



# GEOG 1303 151 World Regional Geography

## Fall 2019

*Course Syllabus is subject to modification and will be announced in class and/or posted to Blackboard*

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### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Mr. Daniel Grafton  
**SPC E-Mail:** dgrafton@southplainscolleg.edu  
**Phone:** (970) 542-3204  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

### Course Description

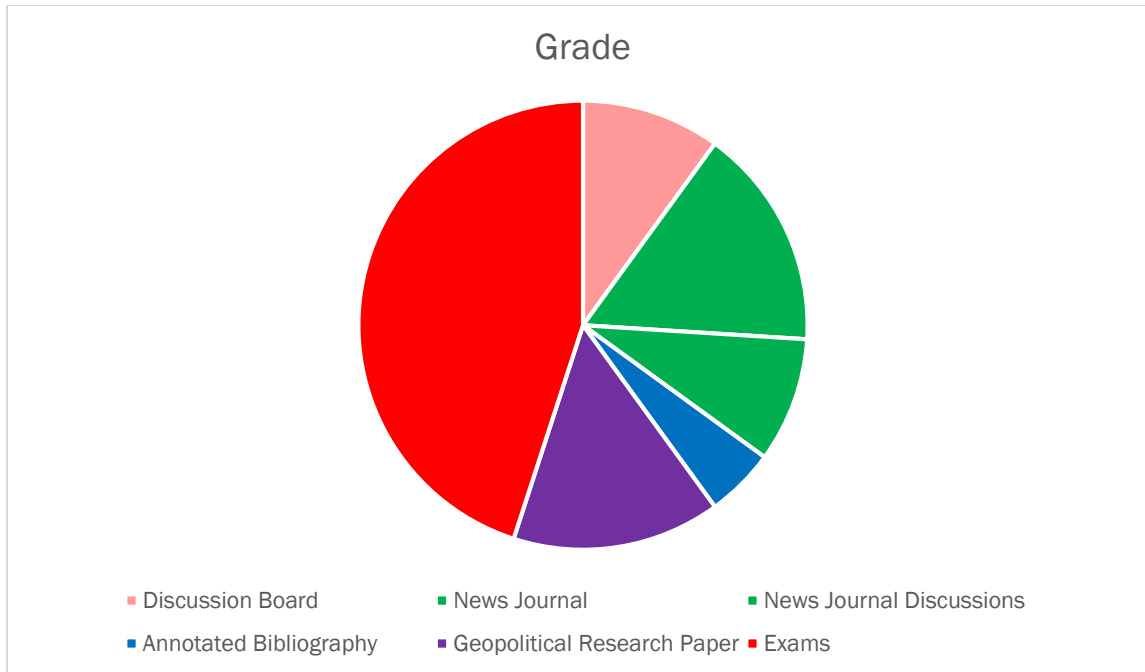
Study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments, including emerging conditions and trends, and the awareness of diversity of ideas and practices to be found in those regions. Course content may include one or more regions.

### Materials

**Textbook:** Nijman, Jan, Peter O. Muller, and Harm J. de Blij. *The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Wiley, 2016.

### Course Grading

Discussion Board	100
News Journal	160
News Journal Discussions	90
Topic Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	50
Geopolitical Research Paper	150
Exam I	100
Exam II	100
Exam III	100
<u>Exam IV (final)</u>	<u>150</u>
Total Points	1000



## Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Level of Mastery
A	90% - 100%	Superior mastery of the course competencies
B	80% - 89%	Above average mastery of the course competencies
C	70% - 79%	Minimum acceptable mastery of the course competencies
D	60% - 69%	Less than acceptable mastery of the course competencies
F	59% - below	Fails to demonstrate achievement of the course competencies

### Discussion Board

*100 points*

Students will react weekly to what they have learned in the assigned reading. Students must use their own words and not those of other students who previously posted. Each question should be responded to in 2-3 sentences. See the Discussion Board for more details.

### News Journal and News Journal Discussions

*250 points*

Students will follow three news sources throughout the semester keeping a weekly journal of their observations. Students will share their findings on the Discussion Board. Reference the handout for further directions.

### Geopolitical Research Paper:

*150 points*

Students will be responsible for writing a 3-5 page research paper on a geopolitical topic in World Regional Geography. Example topics include:

- Arab-Israeli Conflict
- China's Emergence in the Pacific

- Contested Kashmir
- Drug Trade in Central America
- Indigenous Peoples in South America
- Indo-Pakistani Relations
- Russo-American Relations
- The “Special Relationship” between the United States and United Kingdom
- Stability of the European Union
- US-Middle East Conflicts
- US Trade War with China
- Women’s Rights in East Asia

The topic must be approved by the instructor. The research paper will require citations and complete footnotes. Please reference Blackboard for further directions and the rubric.

**Topic Proposal & Annotated Bibliography:**

*50 points*

As part of the research paper, students will be responsible for selecting a research topic and compiling an annotated bibliography that displays research potential for that topic. The annotated bibliography requires a minimum of three scholarly and two popular sources. This bibliography will be graded separately from the research paper and turned in well in advance. Please reference Blackboard for further directions.

**Exams:**

*300 points*

Exams I-III will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. All exams will be available on Blackboard.

**Exam IV (Final):**

*150 points*

Exam IV will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exam IV is cumulative meaning that it will test on material from the entire semester.

**Late Work:**

Late assignments will lose 50% of the individual grade after one or two days, and 90% of the total grade after that. Students will be excused from taking the first three exams only in extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.). Documentation of these circumstances must be provided. In such cases, the student must contact the instructor, either by phone or email, within two days of the exam due date. There will be no opportunity to make-up the final exam under any circumstance. A missed final exam will receive a zero grade.

Students may only make up one exam per semester. A student who misses an additional exam will receive an automatic zero for that exam.

**Extra Credit:**

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

## Study Expectations

Throughout this course, you will need to invest a significant portion of your time outside of class each week throughout the semester to successfully complete this course - **expect to spend at least 6 hours per week on this course.**

## Instructional Method

This course will utilize the following instructional methods.

### **Online Instruction:**

Lecture time for this course will be delivered via a web-based learning management system (Blackboard) that can be conveniently accessed anytime, anyplace. Students are expected to access the course weekly at a time of their convenience and maintain regular contact with the instructor and other students through Blackboard. For every credit hour, students should plan to spend an average of 2-3 hours per week for course-related activities in a 15-week course. For example, a 3-credit hour course would average 6-9 hours per week to read/listen to the online content, participate in discussion forums, complete assignments, and study the course material.

## Course Expectations

### **Classroom Etiquette/Behavioral Expectations**

1. Comments and questions about the material are encouraged; please feel free to share either in the Discussion Board.
  - i. As Daniel Patrick Moynihan said, **“You are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts.”**
2. Assignments and Exams:
  - i. Assignments and exams will be graded and grades posted to Blackboard within two weeks of the due date.
3. “Intellectual Safe Space” and “Trigger Warnings”
  - i. Civility and respect are critical to any learning environment. Under no circumstances will harassment or hate-speech directed at the instructor or other students be allowed.
  - ii. The instructor believes that students must be challenged by and engage in healthy debate on subjects that may cause them discomfort. Students should feel able to respectfully express their opinions and beliefs without fear of unjustified reprisals. Therefore, the instructor will NOT provide an “intellectual safe space” where students may withdraw from perspectives and thoughts contrary to their own. This course will NOT provide “trigger warnings” for unsettling or disturbing material.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated in this course. If a student cheats or plagiarizes on a quiz, exam, or homework assignment, the student will receive a grade of zero for the work and will not be allowed to redo the work. A student cheating or plagiarizing a second time will receive an “F” for the course.

## **Communication Policy**

Email is the best way to contact the instructor. Email will be answered within 48 hours between Sunday afternoon and Friday afternoon. The instructor does not answer email between Friday evening and Sunday morning.

Students must use the e-mail account provided by South Plains College as their official means of email communication for all business related to this course. Any email that does not come directly from your SPC email may be filtered by SPAM or junk mail filters and may get deleted, and will not be excused. This means if you choose to forward your SPC email account to some other email account (such as Gmail, yahoo, Comcast, etc.), then do not send a response back to the instructor from that third-party account. All email correspondence for this course must come from your SPC email account.

The subject line of all email to the instructor must begin with the course number AND section number followed by the topic. The course number and section for this course is: GEOG1303-151. Here are some examples:

Subject: GEOG1303-151, Missed class - Late Assignment

Subject: GEOG1303-151, When will my assignment grade be posted?

Subject: GEOG1303-151, Final Exam Date

Email without a subject may not be read and will probably be deleted.

## **Legal Notices**

### **Notice of Copyright**

Materials in this course—unless otherwise indicated—are protected by United States copyright law [Title 17, U.S. Code]. Materials are presented in an educational context for personal use and study and should not be shared, distributed, or sold in print—or digitally—outside the course without permission.

As a student your ability to post or link to copyrighted material is also governed by United States copyright law. The law allows for students to post or link to copyrighted materials within the course environment when the materials are pertinent to course work. Instructors—or other staff of the institution—reserve the right to delete or disable your post or link if in their judgment it would involve violation of copyright law.

## Detailed Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	DUE*
Aug 30	Global Perspectives and North America	Introduction/ Chapter 1	
Sept 6	Middle America	Chapter 2	
Sept 13	South America	Chapter 3	Journal Discussion #1
Sept 20	Europe	Chapter 4	
Sept 27			<b>Exam I</b>
Oct 4	Russia and Central Asia	Chapter 5	Journal Discussion #2
Oct 11	North Africa and Southwest Asia	Chapter 6	Annotated Bibliography
Oct 18	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 7	
Oct 25			<b>Exam II</b>
Nov 1	South Asia	Chapter 8	Journal Discussion #3
Nov 8	East Asia	Chapter 9	
Nov 14	Last Day to Drop		
Nov 15	Southeast Asia	Chapter 10	Journal Discussion #4
Nov 22			<b>Exam III</b>
Nov 29	Thanksgiving Break		
Dec 6	The Austral and Pacific Realms	Chapters 11 & 12	Final Journal Discussion Geopolitical Research Paper
Dec 11	<b>Exam IV</b>		

\* All assignments are due at 6:00 pm on the due date.

\*\*The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the schedule. Students will be notified of any changes.

## World Regional Geography Common Course Syllabus

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Discipline:** Geography

**Course Number:** 1303

**Course Title:** World Regional Geography

**Available Formats:** Conventional; I-Net; ITV

**Campuses:** Levelland Campus and Reese Center

**Course Description:** Study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments, including emerging conditions and trends, and the awareness of diversity of ideas and practices to be found in those regions. Course content may include one or more regions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Credit:** 3 Lecture: 3

**Textbook:** *The World Today*, 7th Edition, Jan Nijman

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes – Social/Behavioral Science

### **Core Objectives addressed:**

- **Communication Skills** – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility** – to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

**Course Purpose:** To provide students a better understanding of world regions, cultural diversity, dynamic changes in world populations, and human-environment interactions.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

1. Recognize and explain the process of globalization
2. Comprehends maps and their role in geographical study
3. Identify and describe major world regions
4. Discuss various forms of economic and cultural diversity
5. Explain basic principles of population change and its relation to economic, cultural, and environmental considerations
6. Discuss the relationship between human activity and the natural environment
7. Discuss climate change and its impact on various locations around the world
8. Identify and describe various languages, religions, and political systems
9. Explain some of the similarities and diversity between world regions
10. Identify the interrelationships between world regions
11. Explain differences between less developed and more developed countries
12. Discuss and question cultural and economic inequalities and their effect on the local environment