

**SPRING 2019**  
**GEA 2000: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY**  
**TH 2:00 -3: 15 PM**  
**DM # 190**

Course Homepage: <http://online.fiu.edu>

**Professor:** Dr. Ricardo González  
**Office Hours:** By appointment only; call (305) 348-2247  
**Department Location:** Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies  
SIPA # 304

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, making special emphasis on the topic of globalization.

The course will offer 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 Learning Outcomes:***

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, developments, and themes in 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).
- Students will develop and improve their knowledge of key location in world regions and create maps.
- Students will develop and improve their ability to write and think critically about the world.

## **Hybrid Format/CANVAS:**

This course is being conducted in a “hybrid format”; that is, a combination of in-class lectures and outside-of-class, online assignments. **We will meet once a week in class. The other part of the class will be fulfilled through online assignments, which are due on Wednesday nights at 11:59 PM.** In addition to the obvious difference, **the hybrid format puts a lot more on the shoulders of the student.** This has both advantages and disadvantages. The main advantage is greater flexibility in setting your schedule. The main disadvantage is that it requires more advance planning and covers more material than the traditional format. The hybrid course often requires more work by the students because so much of the material is presented outside the classroom, and the student must take the initiative to find and learn it. Make sure to **follow the course syllabus, plan ahead, and complete the online coursework by the deadlines.**

Because of the heavy online component in this class, you 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 (<https://online.fiu.edu/>). There are many computer terminals at the FIU libraries and other locations on all our campuses if you do not have a reliable computer at home. 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.**

## **Textbook**

de Blij, Harm J. and Peter O. Muller. 2010. *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*. 14<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

## **Expectations of this Course**

This is a hybrid course, meaning that the course work will be conducted both in-class and online. Expectations for performance in a hybrid course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, hybrid 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 hybrid 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 quizzes.

**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 quiz.

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 CANVAS system.

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Students are expected to:

- Take the Syllabus Quiz on the first week of the term. Students will not be allowed to access the course until they take this quiz and pass it with a perfect score.
- Take the Practice Quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.
- Interact 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 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 48-72 hours (except on weekends or holidays).
- Respond to messages within three days (except on weekends or holidays).
- Grade assignments within two weeks of the assignment deadline unless otherwise noted.

### **Requirements:**

- **Read the assigned chapters and/or articles before coming to class.** Assignments from the text and videos are listed below for each class session. The lectures will often presume knowledge that the textbook provides.
- **Reading comprehension quizzes.** Each week, before coming to class, you will to take a quiz online that will include the most important definitions/concepts highlighted in the weekly assigned readings, which will be covered in class. Students will be allowed to take the quizzes as many times as they wish between Friday's at 8:00 AM and Wednesday's at 11:59 PM only. There are no make-ups for the reading comprehension quizzes; no exceptions.
- **Attend class meetings and participate actively.** You are expected to attend class and participate individually and with your assigned teams. There will be no role call; it is your responsibility to submit all in-class assignments before leaving the classroom. Please, **don't be late for class.**
- **Globalization Exercises and Portfolio.** There will be 3 exercises related to the topics discussed in class. Each exercise will consists of three sections, including a table, a map, an essay including an analysis of the information gathered, and a Bibliography section. Your exercises must be uploaded to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due date (see the Course Schedule for specific due dates). **Any exercise that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class. 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 DATES. No late work will be accepted after Wednesday, April 17.**

- We will have **three exams** (non-cumulative). The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, map knowledge questions (locations of countries), and, one or two essay questions.

### **Grading**

- Reading Comprehension Quizzes (8 @ 1.25% each) 10%
- Team Activities 20%
- Globalization Exercises (3 @ 15% each) 45%
- Globalization Portfolio 5%
- Exam # 1, Exam # 2, Exam # 3 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

### ***Class participation:***

It is expected that interactive learning and teaching will enrich the learning experience of all students, and that each student will work in partnership with your assigned team and the professor to create a positive learning experience for all. Student engagement is a necessary condition for an effective learning experience, and includes contributions to debate and discussion, positive interactive learning with others, and an enthusiastic attitude towards inquiry. Everyone is expected to be a positive contributor to the class learning community, and students are expected to share the responsibility of teaching each other.

Every student must respect the right of everyone to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a standard of academic conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow classmates, and the educational mission of the University.

***Class conduct:***

Students and instructor in this class are bound by Florida International University policies on conduct and academic rights and freedoms. Please make sure that you are familiar with the rules and regulations of our campus community.

In order to ensure a positive learning environment, the following behaviors are unacceptable:

- talking out of turn
- carrying out side conversations in class
- chronic tardiness/early departures
- sleeping, reading non-class material
- internet cruising/email/text messaging

***Important Note on Written Assignments, Wikipedia, Turnitin.com, 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. 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 you will be sad because you cannot write the small number of words on your own, but you will earn a failing grade in our class.**

***Make-ups:***

**There are no make-ups for the reading comprehension quizzes.** All make-up exams (Exam # 1 and Exam # 2) will be given on the day we have Exam # 3 (April 18). **No make-ups will be given for the last exam (Exam # 3).**

**No make-ups exams will be given without a verified excuse.** Should an exam be missed you must contact the professor of the course within 24 hours of the missed exam. You will not be able to make-up the exam without verified documentation. Absolutely NO make-up exams without either, 1) a note from a doctor that a student was incapable of attending for medical reasons or 2) documentation of a death in the immediate family. Flat tires, conflicts with work or travel, etc. are not valid reasons for missing an exam and do not qualify for make ups.

***Course communication:***

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.

***Important Dates:*****EXAMS:**

**EXAM # 1: Thursday, February 21.**

**EXAM # 2: Thursday, March 28.**

**EXAM # 3: Thursday, April 18.**

**GLOBALIZATION EXERCISES AND GLOBALIZATION PORTFOLIO:**

**GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE # 1 – Rough Draft: Wednesday, January 30.**

**GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE # 1 – Final Project: Wednesday, February 13.**

**GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE # 2 – Rough Draft: Wednesday, February 20.**  
**GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE # 2 – Final Project: Wednesday, March 6.**

**GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE # 3 – Rough Draft: Wednesday, April 3.**  
**GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE # 3 – Final Project: Wednesday, April 10.**

**GLOBALIZATION PORTFOLIO: Wednesday, April 17.**

**NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17.**

**LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH A DR/WI GRADE: MONDAY, MARCH 18.**

## GEA 2000: Course Schedule (subject to change)

### Week # 1 Introduction

**Off-class/Online (Jan. 7-16): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1: Syllabus Quiz**

In-class (Jan. 10): Course Overview

Off-class/Online: Read Week # 2 material and watch Video: “Guns, Germs, and Steel: Part I: Out of Eden” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i885hopsw6E>)

### Week # 2: Introduction

**Off-class/Online (Jan. 16): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1: Syllabus Quiz**

In-class (Jan. 17): Introduction: What is geography?

Off-class/Online: Read Week # 3 materials

### Week # 3: Globalization amid diversity

Off-class/Online (Jan. 23): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2

In-class (Jan. 24): Team Activities

**Off-class/Online (Jan. 31): Globalization Exercise # 1: Rough Draft** - Read Week # 4 material

### Week # 4: North America

Off-class/Online (Jan. 30): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3

In-class (Jan. 31): Team Activities

Off-class/Online: Read Week # 5 material and watch Video: “Guns, Germs, and Steel: Part II: Conquest” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCBod2jFFyQ>)

### Week # 5: Middle America

Off-class/Online (Feb. 6): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 4

In-class (Feb. 7): Team Activities

**Off-class/Online (Feb. 13): Globalization Exercise # 1: Final Project** - Read Week # 6 material

### Week # 6: South America

Off-class/Online (Feb. 13): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 5

In-class (Feb. 14): Team Activities

**Off-class/Online (Feb. 20): Globalization Exercise # 2: Rough Draft** - Get ready for Exam # 1

### **Week # 7: Exam # 1 (Feb. 21)**

Off-class/Online (Feb 20): Get ready for Exam # 1

**In-class (Feb.21): Exam # 1**

Off-class/Online: Read Week # 8 material

### Week # 8: Europe

Off-class/Online (Feb. 27): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 6

In-class (Feb. 28): Team Activities

**Off-class/Online (Mar. 6): Globalization Exercise # 2: Final Project** - Read Week # 9 material and watch video “Guns, Germs, and Steel: Part III: Into the Tropics” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9espgY-Po>)

### Week # 9: Sub-Saharan Africa

Off-class/Online (Mar. 6): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 7

In-class (Mar. 7): Team Activities

Off-class/Online: Read Week # 11 material

**Week # 10: SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES: Mar. 11-15)**

**Week # 11: North Africa-South-West Asia**

Off-class/Online (Mar. 20): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 8

In-class (Mar. 21): Team Activities

Off-class/Online: Get ready for Exam # 2

**Week # 12: Exam # 2 (Mar. 28)**

Off-class/Online (Mar. 27): Get ready for Exam # 2

In-class (Mar. 28): Exam # 2

Off-class/Online (Apr. 3): Globalization Exercise # 3: Rough Draft - Read Week # 13 material

**Week # 13: South Asia**

Off-class/Online (Apr. 3): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 9

In-class (Apr. 4): Team Activities

Off-class/Online (Apr. 10): Globalization Exercise # 3: Final Project - Read Week # 14 material

**Week # 14: East and Southeast Asia**

Off-class/Online (Apr. 10): Reading Comprehension Quiz # 10

In-class (Apr. 11): Team Activities

Off-class/Online (Apr. 17): Globalization Portfolio

**Week # 15: Exam # 3 (Apr. 18)**

Off-class/Online (Apr. 17): Get ready for Exam # 3

In-class (Apr. 18): Exam # 3