fieldwork: You must read the textbook chapter of the week and take an online weekly quiz before coming to class. In lieu of a textbook, additional mandatory readings for the course are news articles, reports, book chapters, webpages, etc. Links to all of these

materials will be announced during class. Additional readings will complement, not repeat, the lectures, and students are accountable for all assigned readings on the exams. Along with the readings, you will also be asked to explore a place by conducting virtual fieldwork using Google Earth/Google Maps. Instructions on the reflections on additional readings or virtual fieldwork missions for each week will also be announced during class before the week.

Blackboard: This course uses the Blackboard system as a course webpage (Go to <https://fiu.blackboard.com>). Find “1168-GEA2000-World Regional Geography-Section U03-Spring 2017). You must make yourself familiar with Blackboard and the Modified Mastering embedded in Blackboard by the end of the second week of this course. Using Blackboard, you will take weekly quizzes and submit assignments. Along with the readings, lecture slides and other announcements including the latest version of the syllabus and assignment instructions will be posted here. Under the Discussions tab, you will also find a FAQ board, on which you can ask and get answers regarding logistics issues (e.g., deadlines). Please wait up to 72 hours if you posted a new question. If you experience problems with accessing Blackboard, contact ETS in the Green Library for support (GL 152a).

Course evaluation

<i>Graded Item</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Weekly online quizzes	24%	Due every Thursday; See below for description
2. Midterm Exam	15%	October 6 ; cover material from weeks 1-6
3. Final Exam	15%	December 6 ; comprehensive
4. Group presentation	15%	November 1 & 3; See below for description
5. Infographic project	15%	December 8 ; See below for description
6. In-class participation	16%	See below for description

Weekly online quizzes: There will be eleven weekly quizzes to test your readings of the textbook chapter for each week. The quizzes are available on Blackboard and are due every Thursday by 11:59 PM. An additional quiz is on plagiarism and the instructions for taking the quiz will be given in advance.

Group presentation: Each week, four to six students as a group will make a 25-minute presentation on a current event related to the world region of the week. The group is expected to communicate and meet in advance to prepare for the presentation. More instructions will be given during the first week of the course.

Infographic project: You will choose a place, investigate a specific political/economic/social/cultural issue, and create an infographic of your own as well as an annotated bibliography. The instructions will be handed out following the mid-term. The paper is due on **December 8**. You may submit the project earlier if you wish.

Participation: You have to prepare for class discussion/debate by reading additional materials and/or by conducting virtual fieldwork. Your grade for participation (11% out of 16%) will be determined based on the submission of your reflections on additional readings or completed virtual fieldwork missions *during* class (online submissions are not accepted). The other 5% will be graded based on your active participation in class discussion/debate and your attitude in classroom. Disruptive behaviors that show disrespect to your instructor and classmates (e.g., making noise, using laptop or cellphone without

approval, and listening to music by using earphones) will be penalized with low or zero participation grade.

Grade scale (FIU recommended scale effective Fall 2016)

Letter Grade	Points Per Credit Hour	Range (%)
A	4.00	95 or above
A-	3.67	90-94.99
B+	3.33	87-89.99
B	3.00	83-86.99
B-	2.67	80-82.99
C+	2.33	77-79.99
C	2.00	70-76.99
D	1.00	60-69.99
F (Fail)	0.00	Less than 60

Class policies

Attendance

In general, no in-class activity or exam can be made up, and no late work will be accepted. However, if you **ABSOLUTELY** must miss class, you must notify myself **before** the date and get approval. Unexcused absence will only be made for serious reasons (i.e., emergency, death of the immediate family, acute illness). In either case, official documentation is required. Exceptions to this policy will be given **no make-up** for exams, assignments, or participation.

Electronic device

Phones are to be **turned off** during class. You are **not allowed to use a laptop** *unless* you get an in-advance approval to use one to take notes. If it is found more than three times that any of you do personal tasks, you as a class will no longer be allowed to use a laptop.

Plagiarism and academic misconduct

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Academic Integrity Committee.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me or consult FIU academic misconduct webpage at <http://academic.fiu.edu/academicbudget/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm> .

University resources

Students with Disabilities

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Disability Resource center at 305-

348-3532 in GC 190 (<http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/student-success/disability-resource-center/>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Counseling and Psychological Services

If you suffer from stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns or alcohol use that damages your academic performance, you are not alone. Students who have these issues are encouraged to contact the Counseling and Psychological Services at 305-348-2277 in SHC 270 (<http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/wellness/counseling-and-psychological-services/services/index.php>).

Schedule of readings and assignments

**Additional readings for each week are announced separately during class before the week.*

Week	Date	Theme	Reading	Assignment
Week 1	January 13	Introduction Earth & environment	• Course syllabus • Ch. 1, "World regions in global context", pp. 1-20	
Week 2	January 20	Key concepts and theories	• Ch. 1 "World regions in global context" (pp. 21-47)	Weekly quiz #1
Week 3	January 27	Europe	• Ch. 2 "Europe"	Weekly quiz #2
Week 4	February 3	Middle East & North Africa	• Ch. 4 "Middle East & North Africa"	Weekly quiz #3
Week 5	February 10	Sub-Saharan Africa	• Ch. 5 "Sub-Saharan Africa"	Weekly quiz #4
Week 6	February 17	Russian Federation and Central Asia	• Ch. 3 "The Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus"	Weekly quiz #5
Week 7	February 24	Mid-term		
Week 8	March 3	East Asia	• Ch. 8 "East Asia"	Weekly quiz #6
Week 9	March 10	Southeast Asia	• Ch. 10 "Southeast Asia"	Weekly quiz #7
	March 17	No Class (Spring Break)		
Week 10	March 24	South Asia I	• Ch. 9 "South Asia"	Weekly quiz #8
Week 11	March 31	Film		Weekly quiz #9 (on plagiarism)
Week 12	April 7	Latin America and the Caribbean	• Ch. 7 "Latin America and the Caribbean"	Weekly quiz #10
Week 13	April 14	U.S. & Canada	• Ch. 6 "The U.S. and Canada"	Weekly quiz #11
Week 14	April 21	Oceania	• Ch. 11 "Oceania"	Weekly quiz #12
Week 15	April 28	Final exam (comprehensive)		Infographic project due