GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Ricardo M. Gonzalez
Phone: (305) 348-2247
Office: SIPA 304 (MMC)
Fax: (305) 348-3605
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: Please use CANVAS Course Messages.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This is an introductory Geography course that studies people and their relationships with the environment, making special emphasis on historical and current globalization processes. In this course we will survey major regions of the world, study historical and contemporary issues that pertain to each region, and learn conceptual themes that transcend regional boundaries.

This course will introduce you to basic knowledge of the physical environment, political geography, population distribution, economic development, and ways of life in each region we cover. But much of geographical information cannot be contained in any textbook, or covered by any length of lectures. In this class, you will be introduced to some tools for geographical exploration that range from searching for information to critically processing it. You will not be required to memorize trivial facts. Instead, we expect you to understand important concepts and explain processes and ideas that shape a world region.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- 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).
- Students will be introduced to key debates, development, and themes in cultural geography through conceptually oriented lectures and contemporary and historical case studies.
- 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.
- 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).
- Develop and improve students’ map-based knowledge of key location in world regions.
- Develop and improve students’ ability to write and think critically about the world.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES

Please review the FIU’s Policies webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS
One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "What's Required" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our Technical Requirements webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Please visit our ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit CANVAS' Commitment Accessibility webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

There are no proctored or on-campus exam for this online course.

TEXTBOOK

Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts 14th Edition (required)
Harm J. de Blij, Peter O. Muller
Wiley, 02/02/2010
ISBN-10: 0470462426
Book Info. You may purchase your textbook online at the FIU Bookstore.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, meaning that most of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills that can make them more demanding for some students.

When you sign up for this online course you are expected to be sufficiently computer savvy to keep your computer in a condition that can well support the software used in this course. You are responsible for having access to a well-functioning computer. This is of utmost importance, especially with regards to the online tests. The professor does not allow for retakes of tests or give extra credit when students perform poorly due to computer problems.

If you have computer problems while taking a quiz, you MUST contact FIU Online Support Services by calling them at (305) 348-3630 or by clicking on the "Technical Support" link in the Course Menu immediately, NOT THE PROFESSOR or your CLASSMATES. In addition, we ask you to gather all available evidence that support your claim and send it to Support Services as well. Please note that students that do not contact Support Services immediately (when you encounter this issue), not hours or days later, will not be allowed to re-take the missing assessment and will have to wait until the end of the term to take the Optional Quiz to replace the missing assessment.

If you are not sufficiently computer savvy to meet these conditions, or do not have access to a good computer, you may wish to reconsider taking an online course. You must take the Practice Quiz (the questions have nothing to
do with the material taught in this course, and count nothing) and the **Syllabus Quiz** in order to have access to the course, and to make sure you know how the process works and to make sure that your computer is compatible with FIU's CANVAS system.

**Students are expected to:**

- **Review the How to Get Started Information** located in the Course Content.
- **Take the Syllabus Quiz.** Students will not be allowed to access the course until they take this quiz and pass it with a perfect score.
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week of by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum.
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.
- **Interact online** with the instructor and peers, and keep up with all assignments.
- **Review** and follow the course calendar.
- **Log in** to the course at-least three times per week.
- **Respond** to discussion questions and posting within two days.
- **Respond** to emails/messages within two days.
- **Submit assignments** by the corresponding deadline.

**The instructor will:**

- **Log in** to the course twice per week.
- **Respond** to discussion questions and postings within one week (except on weekends or holidays).
- **Respond** to emails/messages within three days (except on weekends or holidays).
- **Grade assignments** within two weeks of the assignment deadline unless otherwise noted.

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**COURSE DETAIL**

**COURSE COMMUNICATION**

Communication in this course will take place via CANVAS message feature **ONLY. I will respond within 72 hours (except on weekends or holidays).**

The message feature is a private, internal CANVAS only communication system. Users must log on to the CANVAS system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in CANVAS to inform users when a new message has been received; therefore, it is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately.

Visit our **Writing Resources** webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

**DISCUSSION FORUMS**

What will make this class interactive is everyone’s active participation in class discussion. Therefore, a number of forums have been established under “Discussions” tab. There are spaces for you to ask your classmates for help with studying for the quizzes, for discussing and posting current events, and navigating the logistics of an online course. While the instructor will monitor the discussion forums and post replies, the answers will be given more quickly and thoroughly if the entire class agrees to communicate with each other. The chat feature is also enabled if anyone wants to communicate with each other in real time. Be courteous and respectful to your peers. Failing that, the instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are aggressive or offensive, and dock participation points from the offender.

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Be courteous and respectful to your peers. Failing that, the instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are aggressive or offensive, and dock participation points from the offender.

**ASSESSMENTS**

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz“ from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

**READING COMPREHENSION QUIZZES:**

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

- There will be three, non-cumulative reading comprehension quizzes in this course based on the readings, videos, and other materials covered in this course, including the location of countries on a map. All quizzes will be online. **Students will be allowed to take the quizzes as many times as they wish during the testing period, and only the best grade earned will be used to calculate your final grade in our course. Please note that no make-up quizzes will be given.**
- In addition to these quizzes, students will have the opportunity to take an Optional Quiz at the end of the term. This quiz will replace the lowest grade earned in the first three quizzes, unless you earn a lower grade, and will include all the material covered in the course (cumulative). Note that this quiz will be given on Friday, April 17 and will be available from 12:01 AM until 10:00 PM only.
- All quizzes will be online, and will be available starting on [Sunday’s at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday’s at 10:00 PM](#). **IF YOUR SCHEDULE PROHIBITS YOU FROM BEING AVAILABLE AT THESE TIMES, then unfortunately you probably should not take this class.**
- Each quiz will cover the assigned chapters of the textbook and other assigned articles, videos, etc., and have 20 multiple-choice questions worth 5 points each for a total of 100 points.
- The quizzes will have a duration of 30 minutes (past experience with a number of online courses has shown that this is sufficient time for the student who knows the material). Hence, just as you have experienced with on-campus classes, you “must be on time for the quiz”; if you are late opening the test, you will lose valuable time. **Note that on the last day to take any quiz, you must start taking the test no later than at 9:29 PM to access it; otherwise you will be unable to take the quiz.**
- It is impossible to find a time that suits everyone, and tests cannot be timed for the convenience of every individual student. **If this schedule is impossible for you, then unfortunately it is probably better for you not to take this class.** It is simply impossible to find a time that suits everybody, but, at the same time, it is my responsibility as a professor to try to maintain the academic integrity of the course.
- Results will be available after the testing period has ended. You will be able to see the total score only.

**Dates for the quizzes are as follow** [all quizzes will be made available from Sunday at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday at 10:00 PM]:
• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1: From Sunday, February 9 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, February 13 at 10:00 PM.
• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2: From Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, March 19 at 10:00 PM.
• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3: From Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, April 16 at 10:00 PM.
• Optional Quiz: Friday, April 17, from 12:01 AM until 10:00 PM.

Note: While taking a quiz, you should save your answers after each question, in case you run out of time.

ASSIGNMENTS

GLOBALIZATION EXERCISES:

There will be two globalization exercises related to the topics discussed in class, which require you to apply concepts learned in this course. The exercises' structure will include a table, a map, an analysis of the information provided in the form of an essay (of at-least 800-words-long), and a Bibliography. Details for the completion of the exercise are available inside the course website. The exercises must be uploaded to the link provided in our course textbook and in a word document. Any exercise that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class, and other disciplinary actions.

The exercises are worth each 25% of your final grade. Once you complete your exercise, you must submit your work to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due dates. Works that are submitted after the deadline will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount for each week these are late. No late exercises will be received after two weeks of the due dates.

• Globalization Exercise # 1: Geography of Food
  - Selection of Traditional Dish: due: Saturday, January 18.
  - Submission of Tables and Map: due: Saturday, February 1.
  - Final Project: due: February 22.
  - [Last day to submit: Saturday, March 7]

• Globalization Exercise # 2: Garments
  - Submission of Tables and Map: due: Saturday, March 21.
  - Final Project: due: Saturday, April 4.
  - [Last day to submit: Saturday, April 18]

REFLECTION ESSAYS

• There will be five reflection essays, which require you to apply concepts learned in our course. Note that the lowest grade earned will be dropped. Students must post well thought-out comments based on the assigned topics – the corresponding textbook chapter/s of the week –, showing knowledge of the subject by using key definitions used in the textbook, and upload them to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com. Both the quantity and the quality of your posts will contribute to your grade.
• Students will have to comply with all requirements of this activity, including the minimum required number of words, show knowledge of the topic, originality, and to format their work following the
Technical Aspects (see next section: IMPORTANT NOTE ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, TURNITIN, AND PLAGIARISM) and upload their posts to Turnitin.com.

• The reflection topics will be available for the entire week (from Sunday to Saturday) ONLY. Late work will be accepted but will incur in a 10-point discount for each week they are late. No late essays will be received after two weeks of the due dates.

Dates for the reflection essays are as follow:

• Reflection Essay # 1; due: Saturday, January 25.
• Reflection Essay # 2; due: Saturday, February 8.
• Reflection Essay # 3; due: Saturday, March 7.
• Reflection Essay # 4; due: Saturday, March 14.
• Reflection Essay # 5; due: Saturday, March 28.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, WIKIPEDIA, TURNITIN, AND PLAGIARISM

• Each written assignment must include references from the course textbook, including but not limited to key definitions and other important aspects related to the topics covered in each project. Students must include in text citations of the course textbook in their essays, as well as complete reference of this source in a Bibliography page. You can find a complete reference below. Use the following format for the in-text citation: (de Blij and Muller 2010); including a quote, include page number/s after the year of publication (de Blij and Muller 2010: 282).


• All written assignment must conform to the following formatting - Technical Aspects: 12-point font (Arial, Times New Roman, Garamond, or Book Antiqua), one-inch margins all around, double-spaced, and number the pages. Any written assignment that does not include all the required technical aspects will receive a 10-point deduction in their grade.

• All written assignments must be uploaded to the plagiarism detection system Turnitin.com using the links provided in our course website (CANVAS). Please note that we have set up the Turnitin.com system so students will be allowed to submit their draft work as many times as they wish until the deadline. This is done so you can review the Originality report generated by Turnitin.com and make any adjustments or improvements so no portion of your work is considered plagiarized.

• Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Your work must be your own, original thoughts. If you plagiarize your thoughts from a website, journal, or any other source, not only you will be sad because you cannot write the small number of words on your own, but you will earn a failing grade in our class.

• Students are not allowed to use WIKIPEDIA in this course and will result in a significant point deduction if this source is use in any written assignment.
ADOBE CONNECT PRO MEETING

Adobe Connect is an online meeting room where you can interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, sharing files, chatting, broadcasting live audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct office hours.

Meetings will be available on the following dates:

**By Appointment ONLY**

Requirements for using Adobe Connect:

- Disable any window pop-up blocker.
- Adobe Flash Player is required to successfully run your Adobe Connect meeting. You can test your computer to make sure your computer and network connections are properly configured to provide you with the best possible Adobe Connect meeting experience.
- Use of a combination headset and microphone with USB connection is recommended to ensure quality sound and reduce technical difficulties.

Reference Adobe Connect (Tutorials & Help) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting rooms and recordings.

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Comprehension Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
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<td>Reflection Essays</td>
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COURSE CALENDAR

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1:</td>
<td>Introduction Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 6 - 11</td>
<td>• Take the Syllabus Quiz;</td>
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<td>• Review the Start Here folder located in the course content.</td>
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<td>• Review the Policies Page as is important to the quality of your education.</td>
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<td>• Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum under the “Discussion Board” tab.</td>
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<td>• Take the practice quiz under the Start Here folder to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.</td>
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<td>Week 13: March 29 - April 4</td>
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<td>• <strong>Globalization Exercise # 2</strong>: due: Saturday, April 4.</td>
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| Week 14: April 5 - 11       | Chapter 10: Southeast Asia |

| Week 15: April 12 – 18      | • **Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3**: From Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, April 16 at 10:00 PM. |
|                            | • **Optional Quiz**: Friday, April 17, from 12:01 AM until 10:00 PM. |