

GEO 110: World Regional Geography

Spring 2016

Meeting Time: Tuesdays – 9:25 to 10:40

FACULTY INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Jim McCluskey
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GEO 110 Course Site: <https://d2l.uwc.edu/>
Office: Room 282-B
Office Hours: 11:00 and 12:30 Tuesdays and other times by appointment

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

GEO 110 (3 Credits): Introduction to cultural geography through the study of representative and significant world regions. Examples will compare and contrast present and potential ethnic, social, political, and environmental problems across select regions of the world, and explore basic solutions. SS

GEO/GLG 110 as a Blended Course

There are several benefits from teaching GEO 110 as a blended course. In blended courses a portion of the learning activity is moved online and time traditionally spent in the classroom is reduced accordingly. Students enrolled in Introduction to Maps and Air Photos course when taught as a hybrid course will realize numerous benefits that would not be available singularly in either a lecture or online format because a hybrid course combines online learning activities with face-to-face instruction. These benefits include:

- Flexibility in scheduling several learning activities through the use of the digital resources of the World Wide Web thus releasing the student from the temporal and physical constraints of traditional classroom-only teaching
- Direct contact with the instructor at key milestones in the course to facilitate the learning process during scheduled class meetings
- Interaction on a one-on-one basis in both the classroom environment and online discussions

ASSIGNED READINGS

You will have assigned readings from the textbook on a weekly basis. The required textbook for the course is:

Rowntree, Les, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wycoff (2014). *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World*. Pearson, 495 pages.

ISBN 13: 978-0-321-82146-1

You will also have online readings associated with select topics.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Overview of Geography
- Chapter 1: Concepts of World Geography
- Chapter 2: The Changing Global Environment
- Chapter 3: North America
- Chapter 4: Latin America
- Chapter 6: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Chapter 7: Southwest Asia and North Africa
- Chapter 8: Europe
- Chapter 9: The Russian Domain
- Chapter 11: East Asia
- Chapter 12: South Asia
- Chapter 13 Southeast Asian
- Chapter 14: Australia and Oceania

COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are for you to gain an appreciation for:

- The global community and an ever shrinking world
- The similarities and differences among different cultures
- The causes of global and regional conflict based on cultural differences
- The causes of global and regional cooperation based on cultural similarities
- The practical application of concepts related to cultural geography at the regional and local level

COURSE PROFICIENCIES

As a result of the successful completion of this course, you will improve your ability to:

- Analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and interpret information and ideas.
- Interpret graphs, tables, and diagrams.
- Select and apply scientific and other appropriate methodologies.

- Recognize and use a variety of written communication forms and styles.
- Read and listen with comprehension and critical perception.
- Demonstrate a large and varied vocabulary

GEO 110 COURSE SITE

You will be using the *GEO 110 Course Site* extensively for this course on the UW-Colleges Desire2Learn online courseware platform. Outlines for all of your classes will be posted to it. Additionally, any important announcements or alternative class assignments in the event of my absence from class will be posted to it. To get access to the course site go to

<https://d2l.uwc.edu/>

and use your UW-Colleges user name and password to log into the site. Your user name and password are the same as you would use for your campus email account.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Class attendance and participation is expected and roll will be taken at every class meeting. Class attendance is taken in order to maintain information required by the University. Class attendance is not calculated directly into your final grade. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire notes from your classmates.

ALTERNATE CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

In the event that I am not able to teach class due to illness or weather, an announcement will be placed on the website and posted on the classroom door. Alternative class assignments will be posted to the class website. This work will take the place of our scheduled class. These assignments will be self-explanatory. (We will review the assignment following the class that I am absent.) Each assignment will have a value of 25 points and will be considered in your final class average in the calculation of final grades.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Learning is a serious business and should be approached as a job. Just as if you were working on a job certain behavior is appropriate and expected. If for some reason you must arrive for class late or leave class early, please do so quietly. Please keep your conversation to a minimum during class time. Excessive talking during class is distracting to your fellow students and to the instructor. If I feel that any student is being disruptive in the classroom, I will take appropriate actions based on the guidelines of UW - Marathon County.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student who has a disability and feels that alternative accommodations need to be made to facilitate their classroom experience should contact Student Services as soon as possible.

CELL PHONES

Please turn off your cellular phones while you are in the classroom. When they ring, it can disrupt the class.

TAPE RECORDERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Several students are now taping classroom lectures in order to help them recall class material and to study. If you wish to tape lectures this is a permissible. I only request that you make me aware that you are taping lectures.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cases of cheating and plagiarism on any assignment or exam will be handled on a case by case basis in accordance with the policies of the UW Colleges.

ASSESSMENT

Your class may participate in college, departmental, or institutional level learning assessments in any given semester. If the class is assessed, students will be informed of the process and given the option of not participating in the assessment. The UW Colleges assessment program enhances the quality and effectiveness of curriculum, programs, and services to our students because they are of primary importance for student learning. Learning assessments are conducted each semester in all disciplines for select courses offered by the UW-Colleges. The assessment results do not count towards your grade, but rather they are used to gather statistical information about student learning. The information derived from the analysis of the assessment data is used as guidance to your professors so that we can improve the effectiveness of our delivery of educational material in the classroom. If your class is chosen to participate in the UW Colleges assessment program this semester, I will provide you with additional information about which class activities will be incorporated into the assessment program.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We take our students' learning personally, and we take our students' rights seriously. You should, too. Awareness of your rights and responsibilities as a student is part of your educational experience.

Through a personal approach to teaching, the UW Colleges faculty help build their students' abilities and confidence. Understanding what is expected of them academically makes it possible for students to meet academic challenges. You will find these policies outlined at <http://uwc.edu/catalog/policies>

Course Access

Access to UWC Desire2Learn courses is restricted to registered students and their instructors.

Therefore, you should **never** give out your course username/password to anyone, no matter how well-intended. Even if you want to share your own coursework and/or information with a UW Colleges advisor or tutor you must still obtain permission and an appropriate guest login by emailing your instructor. We respect your privacy, and we ask that you respect the privacy of your classmates and instructors.

The materials in this course are protected by copyright, and students may only make copies of these materials for course-related tasks. The materials are not to be shared with others, or used for other purposes, without the expressed, written consent of the instructor. Materials that are drawn from other sources are used in compliance with the TEACH Act of 2002 and are covered by copyright held by the originator of the materials.

University of Wisconsin Colleges Computing and Networking Usage Guidelines:

Access to computing and networking resources is a privilege normally extended to all University of Wisconsin Colleges' students. Accompanying that privilege is an obligation to understand and abide by the responsibilities and regulations that govern the computing environment in the University of Wisconsin Colleges. These guidelines reflect the general ethical principles of the University community and indicate what responsibilities are characteristic of the University computing environment.

Accommodation of Religious Beliefs

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A student who has a conflict between an academic requirement and a religious observance must be given an alternative means of meeting the academic requirement, providing the student notifies his or her instructor within the first three weeks of classes during the regular semester (or the first week of classes during the summer semester). At that time, the student must specify the specific days or dates on which they have conflicts between scheduled academic requirements (such as exams) and religious observances.

OTHER POLICIES

We shall adhere to all policies and schedules operative at UW - Marathon County and as published in the College Bulletin and other University publications.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE

As a student enrolled in the course, programs that you are required to use include

- Internet Explorer, Chrome or Mozilla Firefox (You must have a reliable Internet connection to participate in a blended course.)
- Microsoft Word
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

OPEN DISCUSSION FORUMS

On our Discussion board, we have three open discussion threads where we can exchange general information. The first thread is *Raise Your Hand*. This is the place that you can ask me questions about the different topics that we are studying in the course. The second thread is the *Cyber Cafe*. This is an area where you can exchange information off the main topics of the course. You can consider this the chat area for the course. Please feel free to exchange ideas in the *Cyber Cafe*. The third thread is the *Current Events* forum where you can post any announcements about upcoming events that are relative to our course material.

COURSE EVALUATION

Quizzes:

Quizzes associated from lecture and the textbook will be given on a weekly basis. Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple choice questions. Each question has a value of 1 point for a total of 20 points. The time allowed to complete the quiz is 120 minutes. The quizzes are open book/open note. You are only allowed to take the quiz once.

There will be 12 quizzes during the semester for a total of 240 points towards your final grade. You will take the quizzes through D2L. Your reading quizzes must be completed by the due date and time.

Exams:

There is a midterm and final exam for the course. Each exam has a value of 100 points. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Make-up Exams:

Make-up exams will be given only in the case of excused absences. Excused absences include such situations as participation in University sponsored events, illness, death in the family. However, there are also several other situations that occur in daily life that also may be considered on a case by case basis.

Video Reviews:

During the semester, we will be reviewing five videos related to our course topics. . Each of these reviews has a value of 20 points for a total of 100 points towards your final grade. You will submit your video reviews through the D2L. **Your video reviews must have a minimum of 500 words to receive a passing grade.**

You will submit your video reviews to the Dropbox. The assignments must be submitted in the appropriate folder. Your file should be named using this format: "Smith_AssignmentTypeX.docx". You should also include your name in the actual document. In naming your file, you should **not** use any spaces or any special characters (# \$ % & =); an

underscore character is okay. All your assignments need to be submitted as a Microsoft Word file or in a Rich Text format (rtf).

CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADES AND POSTING OF GRADES

Your final grade will be calculated by the percentage of total points that you earn during the semester out of the total 450 points that are available. If alternative class assignments are given, they will be incorporated into your final average. All of your grades will be posted in the D2L Grade Book. The breakdown of the value of each component of your grade is given below.

Quizzes.....240 Points
Exams200 Points
Video Reviews.....100 Points

Total Points Available...540 Points

Final grades will be determined by the point distribution given below.

- A >93
- A- 90-92
- B+ 88-89
- B 84-87
- B- 80-83
- C+ 78-79
- C 74-77
- C- 70-73
- D+ 68-69
- D 64-67
- D- 60-63
- F < 60