

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor: Dr. Ricardo M. González
Phone: (305) 348-2247
Office: SIPA Room# 304 (MMC)
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: rmgonzal@fiu.edu
Website: [Professor Website](#)

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

At the end of the semester:

- 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.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This course is being conducted in an "online format." Students must have access to a computer and internet connection to complete this class without major difficulties. Class notes or other materials will be posted

on the course website: [CANVAS FIU Online](#). A computer malfunction, unless it is a problem with **CANVAS** itself, is not a legitimate excuse for missing an assignment or reading. **Everything you need to know about the course and all the online materials and readings, except for the textbook listed below, will be accessible from CANVAS.** Messages, discussions, submission of exercises, and grade tracking will all be done through this password-protected website. **Please do not hesitate to contact the professor or the teaching assistants if you have questions or problems accessing course materials.**

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 AND 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

Obtain more detailed information about the [specific limitations of the technologies](#) used in this course.

Review the [Accessibility With in Canvas](#) page for more information.

For additional assistance please contact our [Disability Resource Center](#).

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.

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

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

PROCTORED EXAM POLICY

There are no proctored exams for this course.

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 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 three days (except on weekends or holidays).
- Respond to emails/messages within three days (except on weekends or holidays).

- Grade assignments within four days of the assignment deadline unless otherwise noted.

Requirements:

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 class.
- 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 (April 28).
- 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: Monday, April 28), 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 included 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 Sunday, April 1 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, April 5 at 10:00 PM.
- **Quiz # 2:** chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10, and assigned videos and PowerPoint presentations. From Sunday, April 22 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, April 26 at 10:00 PM.
- **OPTIONAL QUIZ:** Introduction chapter, chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and assigned videos and PowerPoint presentations. Saturday, April 28 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.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

GLOBALIZATION EXERCISES AND PORTFOLIO:

There will be 3 globalization exercises related to the topics discussed in class, which will require you to apply concepts learned in this course. The globalization exercises and portfolio are worth 80% of your final grade combined). The exercises' structure will include a brief outline of your work and an analysis of the information provided in the form of an essay (of at-least 800 words – the word count does not include the student's name, PID number, date of submission, title, bibliography, etc.)), a table, a map where you will summarize your findings, and a bibliography/references section. Details for the completion of the exercise are available inside the course website.

The exercises and portfolio must be uploaded to the Turnitin.com links provided inside our course website (CANVAS). Any exercise that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class, and other disciplinary actions. Please note that, in order to avoid any originality/plagiarism issues, we have set-up the Turnitin.com link so students can resubmit their work as many times as they wish until the deadline so they can fix any such issues in their work. In this regard, it is important to note that your last draft (before submitting your final exercise) must be uploaded to Turnitin.com 24 hours before the deadline; otherwise, the system (Turnitin.com) will not allow you to submit your final document before this deadline.

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 work will be received after two weeks of any deadline with the exception of the third globalization exercise and the portfolio. The last day to submit Globalization Exercise # 3 and the Globalization Portfolio is Friday, April 27.

- **Globalization Exercise # 1- Rough Draft due: Friday, March 16.**
- **Globalization Exercise # 1- Final Project due: Friday, March 23.**

• **[No late work accepted after Friday, April 6]**

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• **Globalization Exercise # 2- Rough Draft due: Friday, March 30.**

• **Globalization Exercise # 2- Final Project due: Friday, April 6.**

• **[No late work accepted after Friday, April 20]**

• **Globalization Exercise # 3- Rough Draft due: Friday, April 13.**

• **Globalization Exercise # 3- Final Project due: Friday, April 20.**

• **[No late work accepted after Friday, April 27]**

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• **Globalization Portfolio due: Friday, April 27.**

• **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY, APRIL 27.**

TEXTBOOK



Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts

Harm J. de Blij, Peter O. Muller

Wiley, 14th Edition, 2010

ISBN-10: 0470462426

ISBN-13: 9780470462423

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **Email (Canvas Inbox)**.

This is a large lecture class and it is important to establish a protocol for student-instructor interaction in order for you to receive timely advice. For questions, you can contact the instructor or teaching assistants. Communication in this course will take place via **CANVAS message feature ONLY**. **I will respond within 48-72 hours (except on weekends or holidays)**. This is the best method to communicate with your instructor privately. 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.

Note on the use of electronics during class meetings

Cell phones must be off during class. No talking on the phone or texting, otherwise the student in question will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. Laptop use is permitted for note-taking ONLY; violating the laptop policy means that you will not be allowed to use your laptop in class.

Please let the instructor know if you have any special needs. If you have a disability and need assistance, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Upon contact, the DRC will review your request and contact your professors or other personnel to make arrangements for appropriate modification and/or assistance.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, TURNITIN.COM, AND PLAGIARISM

Important note on Written Assignments, Turnitin.com, and Plagiarism

All written assignment must conform to the following formatting - Technical Aspects:

- 12-point font (Arial, Times New Roman, Garamond, or Book Garamond, or Book Antiqua)
- One-inch margins all around, double-spaced
- Number the pages
- **Any written assignment that does not include any one of the required technical aspects mentioned above will receive a 10-point deduction in their grade.**

All written assignments must be uploaded to the plagiarism detection system Turnitin.com. 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. A link to all assignment will be available in the Assignment Dropbox section of the course website.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any assignments that have been plagiarized will earn an automatic failure grade in the course. 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 of your own, but, as mentioned above, you will earn a failing grade in our class.

Plagiarism is cheating. Don't do it. The disciplinary action that will be taken in the case of plagiarism is explained in the section on "Academic Misconduct" in the *Student Handbook*.

If you are uncertain about what plagiarism is, check out the FIU website: [FIU Libraries](#).

DISCUSSION FORUMS

People learn best when communicating their ideas. Take advantage of our the class forums and group discussions to get help, share your moment, or let people in on your study plan for getting an A in the class. Remember to use discretion when posting and/or sending emails. These are FIU accounts and part of the course. Tone and content can be informal if appropriate for the assignment but think of all university communications as a preparing for your future profession.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

GRADING

Course Requirements		Number of Items	Weight for Each	Weight
Reading Comprehension Quizzes		2	10%	20%
Globalization Exercises		3	25%	75%
Globalization Portfolio		1	5%	5%
Total		6	N/A	100%

Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)
A	Above 95	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

COURSE CALENDAR

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MODULE SCHEDULE

Module 1: March 5 – 31

Topics: Introduction, Globalization and Diversity, North America, Middle America, South America, and Europe	
Chapters Covered	Tasks
Introduction Chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The <i>Getting Started</i> page located in the course content next to the professor portrait ○ Policies Page as is important to the quality of your education. ○ Introduction to World Regional Geography PowerPoint Slides (PowerPoint) ○ "Guns, Germs, and Steel" (PowerPoint) ○ Globalization and Diversity (PowerPoint) • Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the Introduce Yourself Discussion Board. • Take the Syllabus Quiz. • Take the Practice Quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard. • Watch the video: "Guns, Germs, and Steal: Part I: Out of Eden"

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 3: North America
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 4: Middle America • Watch the video: "Guns, Germs, and Steel: Part II: Conquest".
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 5: South America
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 1: Europe • Complete Globalization Exercise # 1 – Rough Draft (deadline: Friday, March 16) • Complete Globalization Exercise # 1 – Final Project (deadline: Friday, March 23) • Complete Globalization Exercise # 2 – Rough Draft (deadline: Friday, March 30) • Complete Globalization Exercise # 2 – Final Project (deadline: Friday, April 6)
Introduction Chapter, Globalization Amid Diversity, Chapter 1, 3, 4, 5, PowerPoints, and Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1 (Available from Sunday, April 1 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, April 5 at 10:00 PM)

Module 2: March 31 – April 21

Topics: North Africa / Southwest Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia	
Chapters Covered	Tasks
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 7: North Africa / Southwest Asia
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 8: South Asia
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 9: East Asia
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Chapter 10: Southeast Asia • Complete Globalization Exercise # 3 – Rough Draft (due: Friday, April 13) • Complete Globalization Exercise # 3 – Final Project (due: Friday, April 20)
Chapter 7 - 10, PowerPoints, and Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2 (Available Sunday, from Sunday, April 22 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, April 26 at 10:00 PM)

Final Week: April 22-28

Topics: Final Week	
Chapters Covered	Tasks
Chapter 7 - 10, PowerPoints, and Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2 (Available Sunday, from Sunday, April 22 at 12:01 AM, until Thursday, April 26 at 10:00 PM)
Introduction Chapter, Globalization Amid Diversity, Chapters 1,3-5, 7-10, PowerPoints, and all course videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Globalization Portfolio (due: Friday, April 27)• Optional Quiz (Available Saturday, April 28 from 12:01 AM until 10:00 PM; note that you have until 9:29 PM to start taking this test)

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