



GEA 2000

World Regional Geography

Section: U01

Hybrid/Certified

Fall Term 2026

Course Meeting Information

Classes will meet on Thursday's between 11:00 AM and 12:15 PM, in Paul Cejas
Architecture (PCA) # 150

Class meeting times	
Day:	Thursday
Time:	11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Location:	Paul Cejas Architecture (P.C.A.) # 150

Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

UCC Category Description

This course satisfies the University Core Curriculum Social Sciences, Group 2 requirement.

Social science courses afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues.

Professor Information

Dr. Ricardo Gonzalez

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: rmgonzal@fiu.edu

Response Time: 48-72 hours, except on weekends and holidays

Phone: (305) 348-2247

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 AM and from 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM; Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30

Office Location: SIPA # 301

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

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.

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Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- **Demonstrate knowledge of how local global international and intercultural issues, trends, and systems are interrelated. (GL)**
- **Conduct multi-perspective analyses of geographic problems and apply physical science, social science, and popular perspectives to examine key issues. (GL)**
- **Engage in local global international and intercultural problem solving and understand how personal actions connect to broader processes. (GL)**
- **Understand what makes the geographic perspective distinct from other disciplines and explain how spatial thinking shapes geographic inquiry. (UCC)**

- Develop a foundational understanding of geography, its key concepts, and its areas of research, and apply this knowledge to human and ecological systems. (UCC)**
- Understand how actions affect Earth systems and apply principles of sustainability.**

Expectations of this Course

This is a hybrid course, meaning that half of the course work will be conducted during our class meetings (Monday's) and the other half 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 on this course. You are responsible for having access to a well-functioning computer. This is of the outmost importance, especially with regard to online quizzes.

If you are not sufficiently computer savvy to meet these conditions, or do not have access to a good computer, you should reconsider taking a hybrid course. You must take the Syllabus Quiz and the Practice Quiz (the questions have nothing to do with the material taught on this course, and count nothing) to make sure you know how the process works and that your computer is compatible with FIU's CANVAS system. It is also important to note that students must take and pass with perfect score the Syllabus Quiz to get access to the course materials.

If you have computer problems while trying to submit a written assignment or taking a quiz, you **MUST** contact FIU Online Support Services **IMMEDIATELY** by calling FIU Online at (305) 348-3630 or by clicking on the "Technical Support" link in the Course Menu, **NOT THE PROFESSOR OR YOUR CLASSMATES**. If such issues occur 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.

Students are expected to:

- Review the How to Get Started Information located in the Course Content.
- 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 perfect score (20/20).
- Attend every class by arriving to class on time and participate individually and with your assigned team.
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week of the term by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum.
- Take the Practice Quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.
- 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 three times per week.
- Respond to discussion questions and journal postings within one week (except on weekends or holidays).
- Respond to messages within 48-72 hours (except on weekends or

holidays).

- **Grade assignments within two weeks of the assignment deadline unless otherwise noted.**

Textbook and Course Materials

Geography

Subtitle: Realms, Regions, and Concepts, 18th Edition

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Nijman, J., Shin, M. and P. Muller.

Publisher: Wiley

Publication Date: 2020

Copyright Date: 2020

ISBN 10: 1119607361

ISBN 13: 978-1-119-60736-6

Chapters/Pages: Chapters # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Academic Integrity Statement, including the Use of Artificial Intelligence

You are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. All work is to be appropriately cited when it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and/or unacknowledged collaboration on any work, or the presentation of someone else's work, is plagiarism. Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper attribution or authorization is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me to discuss it as soon as possible.

Important Note on Written Assignments, Turnitin.com, Artificial Intelligence and Plagiarism

Students must submit all written assignments in a word document.

Works that are submitted late will be accepted but will receive a 10-point discount for each week they are late. In other words, you may submit your work 6 days after the deadline (Friday's) without incurring in any point deduction. However, late works will not be eligible for the extra-credit points available (extra-credit points details will be disclosed during the first week of the term).

No late assignments will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.

Each written assignment must include references from the course textbook. 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.

Use the following format for the in-text citation in your essays when you are including information from the textbook using your own words, and **at the end of a sentence**:

- (Nijman *et al.* 2020).
- [Note: The words "*et al.*" must be written in Italics and is used when a source was composed by more than two authors.]

You may also introduce this source at the beginning of a sentence following this

example:

- **According to Nijman *et al.* (2020), ...**

In case you are including a quote from this source, you must use quotations marks and include the page number/s where we can find this information following this example:

- **“The spatial distribution of ...” (Nijman *et al.* 2017: 35).**

Below is the reference you must include on your Bibliography page - make sure to write the title in Italics -:

Nijman, J., Shin, M. and P. Muller. 2020. *Geography: Realms, regions and concepts*. 18th edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

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:

- Submitted in a word document
- 12-point font (Arial, Times New Roman, Garamond, or Book Garamond, or Book Antiqua)
- One-inch margins all around and with no indentations
- 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 by the student only to the plagiarism detection system Turnitin.com; your professor will not submit any assignment on behalf of a student. 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. Note that, after this day, you will not be allowed to resubmit your work. 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 submit your work will be available in the Assignment Dropbox section of the course website.

All work submitted in this course must be your own. In fact, it is expected that most of the written assignments submitted are written using the student's own words. Because writing, analytical and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments must be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for a competitive workplace. **Contributions from anyone or anything else, including artificial intelligence (AI) sources, must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used. Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation, and I will follow our institution's policy in those instances.**

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](#)

Assignments & Assessments

Assignments

Reflection Essays

There will be 6 reflection essays, which require you to apply concepts learned in our course. The lowest grade earned will be dropped. Each discussion topic is worth 10% of the final grade in our course.

Students must compose a 1-2 page summary essay of at-least 500 words, highlighting the most important aspects of each assigned reading/video. The word

count does not include the student's name, PID, date, title of the essay, or the required Bibliography/References/Works Cited. Students must upload their work using the corresponding plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com links included in our course website before the deadline.

Students must post well thought-out comments based on the assigned topics – the corresponding textbook chapter/s of the week, which must be cited in your essay and in a bibliography page –, showing knowledge of the subject by using key definitions used in the textbook, and upload them to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com. 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, show knowledge of the topic, originality, and to format their work following the Technical Aspects (see section: IMPORTANT NOTE ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, TURNITIN, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PLAGIARISM) and upload their posts using the Turnitin.com link embedded in our course website.

It is also required to include a picture in each reflection essay and portfolio that includes a pertinent example of what is being discussed. The picture must include a title on top (center) and a reference (included at the bottom of the picture). You must also include a complete reference for the source where we can find this picture in your bibliography page.

Late works will be accepted but will incur in a 10-point discount for each week they are late. The weekly point deduction will be applied starting on the 7th day after the deadlines mentioned below.

No late works will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.

Any works that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class.

Dates for the Reflection Essays are as follows:

Reflection Essay # 1; due: Saturday, September 19.

Reflection Essay # 2; due: Saturday, September 26.

Reflection Essay # 3; due: Saturday, October 3.

Reflection Essay # 4; due: Saturday, October 10.

Reflection Essay # 5; due: Saturday, October 24.

Reflection Essay # 6; due: Saturday, November 7.

Portfolio

The dictionary defines a portfolio as a set of works [drawings or photographs] either bound in a book form or loose in a folder. In this course we will define a portfolio as a collection of reflection essays completed during the term, which requires you to apply concepts learned in this course.

Because we have defined the portfolio as a collection of reflection essays, this [portfolio] must first introduce the topics covered in each essay and their scope in an Introduction.

After the topic is introduced, the next step is to include your six reflection essays. These must be updated with the corrections made by your professor during the term.

After the reflection essays, we must include a Conclusion section where you will summarize the most important findings highlighted in your essays.

To complete your portfolio, this must include a bibliography page with all the references you have used in all reflection essays, including our course' textbook.

Structure of the Portfolio (minimum 600 words): Introduction (~250-300 words), Conclusions (~300-350 words) and Bibliography page. You must separate each section clearly using titles: Introduction, Conclusions, Bibliography.

Include a title in your first page that reflects the nature of this assignment. The title "Reflection Essay Portfolio" is accurate, but... boring!

You must also include a picture in your cover page. This must include a title and a reference in the bottom of the picture with the information where we can find this source. You must also include this reference in your bibliography page.

The portfolio is worth 20% of the final grade in our course.

Your work must be uploaded to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due date (see Important Dates and Course Schedule for specific due dates).

No late work will be accepted after Saturday, December 5.

Any work that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class.

Dates for the completion of the Portfolio are as follows:

Portfolio Rough Draft; due: Saturday, November 14. No late work will be accepted after this Monday, November 16).

Portfolio Final Project; due: Saturday, December 5. No late work will be accepted after this day (Saturday, December 5).

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 Canvas Help Team.

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.

All quizzes will be online. There will be no class meetings during a quiz week (see calendar).

No make-up quiz will be given. Students that miss a quiz will take the Optional Quiz as a make-up test.

There will be three, non-cumulative reading comprehension quizzes in this course based on the readings, outlines, videos and other materials reviewed, including map questions. All quizzes will be online, and each one is worth 5% of the final grade in our course. The total value of the tests is 15% of the course final grade.

In addition to these (3) quizzes, students will have the opportunity to take an Optional Quiz on the last week of the term. This quiz will replace the lowest grade earned in the first three quizzes, unless you earn a lower grade (dropped), and will include all the material covered in the course (cumulative).

Students will be allowed to take the quizzes two times during the testing period, and only the best grade earned will be used to calculate your final grade in our course. **The quizzes will be available from Sunday's at 2:00 PM and until Thursday's at 11:59 PM.** IF YOUR SCHEDULE PROHIBITS YOU FROM BEING AVAILABLE DURING THESE TIMES, then unfortunately you probably should not take this class.

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](#).

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).

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, except for the map questions. For this reason, we would strongly suggest you use them while reviewing the course material to be better prepared for the quizzes, and to improve your learning experience and your performance on our 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 follows:

Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1: Chapters 1 to 4, PPT: Globalization Amid Diversity. From Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 PM until Thursday, October 11 at 11:59 PM.

Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2: Chapters 1, 7 and 8. From Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 PM until Thursday, October 29 at 11:59 PM.

Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3: Chapters 9 to 11. From Sunday, November 29 at 2:00 PM until Thursday, December 4 at 11:59 PM.

Optional Quiz: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and PPT: Globalization Amid Diversity. From Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM until Thursday, December 10 at 11:59 PM.

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

Grading

Course Requirements	Weight
Reading Comprehension Quizzes (3 @ 5% each)	15%
Reflection Essays (5 @ 10% each)	50%
Portfolio	20%

Course Requirements	Weight
Attendance and Participation	15%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Range
A	95 or above
A-	90 to 94
B+	87 to 89
B	83 to 86
B-	80 to 82
C+	77 to 79
C	70 to 76
D	60 to 69
F	59 or less

Proctored Exams

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox only. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn

how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within 48-72 hours (except on weekends or holidays).

The message feature is a private, internal, CANVAS-only communication system. Users must log on to CANVAS 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.

In addition, your professor will post course announcements, alerting students of upcoming deadlines, feedback on assignments, and other important information. Please make sure to read them carefully and get back to your professor immediately if you have any questions or concerns. Please make sure to include detail questions or explain your concerns so your professor is better prepared to answer them on a timely manner.

Schedule of Topics

Weekly Schedule

DATE	TASKS
Week 1: August 24 - 29	Chapter 1: <i>Introduction</i> • Take the Syllabus Quiz during the first week of the term.. • Review the Start Here folder located in the course content. • Review the Policies Page as is important to the quality of your education. • Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum under the "Discussion Board" tab. • Take the Practice Quiz under the Start Here folder to ensure that your computer is compatible with CANVAS.
Week 2: August 30 -September 5	Chapter 1: <i>Introduction</i>

Week 3: September 6 - 12	<i>Diversity Amid Globalization (PPT)</i>
Week 4: September 13 – 19	Chapter 2: <i>North America</i> • Reflection Essay # 1; due: Saturday, September 19.
Week 5: September 20 – 26	Chapter 3: <i>Middle America</i> • Reflection Essay # 2; due: Saturday, September 26.
Week 6: September 27 – October 3	Chapter 4: <i>South America</i> • Reflection Essay # 3; due: Saturday, October 3.
Week 7: October 4 – 10	• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 1: chapters 1 to 4; From Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 PM and until Thursday, October 8 at 11:59 PM. • Reflection Essay # 4; due: Saturday, October 10.
Week 8: October 11 – 17	Chapter 5: <i>Europe</i> and Chapter 8: <i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>
Week 9: October 18 - 24	Chapter 7: <i>North Africa/South West Asia</i> • Reflection Essay # 5; due: Saturday, October 24.
Week 10: October 25 – 31	• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 2: chapters 5, 7 and 8; From Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 PM and until Thursday, October 29 at 11:59 PM.
Week 11: November 1 – 7	Chapter 9: <i>South Asia</i> • Reflection Essay # 6; due: Saturday, November 7.
Week 12: November 8 – 14	Chapter 10: <i>East Asia</i> • Portfolio rough draft; due: Saturday, November 14 [no late work accepted after Monday, November 16].

Week 13: November 15 – 21	Chapter 11: Southeast Asia
Week 14: November 22 – 28	Thanksgiving holiday - No class meeting
Week 15: November 29 – December 5	• Reading Comprehension Quiz # 3: chapters 9 to 11; From Sunday, November 29 at 2:00 PM and until Thursday, December 3 at 11:59 PM. • Portfolio Final Project; due: Saturday, December 5. • No late assignments accepted after Saturday, December 5.
Week 16: December 6 - 12	• Optional Quiz: chapters 1 to 11; From Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM and until Thursday, December 10 at 11:59 PM.

Policies & Resources

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. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights** (OCR) is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been

discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.