**GEOG 111 – WS1: Introduction to Geography Winter 2023 - 2024**

**December 18, 2023 – January 7, 2024 Asynchronous Online**

# About the Instructor

Name: Ms. Susannah Oettle (she/her)

Phone: (618) 650-2097

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Office: Alumni Hall 1317

Office Hours: by appointment in person or over Zoom

## **Communication**

Email is the best way to reach me! I will reply to messages within 24 hours.

# About the Course

**Credit Hours:** 3

Prerequisites: N/A

**Attributes:** Breadth-Social Sciences; Experiences-Global Cultures; Experiences-Laboratory

## **Course description**

This course explores physical and human processes, the interactions between these processes, and the spatial distribution of these processes on the Earth’s surface. Topics include cartography, weather, landforms, languages, industry, resources, and many others.

## **Course goals and objectives**

After taking this course, students should be able to:

1. use maps, Google Earth, and other tools to study the Earth and to answer questions about our planet.

2. understand the terms geographers use to describe physical and human processes.

3. describe how some important environmental systems of the Earth function and relate to each other.

4. interpret human settlement patterns and relate them to services.

5. describe the spatial patterns and diffusion of several religions and languages.

6. explain the formation of landforms and how they relate to Earth’s geological processes.

7. acquire, organize, and analyze geographic information useful to daily life.

8. describe human migration patterns over time.

## **Course textbook**

*Introduction to Contemporary Geography* Rubenstein, Renwick, & Dahlman 2013

Undergraduate students can rent textbooks. SIUE’s Textbook Service (<https://www.siue.edu/textbook/>) can provide you with book rental information. The textbook is required as it will help you understand the material presented.

## **Other course materials**

Additional course materials, such as articles, videos, and worksheets, will be posted to Blackboard.

# Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend the virtual class regularly and to complete work on time. Students are also required to follow the Student Code of Conduct in this class (<https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>).

## Technology requirements

Technology requirements for SIUE students can be found here: <https://kb.siue.edu/104656>. This is a fully online, asynchronous course. Please reach out to ITS (<https://www.siue.edu/its/>) as soon as possible if you have any technical issues while taking this class!

## Blackboard

You must be able to access Blackboard (<https://bb.siue.edu/>) on a regular basis to be successful in this class. All of your assignments, readings, and activities will be posted online there. You can also use Blackboard to access announcements that contain due dates and other key information and to check your grades. If you need assistance, go to Blackboard Student Support at <http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/>. View Blackboard’s privacy statement here to review how your data is being used and stored: <https://www.anthology.com/trust-center/privacy-statement>.

## Attendance

It is critical for you to “attend” this virtual class regularly as this is a three-week class rather than one of the normal 16-week sessions. The class will move very quickly! You can work ahead if you like, but all coursework must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday the 7th of January.

## Reading assignments

Reading assignments are an important part of this class, and you are expected to read all the assigned material for each chapter. These assignments typically consist of textbook chapters, but there will be some supplemental readings as well. Reading assignments will be noted in each chapter’s folder and in the announcements on Blackboard.

# Graded Work

## Graded assignments can be found in each chapter’s folder. The rest of the points will come from two exams.

## **Assignments** (14 assignments @ 20 points each = 280 points)

Assignments may consist of supplemental readings, worksheets, map exercises, discussion board posts, videos, online quizzes, and other activities. You will have one assignment per chapter.

## Exams (2 exams @ 110 points each = 220 points)

Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, true/false, and possibly some short-answer questions. You will have access to a study guide for each exam. The second exam is not comprehensive. The exams are open-book but timed (60 minutes).

# Grades

In accordance with the Family Education Privacy Act, I cannot disclose or discuss grades in a manner that would compromise confidentiality. You will be able to check your grades on Blackboard. If you wish to discuss your grades, please contact me to make an appointment to discuss the situation over Zoom or in person at my office.

## Grading scale

A 90-100% (450 - 500 points)

B 80-89% (400 - 449 points)

C 70-79% (350 - 399 points)

D 60-69% (300 - 349 points)

F 59% or less (0 - 299 points)

## Academic honesty

It is important for students to do their own work, otherwise they aren’t actually learning the material. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (e.g., Chat GPT) beyond basic spelling and grammar checkers is a violation of SIUE’s academic policy and is prohibited in this class. Any AI work will receive a grade of zero. Additionally, cheating in any manner on exams or assignments will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic zero. A second cheating incident with or without the use of AI will result in an F in the class and being reported to the Provost’s office for academic dishonesty. For more information on SIUE’s policy on cheating, see the appropriate sections of the Student Code of Conduct at <http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

The University and your instructor also consider plagiarism, the act of representing the work of another as one’s own, as a serious academic offense. It may consist of copying, paraphrasing, or otherwise using the written, visual, or oral work of another without acknowledging the source. All quotes, paraphrased sections, images (except for photos you take), etc. used in an assignment or lab must be cited. Anything that isn’t common knowledge or your own thoughts and ideas must be cited. You may use outside sources, but a citation must be included for any source your teacher didn’t assign. If you do not cite a source, you will receive a zero on that assignment. For this class, a link to a website is usually fine. For a physical resource, please include the author, date, title, publisher, and other key information in whatever citation style you are most comfortable with. Additionally, copying or letting a classmate copy your work counts as cheating and will result in a zero for everyone involved. Please don’t cheat. If you have questions about how to cite a source or anything else that relates to academic honesty, please don’t hesitate to ask!

## **Submitting work**

Assignments will be turned in via Blackboard. Each chapter’s “to-do list” will have information about turning in that chapter’s assignment. Late work is accepted for up to 48 hours past the due date, but 10% of the possible points will be deducted for each day the assignment is late. If you have a major emergency (e.g., surgery) and need more time, please email me so we can work together on a timeline to get the work finished. Documentation will be required for extensions beyond two calendar days. No work will be accepted after the end of this class at 11:59 p.m. on January 7th.

## Dropping the class

Be sure you know SIUE’s policies and deadlines regarding dropping a winter class (<https://www.siue.edu/online/online-courses/winter/upcoming-deadlines.shtml>). December 19this the last day to withdraw without receiving a grade and with a refund of tuition and fees. December 29this the last day to withdraw and receive a W (no instructor permission needed). January 3rd is the last day to withdraw with permission of instructor and receive a WP (withdraw pass) or WF (withdraw fail) grade. For more information, visit <https://www.siue.edu/registrar/services/registration/registration-details.shtml>.

## **Incomplete grades**

Incomplete grades are only given for major family or medical emergencies and the like, and documentation is required. Be sure you understand SIUE’s policy on incomplete grades before reaching out to discuss obtaining one. For more information, visit <https://www.siue.edu/policies/1j5.shtml>.

# **Class Experience**

Let’s make this virtual classroom the most productive and positive learning environment possible. You can contribute to meeting this goal in the following ways:

* Be respectful of others. We come to the classroom with a wide range of life experiences. We can best learn from one another in a safe, supportive environment. Even if you do not agree with someone, please respect their right to have their own values and beliefs.
* Put thought into your work. Rushed assignments rarely result in quality work, which is reflected in grades.
* Stay on topic, and don’t ramble. Saying the same information in different ways just to reach a required word or page count does not result in good work and will be graded accordingly.
* Avoid using slang, jargon, acronyms that aren’t defined, etc. If I can’t understand what you’re trying to say, I won’t give you all the points for an assignment.
* Please contact me if your learning experience in this classroom is being hindered in any way.

## Recordings of class content

Students are reminded that replicating and sharing course content outside of class without written permission of the instructor is not permitted and may be considered a violation of the University’s Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>). This includes audio or video recordings made during class.

## Diversity & inclusion statement

SIUE and your instructor are committed to respecting everyone’s dignity. Hate speech, sexism, ableism, xenophobia, racism, heterosexism, and other forms of social pathologies will not be tolerated. Violations will be enforced in line with the Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>).

## ADA statement

SIUE offers resources to support students with disabilities. The ACCESS office coordinates support services for students with permanent or temporary disabilities. To receive these services, students must register with the ACCESS office located in the Student Success Center. The last day to register for accommodations for this class is December 20th, and the ACCESS office must get the request by noon that day. For more information, visit the ACCESS website at <https://www.siue.edu/access/>.

I am here to help you learn and have a successful educational experience at SIUE. I will make every effort to work with all students to make this class as accessible as possible. Please make an appointment to talk with me about necessary accommodations at the beginning of the semester (or as soon as accommodations are needed) if you are registered with the ACCESS office.

## Pregnancy and Newly Parenting Policy

Pregnant students deserve equal treatment as do students dealing with pregnancy-related medical conditions (including as a result of the termination of pregnancy) and new parents per Federal and State guidelines and regulations. "New Parents" refers to a parent who has recently welcomed a newborn or adopted a child or is fostering to adopt a child and needs support to mitigate the disruption in academic progress within the first 12 weeks of parenting or a parent that needs support due to medical necessity attributed to pregnancy or delivery of a child; care of newborn; or lactation within the first year of child's life or legal adoption/fostering. For more information, visit <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c15.shtml> to view the full policy and learn how to request accommodations.

## Subject to change notice

All materials, schedules, assignments, deadlines, etc. are subject to change as conditions warrant. It is your responsibility to watch for class announcements on Blackboard. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!

# University Resources

If you find that you need additional support, please reach out!

The Inclusive Excellence, Education, and Development Hub (<https://www.siue.edu/diversity/the-hub/>) is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Lindy Wagner, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Excellence, Education and Development at (618) 650-3179 or linwagn@siue.edu.

## Student services

As an enrolled SIUE student, you have a variety of support available, including:

* [Lovejoy Library Resources](http://www.siue.edu/lovejoylibrary/)
* [Academic Success Sessions](https://www.siue.edu/retention/programs/sass.shtml)
* [Tutoring Resource Center](https://www.siue.edu/lss/tutoring-resource-center/)
* [The Writing Center](http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/index.shtml)
* [Academic Advising](http://www.siue.edu/advising/)
* [Financial Aid](https://www.siue.edu/financialaid/)
* [Campus Events](http://www.siue.edu/events/)
* [Counseling Services](https://www.siue.edu/counseling/)
* [The ACCESS Office](https://www.siue.edu/access/)

## Student success coaches

Student success coaches serve the SIUE student population and help them meet the demands of the college experience. Coaches provide direct services such as time management support and referrals to campus resources. If you find yourself in need of academic or personal support, please utilize Starfish (<https://www.siue.edu/its/starfish/>) to connect with a coach as soon as possible. The sooner you engage, the sooner you can access the information or tools you need that may help you get back on track. You can find more information here: <https://www.siue.edu/retention/about/meet-us.shtml?section=coaches>.

# Schedule

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| **Date** | **Topic**  | **Graded Work Due** |
| Dec. 18, 2023 (Monday) | Introduction to the class | Extra credit (10 pts.) |
| Dec. 19, 2023 (Tuesday) | Chapter 1: Thinking Geographically | Assignment 1 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 20, 2023 (Wednesday) | Chapter 2: Weather, Climate, & Climate Change | Assignment 2 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 21, 2023 (Thursday) | Chapter 3: Landforms | Assignment 3 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 22, 2023 (Friday) | Chapter 4: Biosphere | Assignment 4 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 23, 2023 (Saturday) | Chapter 5: Population | Assignment 5 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 24, 2023 (Sunday) | Chapter 6: Migration | Assignment 6 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 25, 2023 (Monday) | Chapter 7: Languages & Religions  | Assignment 7 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 26, 2023 (Tuesday) | Exam prep | N/A |
| Dec. 27, 2023 (Wednesday) | Exam prep | N/A |
| Dec. 28, 2023 (Thursday) | Exam 1 | Exam 1 (110 pts.) |
| Dec. 29, 2023 (Friday) | Chapter 8: Political Geography | Assignment 8 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 30, 2023 (Saturday) | Chapter 9: Development  | Assignment 9 (20 pts.) |
| Dec. 31, 2023 (Sunday) | Chapter 10: Food & Agriculture | Assignment 10 (20 pts.) |
| Jan. 1, 2024 (Monday) | Chapter 11: Industry | Assignment 11 (20 pts.) |
| Jan. 2, 2024 (Tuesday) | Chapter 12: Services & Settlements | Assignment 12 (20 pts.) |
| Jan. 3, 2024 (Wednesday) | Chapter 13: Urban Patterns | Assignment 13 (20 pts.) |
| Jan. 4, 2024 (Thursday) | Chapter 14: Resources | Assignment 14 (20 pts.) |
| Jan. 5, 2024 (Friday) | Exam prep | N/A |
| Jan. 6, 2024 (Saturday) | Exam prep | N/A |
| Jan. 7, 2024 (Sunday) | Exam 2 | Exam 2 (110 pts.) |