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 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.

Goals:
At the end of the semester, I hope that you will:

- Have a basic grasp of the concepts and facts of world geography;
- Understand how human populations interact with their environments to make cultural landscapes in different parts of the world;
- Be motivated to keep up with and analyze current events reported in the news media;
- Know where to find information and how to conduct basic research on different parts of the world.

Requirements

- **Read the assigned chapters in your textbook before coming to class.** Assignments from the text are listed below for each class session. The lectures will often presume knowledge that the textbook provides. They will NOT be a repeat of the textbook, but an elaboration of certain concepts.

- **Attend class meetings.** You are expected to attend class and participate. Please, **don’t be late for class.** If you have trouble attending, please let me know ahead of time.

- **Map quizzes.** There will be 5 map quizzes during regular class time. **These will be given unannounced starting on the 3rd week of classes.**

- **We will have two midterm exams and one final exam** (non-cumulative). Midterm exams are conducted in regular class period, while the final exam will be two hours.
Textbook

Grading
- Attendance and participation: 50 points
- Map quizzes (4): 250 points
- Mid-term exams (2@200 points): 400 points
- Final exam: 300 points
TOTAL: 1000 points

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 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 (if any), 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

Lectures:
Class notes or other materials will be posted on Moodle (https://ecampus.fiu.edu/) or other electronic medium.

Make-ups:
No make-up will be given for the map quizzes. For the mid-term exams, no make-ups will be given without a verified excuse. Should an exam be missed you must contact me within 24 hours of the missed class. You will not be able to make-up the exam on or after the next meeting of the class without making proper arrangements and without verified documentation. No make-ups will be given for the final exam.
**Class 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. You are welcome to communicate through email or to visit us by previously setting an appointment. To make sure that your email does not get buried in the pile of other emails I usually receive, on your subject line, please write: “GEA 2000:” to precede your email purpose. I will respond to inquiries within 24-48 hours.

**Cell phones must be off during class. No talking on the phone or texting. 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.
Weekly outline (subject to change)

Week # 1 (Aug. 22, 24, 26): Introduction
Reading: Introduction chapter

Week # 2 (Aug. 29, 31, Sep. 2): Globalization and diversity
Reading: Introduction chapter

Week # 3 (Sep. 7, 9): The changing global environment
Reading: Introduction chapter

Week # 4 (Sep. 12, 14, 16): North America
Reading: Chapter 3

Week # 5 (Sep. 19, 21, 23): Middle America
Reading: Chapter 4

Week # 6 (Sep. 26, 28, 30): South America
Reading: Chapter 5

OCTOBER 3: MID-TERM EXAM #1

Week # 7 (Oct. 5, 7): Europe
Reading: Chapter 1

Week # 8 (Oct. 10, 12, 14): Europe / Sub-Saharan Africa
Reading: Chapter 1 & 6

Week # 9 (Oct. 17, 19, 21): Sub-Saharan Africa / North Africa-South-West Asia
Reading: 6 & 7

Week # 10 (Oct. 24, 26, 28): North Africa-South-West Asia
Reading: 7

OCTOBER 31: MID-TERM EXAM #2

Week # 11 (Nov. 2, 4): South Asia
Reading: Chapter 8

Week # 12 (Nov. 7, 9): South Asia / East Asia
Reading: Chapter 8 & 9

Week # 13 (Nov. 14, 16, 18): East Asia / Southeast Asia
Reading: Chapter 9 & 10

Week # 14 (Nov. 21): Southeast Asia
Reading: Chapter 10
Week # 15 (Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2): Oceania: Australia and New Zealand, The Pacific Realm

Reading: Chapter 11 & 12

Week # 16: FINAL EXAMINATION TBA