About the Course
This course introduces students to the major regions of the world by examining their characteristic physical, cultural, economic, and historical geographies. We will build a foundation of basic geographical knowledge as a means to understand the interrelationships of world regions, which we commonly label “globalization.” For each region, lectures will highlight an important contemporary issue such as, economic development and poverty, urbanization, environmental change, armed conflict, labor conditions, and human rights. Students will be challenged to critically reflect upon the way we conceptualize and generalize about people, cultures, and regions.

This course is part of the University Core Curriculum, in the area of Social Science Group 2. This course is also a designated Global Learning course. As a geography course, special attention will be paid to how issues of place and location influence and are influenced by social life. For nearly every area of the globe, this course will discuss how environment, politics, population, culture, and economy have shaped the diverse lives of people living on this increasingly interconnected planet.

Learning Outcomes

1. **Demonstrate a foundational knowledge of world geography.** This includes political territories, economic activities, global and regional environmental patterns, and world regional cultures. Foundational knowledge will aid in understanding and explaining the spatial expression of dynamic global processes. This means a certain amount of memorization of the location of the world’s basic natural, cultural, political, and economic geography. Just as a medical student must memorize the human anatomy before being able to understand, diagnose, and treat disease, undergraduate students need a basic knowledge of regional in a globalizing world in order to advance in their studies and professions.

2. **Understand major processes that shape human society on a global scale.** Very little of what happens on Earth happens in isolation. Large processes – such as global trade, climate, and international migration – are dynamic in time and space. They operate across countries, regions, and hemispheres, but have different effects in different places. Thus students will learn to think relationally about world geography as comprised of a set of interconnected and interdependent regions.

3. **Be able to critically evaluate claims about the world’s societies and cultures.** Knowledge about world geography will provide the foundation for critical thinking. There are many stories told about the world from many perspectives. This course will help students identify and evaluate generalizations, stereotypes, and assumptions about people, their places, and their lives.
Teaching and Learning Practices

This course is offered in a hybrid format, which means that students will be responsible for conducting a variety of activities online through FIU’s CANVAS learning management system. Online learning requires students to be significantly self-motivated and disciplined. To be successful one must consistently log on to the course site, keep up with the syllabus, and remain aware of deadlines. Aside from the textbook, everything needed for the course will be found on the CANVAS course site. Therefore, access to a computer and the Internet is essential. Should you not have reliable computer access at home, there are computers in the FIU libraries and at other campus locations. A computer malfunction, unless it is a problem with CANVAS itself, is not a legitimate excuse for missing an assignment, activity, or deadline.

During our weekly classroom meetings, we will employ a variety of learning practices, including discussions, group activities, and lectures. Everyone will be expected to have done all the required reading prior to the classroom session in which the material will be covered. The classroom period will provide opportunities for students to inquiry about readings and other materials and develop a deeper understanding of them through applications to real-life situations, events, and phenomena.

Course Grading and Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Points for Each</th>
<th>Total Points Available</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>11%</td>
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<td>Globalization Exercises</td>
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<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
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</table>

Letter | Range %  | Letter | Range %  | Letter | Range %
-------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------
A      | 95 or above | B      | 83 - 86 | C      | 70 - 76 |
A-     | 90 - 94     | B-     | 80 - 82 | D      | 60 - 69 |
B+     | 87 - 89     | C+     | 77 - 79 | F      | 59 or less|

Notes on Requirements and Grading
- Classroom attendance is required and will be graded. Students are responsible for all information, materials, and instructions disseminated during the class period. The lectures and readings will be complimentary but often quite different in content and the exams will reflect this. Since we meet only once a week, a passing grade will be impossible without consistent attendance.
- All reading, viewing, and listening assignments must be completed before the class session in which they are discussed. The classroom will be interactive and participatory.
• Quizzes will be of forced-answer format (e.g., multiple choice, true/false).
• Exams are comprised of a variety of formats, including forced-choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank. The second exam is not comprehensive.

**Keeping Current on Globalization and Regional Events**
The world of human affairs is in constant flux. Together we will make an effort to keep abreast of events as the course unfolds region by region. As part of the participation grade, students will bring to every class session (excepting the first and the two exam days) a news article, video, podcast, blog, or similar mass media source relevant to the region and topic at hand. To facilitate this, please do the following.

• Register to access the *New York Times* for free through [AccessNYT.com](http://AccessNYT.com). Regularly peruse and search the paper for relevant articles.
• Regularly peruse and search free international news sources such as *The Guardian*, *Aljazeera*, and the *BBC*.

**Globalization Exercises**
There will be 4 globalization exercises related to the topics covered in class. Each will involve a map, a briefing of no more than 700 words, and any support material (e.g. video or audio link).

**Extra Credit Policies**
Students may complete 1 additional globalization exercise for extra credit. As with the required activity, this is worth 14 points.

**Make-Up Policy**
Absolutely NO make up exams without either 1) a note from a doctor that you were incapable of attending for medical reasons or 2) documentation of a death in the immediate family. Flat tires, runaway cats, bad haircuts, etc. *are not valid reasons for missing an exam* and do not qualify for make ups. If you are traveling for a valid reason, either work related or school related, you may be eligible to take the exam early. I will evaluate requests to take the exam prior to travel on a case by case basis. Documentation of the need to travel must be presented to me two weeks in advance of the scheduled exam.

**Academic Misconduct Statement**
Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course
materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism. In this course, cheating and plagiarism **will result in zero credit for the assignment and a report of misconduct filed** with the university.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#), as well as [student resources](#), that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

**Text**

**Important Dates**
- Exam I: October 15
- Last day to drop w/ DR grade: November 4
- Exam II

**Lecture Topics and Readings**

**Week 1: August 27**
Introduction to geography concepts
Reading: Chapter 1

**Week 2: September 3**
Introduction to geography concepts (continued)
Reading: Chapter 1

**Week 3: September 10**
Region: North America
Theme: Agriculture
Reading: Chapter 2

**Week 4: September 17**
Region: North America
Theme: Agriculture
Reading: Chapter 2

**Week 5: September 24**
Region: Middle and South America
Theme: Economic Development
Reading: Chapter 3

**Week 6: October 1**
Region: Middle and South America
Theme: Economic Development
Reading: Chapter 3

**Week 7: October 8**
Region: Europe
Theme: Population and Migration
Reading: Chapter 4

**Week 8: October 15**
FIRST EXAM

**Week 9: October 22**
Region: North Africa and Southwest Asia
Theme: Energy
Reading: Chapter 6

**Week 10: October 29**
Region: Sub-Saharan Africa, Theme: Colonialism
Reading: Pulsipher, Chapter 7

**Week 11: November 5**
Region: Sub-Saharan Africa, Theme: Colonialism
Reading: Pulsipher, Chapter 7

**Week 12: November 12**
Region: South Asia, Theme: Religion
Reading: Pulsipher, Chapter 8

**Week 13: November 19**
Region: South Asia, Theme: Religion
Reading: Pulsipher, Chapter 8
Region: East Asia, Theme: Globalization
Reading: Pulsipher, Chapter 9

**Week 14: November 26**
Region: East Asia, Theme: Globalization
Reading: Pulsipher, Chapter 9

**Week 15: December 3**
SECOND EXAM

Finals Week: December 10
Materials returned, wrap up