

Population and Geography of Europe (Spring 2018)

GEA 3500

Instructor: Dr. Ricardo M. González

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:

This course is intended to introduce students to Europe through the region's contemporary and historical geography. In other words, by taking this course you will gain a broad knowledge of the physical, cultural, social, political, and economic factors that have shaped, and continue to shape, this region of the world. The subject matter in this course will be addressed from a geographic perspective frequently referred to as human-environment geography, which means lectures, readings, and activities will tend to emphasize the social/cultural and physical processes that have helped shaped the landscapes of Europe. This human-environment focus means that in this course even when we focus on the physical landscape, humans will not be ignored. Along this path, we will cover the physical environment, historical geography, population shifts, language and religious values, the political landscape, urban issues, economic trends, agricultural systems, environmental concerns, and globalization in Europe.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- Explain how European landscapes have been shaped by geomorphological, climatic, biogeographical, and cultural processes;
- Introduce students to key debates, developments, and themes in Europe geography through conceptually oriented lectures and contemporary and historical case studies;
- Develop and improve students' map-based knowledge of key European geographical features;
- Develop and improve students' ability to write and think critically about the world.
- Know where to find information and how to conduct basic research on topics related to European geography;
- Be motivated to keep up with and analyze current events reported in the news media.

TEXTBOOK

Ostergren, Robert and Mathias Le Bosse. 2011. *The Europeans: A geography of people, culture, and environment*. 2nd edition. New York and London: The Guilford Press.

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 the utmost importance, especially with regards to the online quizzes.

If you have computer problems, you MUST contact FIU Online Support Services IMMEDIATELY by calling FIU Online or by clicking on the “Technical Support” link in the Course Menu, NOT THE PROFESSOR OR YOUR CLASSMATES. If such issues occurs while taking a quiz, you must gather as much evidence of the issue you are confronting (i.e., take pictures) and include it in the message sent to Technical Support, otherwise, unfortunately, we will be unable to provide you with the opportunity to re-take the missing or incomplete 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) in order to make sure you know how the process works and to make sure that your computer is compatible with FIU’s Blackboard system. It is also important to note that students must take and pass with perfect score the Syllabus Quiz in order to get access to the course materials.

Students are expected to:

- Review the How to Get Started Information located in the Course Content;
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week of the term by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum;
- Take the Syllabus Quiz. Students will not be allowed to access the course material until they take this quiz and pass it with perfect score;
- Take the Practice Quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard;
- Interact online with their instructor and peers, and keep up with all assignments;
- Review and follow the course calendar;
- Log in to the course website 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 twice per week;
- Respond to discussion questions and postings within one week (except on weekends);
- Respond to messages within three days (except on weekends);
- Grade assignments within two weeks of the deadline unless otherwise noted.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

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

The message feature is a private, internal Blackboard only communication system. Users must log on to the Blackboard system to send/receive/read messages. There are no notifications in Blackboard 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.

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.

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, outlines, and other materials covered in this course, including map questions.
- **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.**
- 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 and true-false 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. It is important to mention that, in order to have all the available time, students must start taking a quiz on the last day of the testing period no later than at 9:29 PM.

- 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:** Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4, including physical geography map questions. From Sunday, February 4 at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday, February 8 at 10:00 PM.
- **Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2:** Chapters 5, 6, and 7, including physical geography and countries map questions. From Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday, March 8 at 10:00 PM.
- **Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3:** Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, including assign readings and physical geography, countries, and urban areas map quiz questions. From Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday, April 19 at 10:00 PM.

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

INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE

There will be one individual exercise based on a European traditional dish and related to the topics discussed in the course. Only one student will be allowed to work on a specific dish. **Students must send the professor of the course a message with the name of three dishes (including the name of the country of origin of each dish) they wish to use to compose their exercise before Saturday, January 20.** In turn, your professor will send you a reply message with your assignment. The distribution of the work will be done on a first-come first-served basis, so it is a good idea to start this project as soon as possible by sending the professor of the course a message with your dish selections.

The exercise is composed of three major sections, including a table, a map, an analysis of the information provided, where you will summarize your findings, and a Bibliography section. The exercise is worth 25% of your final grade. **Note that, students that submit a rough draft of their paper, which must include all required sections and formatted according to the Individual Exercise Instructions file, no later than Saturday, February 3, will receive detailed feedback on how to improve their work.** If this is the case, and a student submitted their rough draft, it is

required that the student send the professor of the course a message alerting him that you have uploaded your rough exercise to Turnitin.com.

Once you complete your paper, you must submit your work to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the **due date: Saturday, February 17. Please note that works that are submitted late will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount for each week they are late. The weekly point-deduction will be applied starting on the next day after the deadline. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER TWO WEEKS OF THE DUE DATE.**

Dates for the completion of the Individual Exercise activities are as follow:

- **Selection of Traditional Dish: Saturday, January 20.**
- **Rough Draft (Optional): Saturday, February 3.**
- **Final Project: Saturday, February 24.**

TEAM EXERCISE

In this activity, students will be assembled in teams of 5-6 students each, and will develop a paper based on an assigned topic chosen by the instructor of the course. After receiving instructions on the composition of the teams, each team will select a Team Leader that will be in charge of the overall project and coordination. Grades will be based on the contribution of each member to the overall project. A brief report of the performance of each member of the team by your peers will also be required. The format of the team project must include three major sections: Introduction (which must be composed by the entire team), Individual Case Studies (individual activity), and Conclusions (team activity). It is also required to produce a map including all case studies analyzed in your work and a Bibliography section.

This exercise is worth 25% of your final grade. We will be using the Wiki feature as a platform for the team activity, and all work must be posted here (in the Wiki) individually by each team member. Note that this will be the most important source of information used by the professor of the course when assigning grades for this activity. Nevertheless, once the team completes their project, the Team Leader only will submit your paper on a word document file to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the **due date: Saturday, March 24.** It is also required to submit **a rough draft** of the team exercise, which is **due on Saturday, March 3.** It is also important to mention that teams must **select a Team Leader by Saturday, February 17.** **In addition, after discussing the case studies that each team member will research to complete their individual case study, the Team Leader must send the professor of the course a message with the name of the case study each member will analyze; due: Monday, February 19.** Finally, **ALL** team members are required to submit an assessment of their contributions to the team project and that of each member of their team to the final project; this is due on Saturday, March 24. **Works that are submitted late will be accepted but will have a 10-point discount for each day they are late.**

As mentioned above, only the Team Leader is allowed to submit the required Rough Draft (due on Saturday, March 3) and Final Project (due on Saturday, March 24) to Turnitin.com.

Dates for the completion of the Team Exercise activities are as follow:

- **Team Composition (assigned randomly by your professor): Thursday, February 15.**
- **Selection of Team Leader: Monday, February 19.**
- **Submission of selections of case studies (the Team Leader will send a message to your professor with name of the region (case study) that each team member will research: Monday, February 19.**
- **Rough Draft: Saturday, March 3.**
- **Final Project: Saturday, March 24.**
- **Assessment of individual and team members' contributions: Saturday, March 24.**

TERM PAPER

You will be assigned individually a research article from a geography journal in which the research focus or site is located in Europe. You will then summarize the elements of that paper, including the argument, methodology, literatures and conclusions based on the summary format provided in the Research Paper Instructions file. The term paper is worth 30% of your final grade.

- **The due date is Saturday, April 7. Please note that works that are submitted late will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount for each week they are late. The weekly point-deduction will be applied starting on the next day after the deadline. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER TWO WEEKS OF THE DUE DATE.**
- For the paper, you will need to **STRICTLY** follow the format provided in analyzing and summarizing the components of the research article about which you are writing (this is included in the **Research Paper Instructions** file). Remember that you are only using ONE article in this project. In completing the following format, you will need to read each section of the article you are using very carefully, possibly more than once. Your paper should be at-least 6 pages in length (not including the Cover Page); you must follow the formatting procedure listed at the beginning of this section.
- **Selecting an Article (due date is Saturday, January 27):** The first step in completing this assignment is finding an article. The article you use must comply with the overall assignment – it must be a geography article in which the research focus or site is located in Europe, the research must be related to one of the topics covered in the course textbook, it must be a full-length, research article (not book reviews, editorials, commentaries, country reports, or special issue entries), and it must be from one of the peer reviewed geography journals listed in the Research Paper Instructions. They must also be published in the year 2000 or later. Only one person will be allowed to review an article, so it is a good idea to pick out a few that interests you. To submit your article preferences you will have to send the Instructor of the course three separate messages with a list of three articles you have picked out in order of preference – your list should consist of full citations for the articles selected (authors last name/s, first names, year of publication, title of article, journal where it was published, volume, number, page numbers). You must also attach the PDFs for the articles to your message; note that the online messaging system only allows you to attach one file per message, so you will have to submit three separate messages including a full reference in each one. **If you fail to submit an appropriate article by the due date, not only will you lose points towards the**

final grade of this task (10 points), but I will assign an article to you – I can't promise it will be interesting or easy to read. I will send individual messages to each student with their assigned article no later than Monday, January 29.

- **Students that submit a rough draft of their paper, which must include all required sections and formatted according to the Term-Paper Instructions, no later than Saturday, March 31, will receive detailed feedback on how to improve their work. If this is the case, and a student submitted their rough draft, it is required that the student send the professor of the course a message alerting him that you have uploaded your rough exercise to Turnitin.com.**
- **Once you complete your paper, you must submit your work to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due. IMPORTANT NOTE: DO NOT PLAGIARIZE ANY PART OF THE PAPER OR YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE IN THE COURSE.**

Dates for the completion of the Term-Paper are as follow:

- 1. Article Selection: Saturday, January 27.**
- 2. Rough Draft (Optional): Saturday, March 31.**
- 3. Final Project: Saturday, April 7.**

IMPORTANT NOTE ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, TURNITIN, AND PLAGIARISM

- 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 misses to 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**. 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. 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 you will earn a failing grade in our class.**
 - **NO WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER SATURDAY, APRIL 21.**
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GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHT
Individual Exercise	25%
Team Exercise	25%
Term-Paper	30%
Reading Comprehension Quizzes (3 @ 6.67% each)	20%
TOTAL	100%

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE	LETTER GRADE	RANGE
A	95 or above	B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79
A-	90 - 94	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
		B-	80-82	D	60 - 69
				F	59 or less

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DATE	TASKS
Intro	Review the How to Get Started information located in the Course Content
Week 1 January 8 - 13	Introduction: Europe as a Culture Realm Reading: chapter 1
	Introduce yourself to the class
	Complete the Syllabus Quiz
	Complete the Practice Quiz
Week 2 January 14 - 20	European Environments Reading: chapter 2
	Individual Exercise – Selection of Dishes: due on Saturday, January 20.
Week 3 January 21 - 27	Population Reading: chapter 3
	Term Paper Article Selection: due on Saturday, January 27.
Week 4 January 28 – February 3	Human-Environment Interaction Reading: chapter 4
Week 5 February 4 -10	Exam # 1: Chapters 1 to 4 and physical geography map questions (From Sunday, February 4 at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday, February 8 at 10:00 PM).
	Individual Exercise Rough Draft (optional): due on Saturday, February 10.

<p>Week 6 February 11 - 17</p>	<p>The Political Landscape Reading: chapter 7</p>
	<p>Team Exercise: Selection of Team Leader; due: Monday, February 13.</p> <p>Team Exercise: Submission of selections of Case Studies (by Team Leader); due: Monday, February 13.</p>
<p>Week 7 February 18 - 24</p>	<p>Language Reading: chapter 5</p>
	<p>Individual Exercise: due on Saturday, February 24.</p>
<p>Week 8 February 25 – March 3</p>	<p>Religion and Values Reading: chapters 6</p>
	<p>Team Exercise: Rough Draft due: Saturday, March 3.</p>
<p>Week 9 March 4 - 10</p>	<p>Exam # 2: Chapters 5, 6, and 7, including physical geography and countries map questions. From Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday, March 8 at 10:00 PM.</p>
<p>Week 10 March 11 - 17</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)</p>

<p>Week 11 March 18 - 24</p>	<p>Cities and Urban Life to World War I, and, Modern and Postmodern Urbanism Reading: chapters 8 & 9</p>
	<p>Team Exercise – Final Project; due: Saturday, March 24.</p>
	<p>Team Exercise - Assessment of individual and team members' contributions; due: Saturday, March 24.</p>
<p>Week 12 March 25 - 31</p>	<p>Making a Living Reading: chapter 10 and Van Ginkel, Rob. 2007. <i>Bloody rituals: The Sicilian Mattanza and the Faroese Grindadrap</i>, pp. 35-66. In: <i>Coastal cultures: An anthropology of fishing and whaling traditions</i>.</p>
	<p>Term-Paper Rough Draft (optional); due on Saturday, March 31.</p>
<p>Week 13 April 1 – 7</p>	<p>Consumption, Leisure, and Popular Culture Reading: chapter 11</p>
	<p>Term Paper: due on Saturday, April 7.</p>
<p>Week 14 April 8 - 14</p>	<p>Epilogue: European Futures Reading: chapter 12</p>
<p>Week 15 April 15 - 21</p>	<p>Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3: chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, including assign readings and physical geography, countries, and urban areas map quiz questions. From Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday, April 19 at 10:00 PM.</p>
	<p>NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER SATURDAY, APRIL 21.</p>

