JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

GEO 103

WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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Revised Date: December 2007

Arts & Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A. Prerequisite: none

B. 3 Credit Hours

C. World Regional Geography is an introduction to the academic discipline of Geography including a world survey, presenting the essential physical and cultural characteristics, key issues and problems of the major regions of the world: the Americas, Europe, Russia, North Africa, Southwest Asia, Subsaharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific. Special attention is given to selected countries. World Regional Geography will partially fulfill the Social Science requirement for an associate degree. (F,S)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT MEASURES

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<th>Expected Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
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<td>Demonstrates an understanding of the specialized vocabulary of geography, which includes physical processes such as geology, environment and meteorology and human processes such as cultural landscape, demography, and economic development, by being able to correctly define terms, describe processes and list/identify examples of each</td>
<td>Periodic examinations on key concepts, both objective and subjective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze the unique relationship between geographic conditions and a major region's and/or nation’s particular response to those circumstances--politically, economically, and socio-culturally</td>
<td>Periodic examinations on key concepts, both objective and subjective</td>
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<td>Demonstrate detailed knowledge of each major region's current political, economic, and socio-cultural status</td>
<td>Class discussions of contemporary media presentations, internet information and other appropriate sources</td>
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<td>Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness of regions and nations politically, economically and culturally by being able to explain the purposes and functions of key international organizations and the process of globalization.</td>
<td>Student research projects on selected countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appreciate the dynamic interfacing of America's day-to-day existence with that of the rest of the world</td>
<td>Class discussion of selected readings</td>
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Demonstrate a realization of the vast and crucial issues involved in the omnipresent confrontation of "haves" vs. "have-nots" among the world's regions and nations

Demonstrate an awareness of critical environmental issues, their causes, status and proposed solutions

Demonstrate a knowledge of such facts as a major nation/region's largest cities, most important areas, leading industrial, mining and agricultural centers, major river systems, unique topographical features, climatic types, significant historical and contemporary events and personalities, religions and cultural beliefs and practices, political-economic theories and practices, etc

Demonstrate a familiarity with the resources: printed, media that are relevant to the subject

Practice college skills such as writing, manipulation of mathematical criteria, critical thinking, oral presentation

III. COURSE OUTLINE WITH UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Introduction to College Geography
   1. Discuss the academic discipline of Geography
   2. Examine the wide variety of resources available in Geography
   3. Discuss student and content assessment techniques in Geography
   4. Analyze the concept of regionalization a tool for the study of the Earth
   5. Assess the significance of the discipline historically

B. Cartography
   1. Develop an overview of the world and world mapping principles
   2. Develop skills working with globes, atlases and maps
   3. Master theories of latitude and longitude, map projection
   4. Understand legends: symbols, colors, abbreviations, lines, etc.

C. Basic Geographic Concepts
   1. Comprehend the various sub-disciplines of Geography: Physical and Human Geography
   2. Learn the specialized vocabulary for land forming processes
   3. Explain the significance and scope of climate
   4. Learn the specialized vocabulary for human geography
   5. Explain cultural geographic concepts such as language, religion
   6. Discuss the concepts of historical and political geography
   7. Identify and explain the key concepts of demography, economic
geography and development geography

8. Identify and explain the key concepts of environmental geography
9. Analyze diagrams, charts, models and maps reflecting current geographic conclusions of the information mentioned above
10. Discuss the complexities of globalization in all its forms

D. North America
1. Survey the topographical, physiographic regions and climatic scope of North America
2. Review the history and politics of this world region
3. Demonstrate mastery of basic data such as names of states and provinces and key urban, economic and cultural areas
4. Examine the changing population characteristics
5. Comprehend the economic and development concepts of post-industrialism, mobility, materialism, resource use, technological awareness that characterizes this region
6. Discuss this region in global context

E. Latin America
1. Explore the unique physical geographic conditions of Middle and South America
2. Explore the unique historical and socio-cultural conditions of Latin America, past and present
3. Demonstrate awareness of the political, economic and social conditions of the region
4. Examine the unique concerns of this region: emigration/immigration, rural to urban shift, economic integration, environmental issues
5. Analyze this region’s relationship with the United States
6. Examine the geographic specifics of selected countries

F. Europe
1. Explore the unique physical geographic conditions of the major subregions of Europe
2. Examine patterns of language and religion and other cultural issues
3. Survey the historical and political variations, past and present of Europe, including the European Union phenomenon and strong devolutionary forces
4. Analyze the economic activities of regions, the effects of globalization, ex-colonial connections, social welfare, move to capitalism, etc
5. Discuss environmental politics, ethnic cleansing and other key issues in Europe
6. Examine the geographical specifics of selected countries

G. Russia
1. Examine the geography of the Russian region: landforms, rivers, seas
2. Identify the various regions and political divisions of this region
3. Discuss the distribution of population, languages, religions and cultural influences
4. Display an awareness of the recent history of Russia, including the collapse of the Soviet Union and the aftermath: social, economic, political, environmental
5. Survey the core regions, administrative units of Russia using appropriate geographic terminology

H. North Africa/Southwest Asia
1. Explore the unique physical geographic conditions of this region.
2. Outline the historical highlights of the region, especially the spread of Islam
3. Analyze the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian issues
4. Examine the United States and its involvement in this region
5. Survey the political, cultural and regional complexities of the various sub regions, including examining the specifics of selected countries

I. Subsaharan Africa
1. Survey the unique physiographical nature of this continent and plate tectonics
2. Examine the long indigenous history plus the impact of European colonialism, past and present
3. Assess the causes and effects of poverty, lack of development, natural disasters, political chaos on the people of this world region
4. Explore the tremendous variety of social and cultural and gender attitudes
5. Examine the four major sub regions of the realm with special examination of specific nations
6. Evaluate the future of the continent, environmentally, economically and politically

J. South Asia
1. Explore the physical geography of this area: climate, geology, natural resources
2. Discuss the common historical, colonial and cultural background of South Asia
3. Discuss current issues of population growth and population geography
4. Explore the cultural, religious and philosophical issues of the region
5. Discuss the contemporary status of Pakistan and India: nuclear weapons, Kashmir conflict, ethnic conflict, natural disasters and problems

K. East Asia/Southeast Asia
1. Explore the geography of this vast region focusing on significant landforms, water features and historical and political sites
2. Display an understanding of the significant and ancient historical, religious and cultural importance of this realm, including modern colonialism, imperialism and communism

3. Discuss the current crises in this area: economic disparity, economic growth, political fragmentation, cultural conflict, poverty, environmental issues

4. Develop an understanding of the regional geographical disparities of the various regions.

5. Demonstrate a key understanding of the role of the PRC especially in the present and future.

6. Discuss the urban-rural contrasts of these regions, including an understanding of population issues, densities and control and conflict

7. Discuss environmental, industrial issues, such as Pacific Rim, special economic issues like labor, raw material provision and political concerns such as authoritarian regimes, communism, nationalism

8. Examine the contemporary issues of selected nations

L. The Pacific World

1. Discuss the physical geography of this water dominated region

2. Survey the tangled historical influences of the area: economic, political.

3. Examine Australia and New Zealand in detail

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Instructor lectures, media presentations and textbook chapter readings

B. Student research projects, including team projects and groupwork

C. Web-based, interactive television and distance learning content delivery including the use of the internet as a communication, discussion and research tool

D. Student analysis and preparation of maps and legends

E. Student discussion including oral presentations

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Pulsipher, Lydia and Alex, *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local lives*, Fourth edition (W.H. Freeman)

VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

A. Textbook
B. Course outline: Instructor generated

C. Access to a current atlas

D. Internet Access to course webpage

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Supplemental readings

B. Current Library Resources
   1. Atlases
   2. Appropriate periodicals
   3. Discipline specific DVDs and films

VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Written examinations with short answer questions, definitions, item identifications and specific map location questions

B. Completion of map assignments

C. Semester projects which can include
   1. Compilation and review of news articles directly relating to the countries and regions being studied. Contemporary news items and cultural features are particularly emphasized
   2. Collecting and writing a cultural traditions paper, referring to the students own family traditions
   3. Geographical research paper focusing on a selected country of the regions studied

D. Review of visual data, media presentations, visual reactions via selected assessment tools such as bulletin board discussion in the web delivery version of the course

E. Extracurricular activities (attendance at ethnic festivals or other events, book reviews, selected TV shows, culinary experiences)

F. Attendance and class participation

IX. ADA STATEMENT

    Any statement requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-797-3000, ext. 169)
X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College Website)