



GEA 2000

World Regional Geography

Section: RVC

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2025

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

Professor Information

Dr. Melissa Bernardo

Roles: Primary Instructor

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Office Hours: Mondays, 1-3pm

Office Location: SIPA I, Office 326

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description and Purpose

This is an introductory course in geography, in which students will learn and apply geographic lenses to investigate world regions. This class will provide students with key concepts and theories in geography to interrogate various contemporary and historical issues of the globe. There will be a focus on two intersecting themes throughout the semester – development and climate change – that have become defining forces of the world today.

The course fulfills the Global Learning Foundations requirement that counts toward the 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.” - The Global Learning Graduation Initiative. For more information, please visit:

<http://goglobal.fiu.edu>.

Class Structure

This is an **online** course, which means all of the course work will be conducted on Canvas. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- review the getting started page located in the course modules;
- take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- interact online with instructor and peers;
- review and follow the weekly course schedule;
- log in to the course at least 1 time per week;

- submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course at least 3 times per week;
- respond to emails within 2 days (usually same day);
- be available for in-person or online office hours
- grade assignments

UCC Category Description

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

According to this category:

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.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC

Gordon Rule Writing: GRW

Global Learning: GL

Civic Literacy: CL

- Identify key geographic concepts and themes

- Distinguish between physical and human geography and how these sub-disciplines approach research
- Apply critical thinking to socioecological problems and identify alternative global perspectives
- Analyze geographic data on regional maps
- Develop critical thinking on how world regions are constructed

Expectations of this Course

Please take a moment to read the following class policies and expectations:

Make-up policy. Late work will only be accepted for three days after the deadline and will have 10% of the total point deduction. If work is late due to a serious reason (i.e. unexpected emergency, death of a family member, sickness, etc.), it can be excused if the student provides proper documentation.

Revise and resubmit. There are (4) class activities throughout the semester. If you are not pleased with a grade on one of these assignments, you may choose (1) activity to revise and resubmit. Feedback will be provided to each individual student, which can help guide the changes you make. Once the revisions are complete, you may email me (mebernar@fiu.edu) your updated assignment. In the title of the email, please put "GEA2000 Re-submission" in the subject line. There will be a re-submission point deduction; however, it still can provide an opportunity to improve your overall grade. Please reach out to me if you have any questions regarding the re-submission process. (Note: If you submitted A.I. generated writing and received a 0 on a class activity, those assignments are not eligible for this revise and resubmit opportunity.)

Communications. Weekly announcements will be posted on Canvas that outline the class modules, assignments, and due dates. Important messages will also be sent to each student's email address. If students have any urgent questions or concerns, they are encouraged to send an email instead of using Canvas messages. Students are

asked to please be polite and responsible when communicating with the professor and/or classmates.

Plagiarism and academic misconduct. This university regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with severe consequences that range from probation to expulsion. If 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 or utilize A.I. writing software. A.I. generated writing will not be accepted for this course and will result in an automatic zero. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact me or consult FIU academic misconduct webpage at <https://dasa.fiu.edu/all-departments/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/>.

Grading

COURSE EVALUATION

Graded Item	% of Grade	Comments
1. Quizzes	25	Online quizzes on Canvas
2. Course Activities	50	Online class activities of various types
3. Final Project	25	Paper and infographic

Assignments & Assessments

Course activities: Class activities consist of individual assignments of various types (e.g., reflections on class material, virtual fieldwork, or an online activity). Due dates will vary by activity and will be announced in class. Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas for each activity and reminders about due dates will be included in the weekly announcements.

- There are (4) class activities throughout the semester. If you are not pleased with a grade on one of these assignments, you may choose (1) activity to revise and resubmit. Feedback will be provided to each individual student, which can help guide the changes you make. Once the revisions are complete, you may email me (mebernar@fiu.edu) your updated assignment. In the title of the email, please put "GEA2000 Re-submission" in the subject line. Please reach out to me if you have any questions regarding the re-submission process. (Note: If you submitted A.I. generated writing and received a 0 on a class activity, those assignments are not eligible for this revise and resubmit opportunity.)

Quizzes: There will be online quizzes throughout the semester. A separate announcement will be made for each quiz in advance, explaining which module(s) will be covered and when the quiz needs to be completed. Quiz questions come from the module's readings, lectures, and course activities.

- These online quizzes 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.

Final project (Written Paper & Infographic Poster): This is an individual project that will be submitted at the end of the semester. Students will be creating an infographic poster on a social, political, economic, and/or environmental issue in a region we covered. In a two-page, double-spaced paper (minimum), students will then explain what issue they selected, why they chose this issue, the different kinds of impacts the region that they have selected, and then draw global connections to understand the larger implications of the issue they have chosen. Additional instructions with a grading rubric will be uploaded to Canvas and discussed during the recorded lectures.

Schedule of Topics

Module	Topic	Major Assignment

Module 1	Getting Started	
Module 2	Earth Systems & the Anthropocene	Class Activity #1
Module 3	Population & Development	Quiz #1
Module 4	Europe	Class Activity #2
Module 5	Middle East & North Africa	Quiz #2
Module 6	Sub-Saharan Africa	
Module 7	Russia, Central Asia & the Transcaucasus	Quiz #3
Module 8	Latin America & the Caribbean	Class Activity #3
Module 9	Oceania	
Module 10	Southeast Asia	Class Activity #4
Module 11	East Asia	
Module 12	South Asia	Quiz #4

Textbook and Course Materials

World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environment

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Marston, S.A., P.L. Knox, D.M. Liverman, V.L. Casino, and P. Robbins

Publisher: Prentice Hall

Publication Date: 2016

Copyright Date: 2016

ISBN 10: 0134183649

ISBN 13: 9780134183640

Panther Book Pack

The Panther Book Pack rental program provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of \$20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for

your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack.

Make sure to review the pricing for all materials across your classes this semester and compare the cost to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. The deadline to opt back into the Panther Book Pack is also three days after the add/drop deadline.

If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged \$20 per undergraduate credit hour for which you are registered and the course materials will be reserved in your name. For more details and to learn how to access your course materials, visit onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack.

Other Course Materials and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Canvas resources: Any additional readings will be announced in advance and posted online.

Other useful resources for class activities:

- NPR - <http://www.npr.org/sections/news/>
- BBC News - <http://news.bbc.co.uk>
- New York Times - <http://www.nytimes.com> (Go to www.nytimes.com/FIU for free one-year access)
- Our World in Data (Oxford) - <https://ourworldindata.org>

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility (CRCA)** 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 CRCA team through report.fiu.edu.

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](#).