

Geog 200 World Regional Geography

Spring Semester 2018, Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30- 10:45am, Room EP122

Prof: Tom Ptak tptak@uidaho.edu Office Hours: Thursday 11-12, McClure 405B



This course will explore, examine, critique and discuss phenomena in various world regions through a geographic lens. Covering Europe, North America, Antarctica, Oceania and Asia, investigations will cover both human and non-human settings. Preliminary exploration of broad concepts and theories set the stage for case studies to analyze sociocultural, economic, political and environmental relationships. Students in this course will develop a deep understanding of the interconnectedness and interdependence shaping people and environments across diverse and complex world regions.

Course Schedule:

Part one: Broad Themes

Week 1: **Topic- Introduction to Regional Geography and course outline**

Thursday Jan 11: What is a region, geography, regional geography?

Week 2: **Course expectations/overview and Physical Geography**

Tuesday Jan 16: Course expectations, overview, Geographical relevance

Required readings: 1: Awash in a sea of geographical ignorance (On BBlearn),

2: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/17/opinion/college-advice-professor.html?action=click&contentCollection=opinion&module=NextInCollection®ion=Footer&pgtype=article&version=column&rref=collection%2Fcolumn%2Fon-campus>

3: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/all-about-addiction/201105/desirable-difficulties-in-the-classroom>

Thursday Jan 18: Physical regions, processes and patterns

Required reading: The Changing Global Environment (On BBlearn)

Part two: Regions, topics and case studies

Week 3: **Region: Europe. Topic-Culture**

Tuesday Jan 23: What is culture, why study culture in a geography course?

Required readings: <http://ideas.ted.com/11-fascinating-funeral-traditions-from-around-the-globe/>

Thursday Jan 25: Going beyond surface level culture

Required readings: The Vanishing (On BBlearn)

Week 4: **Region: Europe. Topic-Political Geography**

Tuesday Jan 30: Overview of Political Geography and the role of Europe

Required reading: Europe's Geopolitical Framework (On BBlearn)

Thursday Feb 1: Nations & States, Connectography

Required reading: <http://www.traveller.com.au/why-im-not-a-proud-aussie-2cs1z>

Week 5: **Region: North America. Topic-Consumption and Energy**

Tuesday Feb 6: Regional North America

Required reading: <http://emerald.tufts.edu/alumni/magazine/fall2013/features/up-in-arms.html>

Thursday Feb 8: Consumption in North America

Required reading: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1997/06/do-we-consume-too-much/376877/>

Week 6: **Region: North America. Theme-Energy**

Tuesday Feb 13: Energy Overview

Required reading: Geographies of energy transition: (On BBlearn)

Thursday Feb 15: Understanding North Americas Energy Landscape

Required reading: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/01/24/energy-holds-north-america-together-no-matter-what-happens-with-trump.html>

Week 7: **Region: Antarctica. Theme-The Bottom of our world**

Tuesday Feb 20: Antarctica: Exploration and discovery, partition, current status and future issues

Required reading: Antarctica: The Frozen Continent (On BBlearn)

Thursday Feb 22: Encounters at the end of the world

Week 8: **Mid Term Exam/Oceania**

Tuesday Feb 27: **Mid Term Exam**

Thursday March 1: **Region: Oceania. Topic- The Region and Environment**

Required reading: <https://thediplomat.com/regions/oceania-region>

Week 9: **Region: Oceania. Topic- Environment and Agriculture**

Tuesday March 6: Australia's Environmental Challenges

Required reading: https://soe.environment.gov.au/key-findings-all?year=96#Headlines_and_Key_findings

Thursday March 8: Agriculture in Australia

Required reading: The Great Forgetting (On BBlearn)

Week 10: **No classes, Spring Break**

Part three: Asia, The Future and Sustainability

Week 11: **Region: Asia. Theme-The region, Development**

Tuesday March 20: **Understanding Asia**

Required reading: How do You Define and Measure Development? (On BBlearn)

Thursday March 22: Development in Asia, GNH

Required reading: The Wealth Gap (On BBlearn)

Week 12: **Region: Southeast Asia. Theme-Globalization and Integration**

Tuesday March 27: Overview of Southeast Asia

Required reading: Understanding contemporary Pacific Asia (on BBlearn)

Thursday March 29: Globalization and regional integration across Southeast Asia

Required reading: http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/world/2015/09/05/the-push-and-pull-of-chinas-orbit/?utm_term=.085ee71a2dc1

Week 13: Region: China. Theme- Transformation and Integration

Tuesday April 3: China from Mao to now

Required reading: Constraints, Characteristics and Prospects of China's Transformation (BBlearn)

Thursday April 5: Regional Integration or World Domination?

Required reading: <https://thediplomat.com/2017/12/one-belt-one-road-and-one-big-competition/>

Week 14: No classes due to American Association of Geographers Conference

Week 15: Region: China. Theme- Inequality and the Environment

Tuesday April 17: China and Regional Inequality

Required reading: <https://geog.utah.edu/~weiy/PDF/phg99.pdf>

Thursday April 19: China and Asia's Environmental Challenges

Required readings: <https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/blog/china-sustainability-economy-environment-ecology>

& <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/156203/adbi-wp348.pdf>

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Week 16: Region: The World. Theme- Sustainability

Tuesday April 24: The world is full....what will you do?

Required reading: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170418-how-western-civilisation-could-collapse>

Thursday April 26: Home

Week 17: Region: The World. Course recap

Tuesday May 1: Course recap

Thursday May 3: Exam Prep

Assessment Criteria

Pop Quizzes (In Lectures) 15%

Short Writing Responses: 15%

Assignment Proposal 5%

Term Assignment 25%

Mid Term Exam 20%

Final Exam 20%

Course Expectations and Guidelines:

Academic Integrity Policy: I have uploaded this as a separate document to the BBlearn website. Please make sure you are familiar with it. Not knowing what constitutes plagiarism, cheating or academic dishonesty is not an excuse.

The perpetrator of any action deemed as academic misconduct will receive a zero for the assignment or test and also potentially fail the course. Additionally, students may also face University sanctions. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer

to the Student Code of Conduct, located at <http://www.uidaho.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/student-conduct/student-code-of-conduct>

Writing Assistance: One of the most important skills you need to leave college with is the ability to write effectively. The University of Idaho has an outstanding writing center, located at Idaho Commons, 3rd Floor, Room 323. Web: <https://www.uidaho.edu/class/writing-center>

Students with Special Needs: The University of Idaho encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. Contact the instructor promptly at the outset of the course if you need any type of accommodation. The university offers a wide range of services to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306 in order to notify your instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course: Phone: (208) 885-6307, Email: dss@uidaho.edu, Web: www.uidaho.edu/dss

Individual Differences: If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me as early as possible, so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your education process.

Deadlines: Failure to turn in work on the date it is scheduled will result in a reduction of 25% per day missed. Please do not contact the instructor after work is missed to explain a missed deadline without a compelling reason. If you anticipate in advance that you cannot take an exam on the day and time outlined because: (1) You are traveling to an official university-sponsored event; or (2) You have a prescheduled medical appointment. (3) observed religious holiday. If you foresee an absence due to one of the reasons described above, you must contact the instructor a minimum of two weeks in advance of the anticipated absence with appropriate documentation. Appropriate documentation includes a Dean's letter or letter from your coach, doctor (on official letterhead), etc. that provides me with the details of the pre-existing time conflict and is signed by the appropriate party.

Incompletes and Extensions: As all due dates and exam dates are provided in advance, no 'make-ups' will be allowed for any of the required course components, except in the case of documented emergencies.

Retaining copies of all coursework: Please retain copies of all work submitted and the original copy of all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these copies as documentation.

Computers and other electronic equipment: To complete this course, you will need reliable access to a computer and internet service.

Please be aware that this syllabus is subject to change. Therefore, it is imperative students watch online lectures and stay up to date with all course communication through the BBlearn platform regularly.