

World Regional Geography

International Studies 115
University of Dubuque - Winter 2001

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Director: Mike Zmolek	Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00-2:15 pm
Office: 303 Van Vliet Hall	Class Location: Goldthorpe 309
Phone: 589-3507	Office Hours (normal): M-F 2:30 - 5:00 pm
E-mail: MZmolek@dbq.edu	(or by appointment)

This course is intended to introduce students to a broad range of global and regional issues. The theme of the course is a dual focus on the divisions of the globe (particularly regions and nations), and issues of global import that produce common concerns between regions (such as environmental crises and the actions of international institutions). A review of physical geography will set the stage for moving into other disciplines pertaining to regional geography: politics, international relations, urbanization, development studies, demographics and environmentalism. Assignments will emphasize a regional focus in the global context. By the end of the course, you should have a greatly improved geographic literacy, and a basic understanding of the key issues which shape the way the world is put together.

Format: Once we have completed the introductory material, we will focus one region at a time. As a rule, each week we will read one background chapter on that region, and you will be expected to complete the relevant chapter in your *Fundamental Place-Name Geography* text, which you will hand in periodically. Other assignments will include web-based assignments and a report with presentation. Several films will be shown during the class.

Evaluation:	Classroom Attendance, Participation and Short Assignments	10%
	Quizzes	10%
	Short Assignments	10%
	Workbook Assignments	15%
	Regional Report & Presentation	15%
	Mid Term Exam	20%
	Final Exam	20%

Required Textbooks: Bradshaw, Michael (2000) World Regional Geography,
Bradshaw, Michael (2000) Student Study Guide, McGraw-Hill.
Fuson, Robert (1999) Fundamental Place-Name Geography,
Hammond (1997) The New Comparative World Atlas,
Hammond.

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TENTATIVE SYLLABUS & LECTURE SCHEDULE (Subject to Revision)

Please Note that your workbook and reading assignments are listed in the order in which you should tackle them. After the first week or two of introduction, we will be proceeding by regions.

- 1, So the first thing you may want to do when studying a region is to look at some of the maps in your atlas. Tip: keep your atlas open as you continue with other reading.
2. You will then want to do some exercises to help you familiarize yourself with the region, so you will want to do your workbook assignment in *Fundamental Place-Name Geography*.
3. Then you will want to read the assigned reading from either your *Course Reader* or the *World Regional Geography* text.
4. If you are reading from the latter, you have the option of doing a check-up with your *Student Study Guide*. Remember, this is optional. Also, I will be asking you **not** to do some sections so we can do them as a group in class.

Text Abbreviations:	<u>WRG</u>	=	<u>World Regional Geography</u>
	<u>SSG</u>	=	<u>Student Study Guide</u>
	<u>FPG</u>	=	<u>Fundamental Place-Name Geography</u>
	<u>Atlas</u>	=	<u>Hammond New Comparative Atlas</u>
	<u>Kit</u>	=	<u>Course Reader</u>

Jan. 16 (Tu): **Introduction**

Handout: Course Outline/Syllabus/Assignments

Part One: Regions and Divisions of the Globe

Jan. 18 (Th): **Features of the Globe: Maps Seminar and Discussion**

Maps: Atlas, look over pages 4-7, 10-13, 26-27 and 71

Workbook: FPG, Complete Chapter 1: "The Continents and Oceans", pp. 1-6

Reading: WRG, read pages 582-583: Appendix: "Map Projections"

Jan. 23 (Tu): **The Gulf War and the “New World Order”**

Film in class: “Paying the Price”
Readings: Kit, Reading #1: “World Order and Political Space”
WRG, Ch. 1: “A New Global Order and Geography”, pp. 1-9

Jan. 25 (Th): **Guest Speaker: Kathy Kelly, of Voices in the Wilderness**

Region in Focus: The “Middle East”
Film in class: [we will finish Tuesday’s film]
Maps: Atlas, pages 52 and 69-69
Workbook: FPG, Complete Chapter 7: “Asia” [I. Southwest Asia], pages 70-76
Reading: WRG, Ch. 4: “Northern Africa and Southwestern Asia”,
pp. 133-147

Jan. 30 (Tu): **Key Concepts and Issues in Regional Geography**

Readings: WRG, Ch. 1: “A New Global Order and Geography”, pp. 9-26
WRG, Ch. 2: “Basics of World Regional Geography”
especially pages 28-36
Check-up: SSG, Chapters 1-2

Feb. 1 (Th): **Locating the World’s Resources**

Reading: Kit, Reading #2: “Energy, Minerals and Other Earth Resources”

Feb. 6 (Tu): **The “Middle East” and North Africa**

Region in Focus: The “Middle East”
Reading: WRG, Chapter 4: “Northern Africa and Southwestern Sahara”,
finish the chapter, pages 147-182
Check-up: SSG, Chapter 4

Feb. 8 (Th): **Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa**

Region in Focus: Sub-Saharan Africa
Maps: Atlas, pages 64-70
Workbook: FPG, Complete Chapter 8: “Africa”
Reading: WRG, Chapter 3: “Africa South of the Sahara”
Check-up: SSG, Chapter 3

Part Two: Globalization in a World Order of States and Nations

Feb. 13 (Tu): **What is ‘Globalization’?**

Region in Focus: Sub-Saharan Africa
Film in class: “Delta Force”
Reading: Kit, Reading #3: “A Global World? - Introduction”

Feb. 15 (Th): **The Changing Nation State**

Region in Focus: Western Europe

Maps: Atlas, pages 38-43

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 4, “Western Europe”, pages 44-57

Readings: WRG, Chapter 7, “Europe”, pages 288-355

Kit, Reading #4: “The Exaggerated Death of the Nation-State”

Check-up: SSG, Chapter 7

Feb. 20 (Tu): **Economic Regionalism**

Region in Focus: East Asia

Maps: Atlas, pages 38-51 and 54-55

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 7, “Asia” [III. East Asia]: pages 79-83

Reading: WRG, Chapter 6: “Eastern Asia”, pages 226-271

Kit, Reading #5: “The Drive to Global Regions?”

Feb. 22 (Th): **Urbanization and Social Change: Global Contexts**

Region in Focus: East Asia

Reading: Kit: Reading #6: “Global Restructuring...”

**DUE*: Outlines for Essay Assignments.

Feb. 27 (Tu): **Review of Part I and what we’ve covered of Part II**

**Students will hand in Fundamental Place-Name Geography texts*

Mar. 1 (Th): **Mid Term Exam**

Spring Break

Mar. 13 (Tu) **Globalization and Social Change: Local Contexts**

Region in Focus: Southeast Asia

Film: “Indonesia: Islands on Fire”

Maps: Atlas, pages 56-57

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 7, pages 79-83

Mar. 15 (Th) **Nations versus State**

Region in Focus: Southeast Asia

Readings: WRG, Chapter 6, pages 271-284, also review pages 41-42

Check-up: SSG, Chapter 6

Mar. 20 (Tu): The Legacy of Communism and the Post-Communist World

Region in Focus: Eastern Europe, Russia and the Newly Independent States

Maps: Atlas, pages 44-47

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 5: “Eastern Europe”, pages 58-61, and Chapter 6: “The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)”, pages 62-69

Reading: WRG, Chapter 8: “Commonwealth of Independents States”, pages 356-404

Check-up: SSG, Chapter 8

Mar. 22 (Th): Student Presentations

Mar. 27 (Tu): World Order in the Americas

Region in Focus: Central America

Film in class: “Panama Deception”

Maps: Atlas, pages 80-81

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 2: “North America II: Middle America”, pages 22-35

Reading: WRG, Chapter 10: “Latin America”, pages 491-495

Mar. 29 (Th): The New World Core

Region in Focus: North America (Canada, the United State and Mexico)

Film in class: [we will finish Tuesday’s film]

Maps: Atlas, pages 72-79

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 2: “North America I: Canada and the United States”, pages 7-22

Reading: WRG, Chapter 9: “Anglo America”, pages 405-464; and WRG, Chapter 10: “Latin America”, pages 483-491

Check-up: SSG, Chapter 9

Part Three: Environmental Science, Ecology and Development

Apr. 3 (Tu): Environmentalism and Ecology

Film in class: “Yakoana”

Reading: Kit, Reading #7: “Upholding Human Rights...”

Apr. 5 (Th): Environmental Crises and Responses

Region in Focus: South America

Film in class: [we will finish Tuesday’s film]

Maps: Atlas, pages 82-88

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 3: “South America”, pages 36-43

Readings: WRG, Chapter 10: “Latin America”, pages 465-482 and 496-516

Kit, Reading #8: “The Transnational Politics of the Environment”

Check-up: SSG, Chapter 10

Apr. 10 (Tu): **Global Warming and the Hole in the O-Zone**

Readings: WRG, pages 37-41 and 70

Kit, Readings #9, #10 and #11

Handout: *Role-Playing Assignments for next Tuesday*

Easter Break

Apr. 17 (Tu): **Role-Playing Exercise**

Region in Focus: South Asia

Students will engage in a role-playing scenario, acting out parts assigned to them the previous week. The scenario will have several different possible outcomes.

***DUE:** Written Report

Apr. 19 (Th): **Film & Discussion: “Narmada: A Valley Rises”**

Region in Focus: South Asia

Film: “Narmada: A Valley Rises”

Maps: Atlas, page 53

Reading: WRG, Chapter 5: “Southern Asia”, pages 184-225

Check-up: SSG, Chapter 5

Apr. 24 (Tu): **Mega-Development Projects: Global Finance and Local Resistance**

Region in Focus: Central America

Reading: Kit, Reading #12: “Revolution in the Rainforest”

Apr. 26 (Tu): **Debt, Development & the Four Giants: the IMF, World Bank, WTO and UN**

Reading: Kit, Reading #13: “Policing Countries...”

May 1 (Th): **What is ‘Development’? Issues and Theories**

Region in Focus: Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands

Maps: Atlas, pages 58-63

Workbook: FPG, Chapter 9: “Australia and New Zealand”, pages 90-92 and Chapter 10: “Islands and Oceans”, pages 93-98

Readings: WRG, Chapter 11: “South Pacific”, pages 528-560

Kit, Reading #14: “Winners and Losers”

May 3 (Tu): **Review of the Course since the Mid Term**

****Students will hand in Fundamental Place-Name Geography texts***

[Date TBA] **Final Exam**, [time TBA]

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POLICIES & ASSIGNMENTS

Grading Policy: Grades in this class are based upon a point system. You will be given both letter grades and point scores for each assignment. Your final grade will be derived from your performance in all the areas of the class, and based on your composite scores. The grading scale is 90-100 for an A, 80-89 for a B, 70-79 for a C, 60-69 for a D, and 59 or below for an F. Short quizzes will be given on most Thursdays. A review will be held before each of the two exams.

Attendance and Participation (10%) - Attendance will be taken daily, and will count towards half of your Attendance and Participation score. Excused absences will be granted by request only, where there is a valid reason for the absence. Excused absences will not affect your attendance score either positively or negatively. The other half will be a letter mark given to you based upon your *performance* in class. Performance means coming to class having read the assignments and being an active participant in the discussion, including asking questions.

Quizzes (10%) - Occasional quizzes will be given unannounced on Thursdays. There will be at least four (4) quizzes given during the term. Each quiz will have 5-10 questions about the assigned readings for that week.

Workbook Assignments (20%) - You will be expected to complete the assignments in your *Fundamental Place-Name Geography* text. You may work in pairs or groups outside of class to complete these assignments, but the answers to the questions in the book should be in your own handwriting. You will periodically be expected to hand in your workbook for evaluation.

Short Assignments (10%) - During the course, you will complete at least four (4) short assignments, as assigned by your instructor. At the end of each chapter in your *Student Study Guide* you will find a number of web-based assignments, when you are assigned one of these assignments as a short assignment, be ready to tell the next meeting of the class the answer(s) you found to the question by checking the website given.

Role-Playing Exercise - You will be assigned a part in a fictional scenario that will be acted out in class. You will receive a written description of your part, and possibly some other materials to work with. Please try to stay somewhat serious about your part, but don't worry about your "acting" skills. Your instructions will come with a set of objectives, and you should simply try to attain those objectives.

Student Study Guide: Your student study guide will not be handed in or graded. We will be using it in class on occasion as an exercise in testing what you have learned. Therefore, please listen carefully for instructions on which sections of the study guide **not** to complete before class time, so that those sections remain blank when we are using them for group self-evaluation.

Extra Credit - Extra Credit assignments are possible. See your instructor.

Regional Reports & In-Class Presentations (15%): You must write a short report discussing a region, state, nation or issue that interests you. You may wish to select a place you have felt you would like to visit one day, but have never visited. You are advised to take down any ideas you have during class, and say something about the place you have chosen in relation to what you have learned in class. The essay must cite three books or journal articles not used in the course in the bibliography. The essay must be typed, double-spaced on plain white 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Times 12 point font is preferable. An 'A' report will be at least five (5) pages.

Please provide an outline of your essay, summarizing the main points (at least 3), and a few sentences giving some indication of what you wish to put forward. You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss your topic, outline and early drafts of your essay, whether or not you are experiencing difficulty.

Based upon your essay-in-progress (unless you wish to cover a separate topic), you will prepare a short presentation (under 5 minutes), which you will present in class. Here is a list of questions you could use to organize your presentation, if it is about a particular place or region:

1. Describe the climate, and natural features.
2. What are the resources located in the area?
3. What is the basis of the regional economy? Main exports? Main imports?
4. How would you describe or classify this region's economic situation?
5. What form of government do the people of the area live under?
6. What sort of relationship do the people or government of this region have with the United States Federal Government?
7. Name three things you did not know about this place before you began this assignment.

Note: The use of maps is encouraged in this assignment.

Also Note: If you would prefer to write about a different topic (a global environmental problem, for example) you may do so, but please discuss this with your instructor.

Assignment & Presentation Deadlines:

Outline Due: February 22
Workbooks Due: February 27 and May 3
Presentations: March 22
Written Report Due: April 17
Role-Playing Assignment: April 17 (in class)

NOTE: Please be familiar with the University of Dubuque's policy on Academic Dishonesty. Read the "Values Violations" section of your Student Handbook. You are responsible for observing this policy.