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 Blackboard 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.
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.

This course utilizes the following tools:

1. Discussion Board
2. Microsoft Word
3. Audio Speakers or Headphones

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 Blackboard's 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 Blackboard 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 Blackboard.
- Interact online with the instructor and peers, and keep up will 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 messages within two days.
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- Log in to the course three times per week.
- Respond to discussion questions and postings within 48-72 hours (except on weekends or holidays).
- Respond to messages within 48-72 hours (except on weekends or holidays).
- Grade assignments within one week of the assignment deadline unless otherwise noted.

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via CANVAS message feature ONLY. I will respond within 48-72 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.

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.

**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:**

There will be two, non-cumulative quizzes in this course based on the readings, videos, outlines and other materials covered in this class. In addition, students will have the opportunity to take one additional quiz on the last week of the term. Just like any other in-campus test taken in a classroom, students are **NOT** allowed to take the quizzes in teams or share any information with classmates or any other individual. If you are in doubt, please read the FIU Academic Honesty Policy here.

- 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. **IF YOUR SCHEDULE PROHIBITS YOU FROM BEING AVAILABLE DURING THESE TIMES,** then unfortunately you probably should not take this course during this short academic term.
- In addition to these (2) 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 two 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 the last day of the term and will be available from 12:01 AM until 10:00 PM only.
- No make-up quiz will be given except for very unusual situations with specific documentation, and I would not expect more than 1 or 2 out of 100 students to meet this situation. The VERY rare make-up quiz, if required, will be given during the week we administer the last quiz (Optional Quiz: Thursday, January 2), and will be somewhat more difficult to account for the extra time that the student has had to study.
- Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions, including map questions (location of countries only), and each question will be worth 5 points. The quizzes will be limited to 30 minutes (past experience with a number of online courses has shown that this is sufficient time for the student who knows the material). It is important to mention that, in order to take the quizzes, students must log on the last day of the testing period no later than at 9:29 PM.
- Students are provided with Study Guides for each chapter/topic covered in this course. The study guides contain all questions that will be include in the quizzes, with the exception of the map questions. For this
reason, we would strongly suggest you to use them while reviewing the course material to be better prepared for the quizzes, and to improve your learning experience and your performance in our course.

Dates for the quizzes are as follow:

• **Quiz # 1**: Introduction chapter, Globalization amid Diversity (PPT), chapters 3, 4, 5, and 1, and assigned videos and PowerPoint presentations. From Thursday, December 19 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, December 26 at 10:00 PM.

• **Quiz # 2**: chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10, and assigned videos and PowerPoint presentations. From Friday, December 27 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, January 2 at 10:00 PM.

• **OPTIONAL QUIZ**: Introduction chapter, chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and assigned videos and PowerPoint presentations. Thursday, January 2 between 12:01 AM and 10:00 PM.

Note that on the last day to take any quiz, you must start taking the test no later than at 9:29 PM; otherwise, you will be unable to take the quiz.

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

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**REFLECTION ESSAYS**

There will be five (5) reflection essays based on the most important topics discussed in our course and related to globalization. Note that only the best four (4) essay grades will be used to calculate your final grade in our course. The essays will require you to apply concepts learned in class. Each discussion topic will be worth 10% of your final grade. Works that are submitted after the deadline will be accepted but will incur in a 10-point deduction for each day this is late.

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 before the deadline. 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 (600 words, not including name, PID, title, date, Bibliography, etc.), show knowledge of the topic using key definitions presented in the course textbook, originality, formatted according to the Technical Aspects (described in the section **IMPORTANT NOTE ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, TURNITIN, AND PLAGIARISM**), and upload their posts to Turnitin.com before the deadline in a word document.

**NOTE**: These are to be your own, original thoughts. If you plagiarize your thoughts from a website not only you will be sad because you cannot write the small number of words on your own, but because you will earn a failing grade in this course.

Works that are submitted after the deadline will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount for each day this is late. **No late work will be received after Thursday, January 2**.

GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE:

There will be one globalization exercise related to the topics discussed in this course, which will require you to apply concepts learned in this class. The globalization exercise is worth each 30% of your final grade. The exercise’s structure will include a table, a map where you will summarize your findings, a brief outline of your work and an analysis of the information provided in the form of an essay, and a bibliography/references section. Details for the completion of the exercise are available inside the course website.

The exercise must be uploaded to Turnitin.com. A link to Turnitin.com is available in the Globalization Exercise portion inside the Assignment Dropbox section. Any exercise that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class and other disciplinary actions. The exercise’s structure will include a table, a map where you will summarize your findings, a brief outline of your work and an analysis of the information provided in the form of an essay, and a bibliography/references section. Details for the completion of the exercise are available inside the course website.

Works that are submitted after the deadline will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount for each day your work is late. No late work will be received after Thursday, January 2.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, 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. In-text citation should be written as follows: “(de Blij and Muller 2010).” In case you are introducing a section of the course textbook in your essay (citation), you must include page number/s: “(de Blij and Muller 2010: 210).” You can find a complete reference of our course textbook in the course syllabus.

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.

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 will you be sad because you cannot write the small number of words on your own, but you will earn a failing grade in our class.
GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Essays</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above 95</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE CALENDAR

MODULE SCHEDULE

Module 1: December 9 – 20

Topics: Introduction, Globalization and Diversity, North America, Middle America, South America, and Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters Covered</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>- <strong>Review</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The <em>Getting Started</em> page located in the course content next to the professor portrait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Policies Page as is important to the quality of your education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Introduction to World Regional Geography PowerPoint Slides (PowerPoint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- &quot;Guns, Germs, and Steel&quot; (PowerPoint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Globalization and Diversity (PowerPoint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Introduce yourself to the class</strong> during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the Introduce Yourself Discussion Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Take the Syllabus Quiz.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Take the Practice Quiz</strong> to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Watch the video</strong>: &quot;Guns, Germs, and Steal: Part I: Out of Eden&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Review</strong> Chapter 3: North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Review</strong> Chapter 4: Middle America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Watch the video</strong>: &quot;Guns, Germs, and Steel: Part II: Conquest&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Review</strong> Chapter 5: South America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Review</strong> Chapter 1: Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Complete Reflection Essay # 1</strong> (deadline: Friday, December 13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Module 2: December 21 – January 2

Topics: North Africa / Southwest Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters Covered</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>• Review Chapter 7: North Africa / Southwest Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>• Review Chapter 8: South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>• Review Chapter 9: East Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>• Review Chapter 10: Southeast Asia • Complete Reflection Essay # 4 (due: Monday, December 23) • Complete Reflection Essay # 5 (due: Friday, December 27) • Complete Globalization Exercise (due: Monday, December 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7 - 10, PowerPoints, and Videos</td>
<td>• Quiz 2 (Available Friday, December 27 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, January 2 at 10:00 PM)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Week: January 2

Topics: Final Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters Covered</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Chapter, Globalization Amid Diversity, Chapters 1, 3-5, 7-10, PowerPoints, and all course videos</td>
<td>• Optional Quiz (Available Thursday, January 2 from 12:01 AM until 10:00 PM; note that you have until 9:29 PM to start taking this test)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>