

**Geography 201-001: World Regions  
Course Syllabus – Spring 2011**

**Instructor:** Dr. Gillian Acheson

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**Office Hours:** T 12:30-2:00; R 12:30-1:30; or, by appointment

**Time:** TR 9:30-10:45

**Location:** AH 1316

**Office:** AH 1412

**Course Website:** <http://www.siue.edu/~gacheso>

**Course Objective:** This course is an introduction to the regions of the world from a geographic perspective. The concept of regions is used to simplify the complexity of the world's places. This course seeks to enhance your mental map of the world. Major areas of the world will be examined in terms of issues that are currently shaping and changing these places. These issues include cultural diversity and conflict, urbanization, environmental change, resource availability, development, population growth, and the preservation of political independence and new territorial organizations. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to (1) think geographically; (2) identify important locations; and, (3) explain the distinct characteristics of the world's regions.

**Text:** Rowntree, Lewis, and Price. *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*, 4th edition (2009).

**Course Mechanics:** Your final grade is comprised of the following:

Three exams (non-cumulative)	60%
Map Exercises	15%
Wiki Project	15%
In-class exercises	10%

Final grades are based on your weighted average as follows: A = 90.0% and above, B = 80.0-89.99%, C = 70.0-79.99%, D = 60.0-69.99%, F = 59.99% and below.

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, definitions, and short answer questions based on lecture material and on assigned readings. Please note: you must bring a scantron (standard, 8.5 x 11) and a #2 pencil to class on exam days.

Make-up exams will only be granted if you (1) contact me within 24 hours of missing the exam, and (2) have a valid, University-sanctioned excuse. Make-up exams are essay format.

For students who have difficulty with multiple-choice type tests, an alternative, essay-style test is available. A sample essay exam will be shown in class, and you are welcome to see me to discuss this option further.

Map Exercises: Since this course considers the places of the world, it is important that you have an understanding of where physical, political, and cultural features are located. To that end, you will complete map exercises for the 12 regions studied. The exercises are comprised of a series of questions that you will answer by reading and comparing maps from your textbook. Map exercises, directions for completing map exercises, and due dates are posted to the course website.

Wiki Project: A semester long project that results in a compilation of web-based information on a particular country will be completed for this class. It comprises 15 percent of your final grade. A handout detailing the project will be provided in class.

In-class exercises: Quizzes and small group work will be used to monitor (1) your understanding of course material, and (2) attendance from time to time. Please note that exercises are worth 10% of your grade – if your final grade is borderline, exercises can affect the final outcome. *You are responsible for all course material regardless of attendance.*

**Schedule and Readings:** The schedule listed below is flexible and can be modified over the course of the semester. Readings are listed below; a complete list of assignment due dates is listed in an integrated schedule, posted to the course website.

Week	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1	1/11; 1/13	Introduction	Chapters 1&2
2	1/18; 1/20	North America	Chapter 3
3	1/25; 1/27	Latin America	Chapter 4
4	2/1; 2/3	The Caribbean	Chapter 5
5	2/8 <b>2/10</b>	Tying it all together (Tuesday) <b>Exam 1 (Thursday)</b>	
6	2/15; 2/17	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 6
7	2/22; 2/24	NASWA	Chapter 7
8	3/1; 3/3	Europe	Chapter 8
<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>3/8-3/10</b>	<b>No class!</b>	
9	3/15; 3/17	Russia	Chapter 9
10	<b>3/22</b> 3/24	<b>Exam 2 (Tuesday)</b> Central Asia (Thursday)	
11	3/29 3/31	Central Asia East Asia	Chapter 10
12	4/5; 4/7	East Asia	Chapter 11
13	4/12; 4/14	South Asia	Chapter 12
14	4/19; 4/21	Southeast Asia	Chapter 13
15	4/26; 4/28	Australia & Oceania	Chapter 14
<b>Finals week</b>	<b>5/3 (Tues.)</b>	<b>Exam 3: during scheduled final exam period, 8:00-9:40 am</b>	

**Class outlines:** Lectures are done in PowerPoint and the slides will be available on the course website. These notes are an outline of what is discussed in class. You must take notes in class in addition to these PowerPoint outlines.

**Class Courtesy:** It is important for each person enrolled in this course to be treated with, and to treat others, with respect and courtesy. To that end:

- (1) come to class by 9:30 am and stay until 10:45 am. If you must arrive late or depart early, do so quickly and quietly;
- (2) turn your cell phone off; no ringing and no text messaging;
- (3) come to class prepared to listen and participate—do not do other work while in class;
- (4) listen to each other's comments and opinions with an open mind; and,
- (5) avoid using offensive speech. Inflammatory comments which provoke or insult anyone in this class will not be tolerated.

**Scholastic Honesty:** Each student enrolled is expected to earn her/his grade honestly, without cheating. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses; they will not be tolerated. Cheating of any kind will be dealt with according to the *Student Code of Conduct*. (See [www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml](http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml) for more information.)

**ADA Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Disability Support Services at 650-3726.