

Florida International University
Global and Sociocultural Studies
GEA 2000-U02 (16443)

Spring 2018
Fridays 11:00 AM - 12:50 PM
Classroom: PC 438

World Regional Geography

Instructor: Young Rae Choi

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Office hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:30 PM
or by appointment

TA: TBD

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Office hours: n/a

Course description

Geography as a discipline that writes about and writes the world provides a provocative perspective to analyze the relations between people and places and between society and nature. This is an introductory course in geography, with which you will learn and apply geographic lenses to investigate world regions. You will learn key concepts and theories in geography to interrogate various contemporary and historical issues of the world. This course will focus on two intersecting themes – development and climate change – that have become defining forces of the world today. Using critical geographic lenses, you will learn about major regions and countries of the world with regards to their physical, cultural, economic, and political characteristics. You will also explore local, regional, and global levels of connections and examine how these connections are constructed, maintained, and changed. By the end of the semester, you will be able to contextualize major issues in world regions and use this knowledge to better understand the complexity of world regions in global context.

The course fulfills the Global Learning Foundations requirement that counts toward your GL graduation 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 on the Global Learning Initiatives and the Global Learning Graduation Medallion, visit <http://goglobal.fiu.edu>.

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 Canvas. **You MUST purchase both the textbook (either an e-text or a paper-copy) AND a code for using Mastering Geography.** You may purchase the package either from the FIU Barnes & Noble store or directly from Pearson. Purchase one of the below options that better suits your need:

1. **Mastering Geography (online access) + eText (textbook that you can read online *only*)**
 - **Purchase an access code from the FIU Barnes & Noble. The access code comes with the e-text.**
 - **ISBN: 9780134245348 (*this is the most economic option*)**
 - **Alternatively, you may purchase the Instant Access code from the Pearson My Lab & Mastering website. The code comes with the e-text.**

- **Visit the website, register, and purchase the Instant Access package:**
<https://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/global/students/get-registered/index.html>.

2. Mastering Geography (online access) + a loose-leaf textbook copy
 - If you prefer a loose-leaf copy of the textbook, you may purchase this package at FIU Barnes & Noble with the ISBN no.: 9780134630403.

3. Mastering Geography (online access) + a hardcover textbook copy
 - If you prefer a hardcover copy of the textbook, you may purchase this package at FIU Barnes & Noble with the ISBN no.: 9780134583181.

** If you already own a textbook copy and are only in need of purchasing Mastering Geography, you should still purchase the Pearson access code that comes with the e-text.*

Additional readings are mandatory and will be announced during class.

Other useful resources

News media:

New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com> (Go to nytimes.com/passes for free access for FIU students)

NPR <http://www.npr.org/sections/news/> (Also, listen to NPR Radio on WLRN FM 91.3 FM)

BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Software:

- Google Earth: <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>
- Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces>
- QGIS: <http://www.qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>
- Microsoft PowerPoint & Word (available for free to all FIU students)

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 lecture, group presentation, in-class activities (virtual fieldwork, discussion, debate, etc.) and at times pop quiz. 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.

Canvas and Mastering Geography: This course uses the Canvas system as a course webpage (Go to <https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/1901>; Login using your FIU credential.) All the readings, lecture slides, assignment instructions, the latest version of the syllabus, and other announcements will be posted here. You will also submit the assignments through Canvas.

Mastering Geography is an external system embedded in Canvas. You will be using this platform for a) weekly quizzes and b) e-text (if you purchased e-text instead of paper copy). For best performance, Pearson recommends Firefox browser over others (e.g., Chrome or Safari). You must make yourself familiar with Canvas and Mastering Geography by the end of the second week of this course. If you experience problems with accessing Canvas, 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	25%	Due every Thursday; See below for description
2. Midterm Exam	15%	February 23
3. Final Exam	15%	April 20 ; Comprehensive
4. Group presentation	15%	See below for description
5. Infographic project	15%	TBD (possibly April 27) ; See below for description
6. Attendance	15%	See below for description

Weekly online quizzes: There will be eleven online weekly quizzes (i.e., one quiz counts as 2.27% of the total grade). The quiz questions comprise a) contents from the past week’s lecture and b) the coming week’s readings. The first quiz is available on Canvas. The other ten quizzes are available on Pearson Mastering Geography. Quizzes will be available from Saturday to Thursday. They are due every Thursday by 11:59 PM.

Group presentation: Each week, one group will make a 15-minute presentation on a current event related to the world region of the week. The group is expected to read the instructions thoroughly and meet in advance to prepare for the presentation. The group should submit to Canvas *before* the date of presentation a) presentation slide file (PowerPoint) or a hyperlink to the presentation (Prezi, etc.), b) bibliography using a proper citation style, and c) list of work breakdown. Instructions as well as templates for b) and c) are available on Canvas. Peer review accounts for 30% of the total project grade.

Infographic project: This is an individual project. You will choose a place, investigate a specific political/economic/social/cultural issue, and create an infographic poster. The instructions will be posted on Canvas during the week after the midterm exam. You are expected to read the instructions thoroughly and submit a) infographic poster (50% of the project grade) and b) annotated bibliography (30%) to Canvas. Templates for both a) and b) are available on Canvas. The assignment is due **April 27 (subject to change depending on the university’s final exam schedule)**. On that day, we will hold a poster conference (20% for individual presentation) and wrap up the semester.

Attendance and participation: You must prepare for class discussion/debate by reading additional materials and/or by conducting virtual fieldwork. Your grade for participation (10% out of 15%, starting from Week 2) will be determined based on the submission of your group presentation peer review. 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.

** Students who attend all the classes will get bonus points at the end of the semester.*

Grade scale (modified from the FIU recommended scale effective Fall 2016)

Letter Grade	Points Per Credit Hour	Range (%)
A	4.00	93 or above
A-	3.67	90-92.99
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 your instructor **before** the date and get approval.

Unexcused absence will only be made for serious reasons (i.e., emergency, death of an immediate family member, 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 either turned off or silenced AND removed from your desk during class. **You are not allowed to use a laptop** *unless* during group work sessions that require the use of online resources. If you need to use a laptop to take notes throughout the semester for a valid reason, please contact your instructor for an approval in-advance.

Communication

Announcements will be posted on Canvas. Important messages will also be sent to your email address. I do not use the message function on Canvas. If you have any question or concern, please **send me an email** instead. Please be polite and responsible when you communicate with your instructor, TA, and classmates.

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 severe 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. Please do not plagiarize. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, 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>).

Center for Excellence in Writing

The FIU Center for Excellence in Writing offers various services that will help improve your writing skills. I highly recommend using these resources for you to be successful in this course. Visit their website (<http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/>) for making an appointment.

Schedule of readings and assignments

**Weekly quizzes are due every Thursday (11:59 PM).*

***Additional readings and/or assignments (reflections on an additional readings or virtual fieldwork) are announced separately during class before the week.*

Week	Date	Module no.: Theme	Readings (before class)**	Assignments (after class)*
Week 1	January 12	1: Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course syllabus • What is geography? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #1 (on Plagiarism)
Week 2	January 19	2: Earth system & climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 1, "World regions in global context", pp. 1-20 • Anthropocene (Crutzen and Stoemer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #2
Week 3	January 26	3: Development & globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 1 "World regions in global context", pp. 21-47 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #3
Week 4	February 2	4: Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 2 "Europe" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #4
Week 5	February 9	5: Middle East & North Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 4 "Middle East & North Africa" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #5
Week 6	February 16	6: Sub-Saharan Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 5 "Sub-Saharan Africa" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #6
Week 7	February 23	Midterm exam		
Week 8	March 2	7: Russian Federation and Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 3 "The Russian Federation, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #7
Week 9	March 9	8: Latin America and the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 7 "Latin America and the Caribbean" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #8
Week 10	<i>March 16</i>	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	
Week 11	March 23	9: East Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 8 "East Asia" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #9
Week 12	March 30	10: Southeast Asia & South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 10 "Southeast Asia" • Ch. 9 "South Asia" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #10
Week 13	April 6	11: Oceania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 11 "Oceania" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly quiz #11
Week 14	<i>April 13</i>	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Final exam review (online)</i>	
Week 15	April 20	Final exam	Comprehensive	
Week 16	April 27/TBD	Poster conference	Infographic poster presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infographic project due

