

## **GEOG 1303-181**

**Instructor: Greg Ramzinski ([gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu))**

**Office Hours are found on Blackboard and posted outside the office.**

**Office location is in the Lubbock Downtown campus in 1015C.**

### **Course Description**

The course will give the student an examination of historical, cultural, religious, and environmental impacts on the development of various cultures worldwide. The course will also examine some current events and the local, regional, and global impact of these events. A general breakdown of the topics covered is at the end of this syllabus.

Credit: 3      Lecture: 3      Lab: 0 (there is no lab associated with this course)

### **Course Materials**

The text we will be using is an open-source textbook, [World Regional Geography](#) by Caitlin Finlayson. The book can be found at the link above. There is no cost to download the book.

It is highly recommended you download the book for ease of reading. The book can be downloaded in several formats. If you have issues downloading the text, please contact the instructor. The text will be used in the course and some questions on the quizzes and exams will come from the textbook.

- Students will need access to a computer with internet access. If the student does not have a laptop, one can be checked out from the SPC library.
- Materials will be found on Blackboard.
  - All assignments, exams, and quizzes will be completed/submitted on Blackboard unless otherwise specifically directed by the instructor.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. **Critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication:** to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Empirical & Quantitative Skills:** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
6. **Social Responsibility:** to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence of local, national, and global issues, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

The course objectives will be obtained in the following manner:

- For face-to-face classes:
  - Interaction with the instructor and classmates through class discussion and participation. Exhibition of understanding of presented material through online quizzes and exams.
- For online classes:
  - Participation in the class by reviewing materials posted online in Blackboard and exhibition of understanding of class materials through online quizzes and exams.

### **Grading**

Grading will be based on the following breakdown:

- Exams – 50%
- Quizzes – 30%
- Assignments – 20%

There will be three (3) exams during the semester. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exam questions will be taken from the lecture materials, textbook, supplemental videos, and articles provided during the semester. All materials can be found in the course folder on Blackboard and in Perusall.

Assignments and quizzes will be given at various times during the semester and will be found in the weekly folders on Blackboard. All assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted on Blackboard. Assignments e-mailed to the instructor, unless otherwise directed by the instructor, will not be accepted. If there is an issue uploading the assignment, please contact the instructor immediately. Late assignments will not be accepted. Do not provide a link to an assignment. The assignment must be uploaded or completed in Blackboard. You may type your response in a Word document and upload it as a document to Blackboard.

The grading scale will be:

- A = 90 – 100
- B = 80 – 89
- C = 70 – 79
- D = 60 – 69
- F = 0 – 60
- If a student receives a final grade ending in .5 or higher, the grade will be rounded up to the next whole number (e.g.: 89.5 would be rounded up to 90).
- If a student received a final grade ending in .4 or lower, the grade will be rounded down to the previous whole number (e.g.: 89.4 would be rounded down to 89).

### **Late Assignments & Extra Credit**

- There is no extra credit available for this course.

- No late work will be accepted without an approved excuse. Medical excuses must be submitted to the instructor no more than 7 days from the absence. Please see the SPC General Catalog under “[Class Attendance](#)”.
  - This will also apply to the missing of quizzes or exams which are open for a limited period of time. If you are unable to access a quiz or exam during the time it is open, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor **immediately** to rectify the situation.

### **Instruction Delivery**

- Instruction will be delivered according to the section of the course the student is registered. There are three formats for this course:
  - Face-to-face course – students will meet at a specified time and location for class lecture.
  - Hybrid courses – students will meet once a week at a specified time and location for lecture and the remainder of the material will be found on Blackboard.
  - Online course – material will be presented through video lectures and supplemental materials.
  - Each student will need:
    - Appropriate technological skill and technology to complete the class.
    - An up-to-date laptop or daily computer access.
      - Laptops can be checked out from the SPC library if needed.
      - Computer labs are available at each of the SPC campuses.
    - Daily internet access.
    - Access to MySPC, Blackboard, and SPC e-mail.
      - All e-mails should originate from an SPC e-mail. E-mails from any other source will be deleted without being read.
      - Please do not attempt to contact the instructor through Blackboard Messages.
- It is highly recommended assignments, quizzes, and exams be taken on a computer.
- Students are expected to view class materials each week of the semester.
- Supplemental materials can be viewed on your smartphone or other mobile device.

### **Course Purpose**

To provide the students with a familiarization of the cultural, socio-economic, and political environments of the past and present.

### **Attendance Policy**

Each student is expected to participate in each class. If a student is absent from class, proper documentation must be provided to the instructor to receive an excused absence. Excessive absences will result in the student being dropped from the class.

Online classes will be self-paced by the student. Each student will have a specific period to complete the posted assignments, quizzes, and exams. Each quiz/exam will be open from

midnight Sunday until the following Sunday, unless otherwise noted. If there are any issues with the quiz/exam, please contact the instructor **immediately** so a solution can be found. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture by the student taking the quiz/exam.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, socio-economic, and political environments of the past and present.
2. Describe and explain the impact of a range of factors impacting the development of cultures through history.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions of various cultures through history and their impact on the development of neighboring and later cultures.
4. Develop a better understanding of current situations impacting the region.

**South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).**

### **Drops and Withdrawals**

- If you wish to drop a course, please go to the SPC website, and complete the online form. [Click here to access the website.](#)

### **Academic Honesty & Integrity**

- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act. This includes the submission of work completed by another individual or the purchase and submission of materials completed by another individual as your own work.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:** There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. If you submit work that is not your own, original material, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero. The incident will also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions. If material is marked as AI generated material, it is the student's responsibility to prove the material generated is their own work and not the work of AI or from another source.
- Certain assignments will require the student to share comments about course material. If comments are pasted into the comment section of the assignment, the assignment will be given a grade of zero.
- *Any student found to be in violation of the academic honesty policy could immediately be dropped from the course.*

### **Student Code of Conduct**

- The SPC Student Code of Conduct can be found here <http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=59&navoid=2027>

### **Blackboard Accessibility Standards**

- Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). A third-party conducts audits of our software releases to ensure the accessibility of the products. For Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act using the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®) tool, see the VPAT for Blackboard Learn Release 9.1. For Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP11 conformance statement for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA see Learn Accessibility Conformance Statement. To learn more about Blackboard's commitment to accessibility, see <http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility>. (These resources are available in English only.)
- All technological questions should be directed to the [SPC technology center](#). The instructor does not solve technological/computer problems.

### **Student Privacy**

- South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, the instructor will NOT release or discuss the student's class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but the student. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not obtain this information from the instructor – if they need this sort of information, they must ask the student for it. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

### **Contact Information**

- If you have questions during the semester, please contact the instructor sooner rather than later. The sooner we resolve the situation and get your questions answered, the sooner you can proceed with the course. If the presentation of the material is not clear, please ask. Contact information can be found at the top of this syllabus, in the section below and on Blackboard.
- **The best way to contact the instructor is by e-mail.**

### **The instructor is available to answer questions in the following manners:**

- For face-to-face and hybrid classes, the instructor will be available before and after class to answer questions.

- Feel free to stop by during posted office hours, no appointment is necessary to meet during scheduled office hours.
  - The instructor is also able to meet virtually. Please send an e-mail to set up an online meeting via Zoom or a face-to-face meeting if you prefer a live conversation. The instructor will send you a link for the meeting or schedule the time to meet face-to-face.
  - The best way to contact the instructor is e-mail at [gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu)
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### Honors Course Option

For students eager to explore the complexities of our world in greater depth, an Honors Course Option is available. This program offers highly motivated students the chance to dive into a specific regional topic or issue that sparks their interest, extending beyond the standard course material. It's a fantastic opportunity to conduct independent research and analysis on a global scale.

*The student interested in the honors course option will need to meet with the instructor to review the items below and discuss the Honors Program Showcase requirements. A copy of this document will be provided at the meeting by the instructor.*

### Requirements for the Honors Option:

- **Comprehensive Project Development:** You'll develop a comprehensive project focused on a specific region or a comparative study of multiple regions discussed in World Regional Geography. The exact nature of this project will be determined through conversations with the instructor, allowing you to tailor it to your specific interests. Examples of projects include:
  - An in-depth research paper analyzing a particular region's development challenges (e.g., food security in Sub-Saharan Africa, urbanization in East Asia, political transitions in Eastern Europe).
  - A comparative study of two regions focusing on a specific theme (e.g., renewable energy adoption in Western Europe vs. North America, the impacts of climate change on coastal communities in Southeast Asia vs. Latin America).
  - A detailed case study of a specific cultural landscape, geopolitical conflict, or significant demographic shift within a region. The student will focus on a region not discussed in the course.
  - A project utilizing data analysis of socioeconomic indicators to explore regional disparities or trends.
- **Monthly Progress Meetings:** You must meet with the instructor at least once a month to discuss your project's progress. These meetings can be in person or virtual. Please come prepared to share your work, discuss any initial findings, and ask questions. These check-ins serve as your primary progress updates; there are no other intermediate deadlines for project components.
- **Final Project Submission:** Your completed final project is due on the first day of final exams for the current semester. The specific deliverable will depend on your project's

nature and could be a formal paper, a story map, or another appropriate artifact agreed upon during our discussions.

- *Grading:* Your final project will be evaluated using a rubric designed specifically for your project's scope and deliverables, ensuring a fair and transparent assessment of your work.

#### Registering for the Honors Option:

If you wish to pursue the Honors Option, you must register for the specific honors section of this course through the Registrar's Office. You can complete this during the regular course registration period. The deadline to register for an honors section is the last day of course registration for the current semester.

#### Getting Started and Support:

To explore potential project ideas and determine if the Honors Option is a good fit for you, please schedule a meeting with me. I'm also available during regular office hours and by appointment for any additional questions or support you might need throughout your project.

### **Class Schedule**

All material for the 8-week session will be open at 12:00 AM on the Sunday before the first day of class. Assignments will be due at the end of each week. You may work through the modules at your own speed, but once a due date has passed, the assignment, quiz, or exam will not be reopened. The due dates can be found in each individual module and also on the Blackboard calendar. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor.

**Note: All course materials are due no later than 11:59 PM May 6.**

Week 1 – Week of March 8

Week 2 – Week of March 22

Week 3 – Week of March 29

Week 4 – Week of April 5

Week 5 – Week of April 12

Week 6 – Week of April 19

Week 7 – Week of April 26

Week 8 – Week of May 3

### **Topic Schedule**

- Module 1 – Course introduction and development of geography through history
- Module 2 – Human impact on the planet and the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals
- Module 3 – Humanities progress to civilization
- Module 4 – Europe
- Module 5 – Review & Exam 1
- Module 6 – Russia
- Module 7 – North America
- Module 8 – Middle America
- Module 9 – South America
- Module 10 – Sub-Saharan Africa
- Module 11 - Review & Exam 2
- Module 12 – North Africa and Southwest Asia
- Module 13 – South, East, and Southeast Asia
- Module 14 – Oceania
- Module 15 – Current Events
- Module 16 - Review & Exam 3