

## **World Regional Geography (Summer B 2018)**

**GEA 2000**

**Instructor: Dr. Ricardo M. González**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:**

This is an introductory Geography course that studies people and their relationships with the environment. 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.

The class will offer you with the 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 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 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.

### **TEXT:**

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 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 reading comprehension 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 because students are allowed to take the Reading Comprehension Quizzes as many times as they wish, there are no make-ups available in this course.

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.

---

#### **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 perfect score (100%).
- Take the **Practice Quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week of the term by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum.
- 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 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 journal postings within one week (except on weekends).
- Respond to emails/messages within three days (except on weekends).
- Grade assignments within two weeks of the assignment deadline unless otherwise noted.

## 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).** 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.

## 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 to comply with these basic rules of courtesy, 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 two, non-cumulative reading comprehension quizzes in this course based on the readings, outlines, and other materials covered in this course. 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. Please note that no make-up quizzes will be given.**
- 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.
- With the exception of the Optional Quiz, 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.**
- **The quizzes will be given starting on the first day of the fourth week of the term (Sunday, July 8).**
- Each quiz will include 20 multiple-choice 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 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 (with the exception of the Optional Quiz, **all quizzes will be made available from Sunday at 2:00 PM, and until Thursday at 10:00 PM**):

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, July 8 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, July 12 at 10:00 PM.**
- **Quiz # 2:** chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10, and assigned videos and PowerPoint presentations. **From Sunday, July 22 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, July 26 at 10:00 PM.**
- **OPTIONAL QUIZ:** Introduction chapter, chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and assigned videos and PowerPoint presentations. **Friday, July 27 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.

### **GLOBALIZATION EXERCISE:**

There will be one globalization exercise related to the topics discussed in class, which require you to apply concepts learned in the course. The exercise will consist of three sections, including a brief outline of your work, an analysis of the information provided (an essay of a minimum of 800 words, not including your name, title, PID, date, Bibliography section, etc.), and a map where you will summarize your findings. Note that, as mentioned in the section “Important Notes on Written Assignments, Turnitin, and Plagiarism”, students are not allowed to use WIKIPEDIA in this course. Details for the completion of the exercises are available inside the course website. All exercise must

be uploaded to Turnitin.com. Any exercise that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class.

**The exercise is worth each 40% of your final grade.** Once you complete your exercise, you must submit your work to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due dates. **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 Thursday, July 26.**

- **Globalization Exercise - due: Saturday, July 21.**

## REFLECTION ESSAYS

There will be three (3) reflection essays based on the most important topics discussed in our course and related to globalization. These essays will require you to apply concepts learned in class. Note that, as mentioned in the section "Important Notes on Written Assignments, Turnitin, and Plagiarism", students are not allowed to use WIKIPEDIA in this course.

Each discussion topic will be worth 10% of your final grade. Works that are submitted late will be accepted but will incur in a 10-point deduction **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 Thursday, July 26.**

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 (500 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 of 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 week these are late. The weekly point-deduction will be applied starting on the next day after the deadline. No late work will be accepted after Thursday, July 26.**

**No late work will be received after Thursday, July 26.**

---

- Reflection Essay # 1 - due: Saturday, June 30.
- Reflection Essay # 2 - due: Saturday, July 7.
- Reflection Essay # 3 - due: Saturday, July 14.

**IMPORTANT NOTES ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, TURNITIN, AND PLAGIARISM**

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.

Students will be allowed to submit the reflection essays and globalization exercise after the due date but their work will incur in a 10-point discount for each week the work is late. **The weekly point-deduction will be applied starting on the next day after the deadline. No late work will be received after Thursday, July 26.**

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**. 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 without giving credit to its author/s, 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.**

**GRADING:**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	WEIGHT
2 Reading Comprehension Quizzes (15% each)	30%
1 Globalization Exercise	40%

3 Reflection Essays (10% each)	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**Module 1: June 18 – July 7**

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

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 3: North America</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 4: Middle America</li> <li>• <b>Watch the video:</b> "<a href="#">Guns, Germs, and Steel: Part II: Conquest</a>".</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 5: South America</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 1: Europe</li> <li>• <b>Complete Reflection Essay # 1 (deadline: Saturday, June 30)</b></li> <li>• <b>Complete Reflection Essay # 2 (deadline: Saturday, July 7)</b></li> </ul>
Introduction Chapter, Globalization Amid Diversity, Chapter 1, 3, 4, 5, PowerPoints, and Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 1 (Available from Sunday, July 8 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, July 12 at 10:00 PM)</b></li> </ul>

## Module 2: July 8 –26

Topics: North Africa / Southwest Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia	
Chapters Covered	Tasks
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 7: North Africa / Southwest Asia</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 8: South Asia</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 9: East Asia</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review</b> Chapter 10: Southeast Asia</li> <li>• <b>Complete Reflection Essay # 3 (due: Saturday, July 14)</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete Globalization Exercise (due: Saturday, July 21)</b></li> </ul>
Chapter 7 - 10, PowerPoints, and Videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz 2 (Available Sunday, July 22 at 2:00 PM, until Thursday, July 26 at 10:00 PM)</b></li> </ul>

Final Day: July 27

Topics: Final Day	
Chapters Covered	Tasks
Introduction Chapter, Globalization Amid Diversity, Chapters 1,3-5, 7-10, PowerPoints, and all course videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Optional Quiz (Available Friday, July 27 from 12:01 AM until 10:00 PM; note that you have until 9:29 PM to start taking this test)</b></li> </ul>