

Syllabus

World Regional Geography

Geography 101

Instructor: Dr. Paul Marr

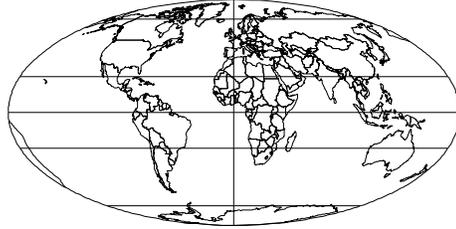
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Objectives:

This course will introduce you to the academic field of geography. By examining the realms and regions of the world, it is hoped that you will develop a more complete understanding of the geography of these places, how they interact, and the results of these interactions. Specifically, we will address the following learning objectives:

1. Investigate, using the geographic tools (e.g. maps), the economic, political, social, and spatial interaction among states;
2. Compare and contrast how individuals and sub-groups interact (economically, politically, socially, or spatially) with other individuals, sub-groups, and states;
3. Demonstrate an international perspective when examining the policies (both internal and external) that individuals, sub-groups, and states adopt under various scenarios of interaction.

This course is not designed to be hard, but will be challenging. If you find that you are having difficulty with the material, please call or come by my office during office hours.

Text and Online Material:

Essentials of World Regional Geography, 3rd edition (2014). By White, George W. et al. McGraw Hill: New York, NY.

- **Access to ConnectPlus (LearnSmart) required.**

The LearnSmart software is what you will be using to study, take map quizzes, and complete homework assignments. **Therefore, you must purchase LearnSmart AND the E-textbook before the end of the first week of classes.** Acquiring the software in a timely manner is your responsibility.

1. There are two options listed on the bookstore website, please use the option below:
 - a. *Connect Plus Essentials of World Regional Geography Semester Access Card Edition: 3th* (\$109.00) is the on-line e-book version of the textbook that includes access to the LearnSmart on-line study and assessment tools, plus a "smartbook" version of the textbook.
 - b. Activate your access to Connect by going to the D2L course shell for this class, go to the Content section, and go to McGraw Hill Campus. Click on the Connect textbook for this course and follow the on-screen instructions – you will be asked to enter your access code during this process.
2. You can also purchase access directly from the McGraw Hill website. To do this:
 - a. You will need to go to go to the D2L course shell for this class, go to the Content section, and go to McGraw Hill Campus. Click on the Connect textbook for this course and follow the on-screen instructions.
 - b. You can choose to register your access (if you have an AccessCode from option 1a or 1b above), start a free 14-day trial, or purchase access directly from McGraw Hill. If you decide to purchase directly from McGraw Hill, you will be given two options:
 - i. Connect Plus Purchase (\$85.00). This includes access to Connect/LearnSmart, plus the e-book/smartbook.
3. **DO NOT PURCHASE THE LEARNSMART AND E-TEXTBOOK SOFTWARE DIRECTLY FROM THE MCGRAW-HILL WEBSITE, AMAZON, ETC...**
 - a. For the software to connect to my gradebook and D2L it must be purchased using either points 1 or 2 above.
 - b. If you purchase the software from other vendors the work you complete will not be recorded and you will not get credit.

Grading

Grades will be assigned using the +/- system (See the most recent catalog for details). Below is a breakdown of the class grading system:

9 In-class quizzes (30 pts each)	270
9 Learn-Smart modules (10 pts each)	90
8 Learn-Smart map labeling exercises (10 pts each)	80
Homework	30
1 Seminar (30 pts)	30
Total points	500

LearnSmart Deadlines

Each online LearnSmart activity (reading modules, map quizzes, and homework) has a start date and a due date. Online assignments cannot be submitted after the due date, and assignments not completed will receive a zero score. If unforeseen issues arise, extensions can be given at my discretion. Please remember that it is your responsibility to complete all assignments. Since all of these activities can be completed using on-campus computers, personal computer problems are not an excuse for an extension.

Learn-Smart Modules (on ConnectPlus)

The LearnSmart study modules are meant to be used in conjunction with the textbook reading assignments, and is an adaptive and personalized learning tool that identifies content areas or learning objectives where you may need additional review. LearnSmart study modules are designed to be completed in 40 minutes on average, so it may take you less time if you have a good understanding of the textbook material or it may take longer if you need additional time to review. LearnSmart modules are worth 10 points each and are graded based on completion, not on how many questions you answered correctly. For example, if you complete 80% of a LearnSmart module, your grade for that module would be an 8 out of 10. Nine modules are assigned and you should make every effort to complete them all. There is an 'expiration date' for each module, meaning that after a certain date the module is no longer accessible. This date is listed on the course schedule and all modules expire at noon on those dates.

Homework

There are several homework exercises that can be accessed using LearnSmart. They are for various chapters and worth various points, depending on the number of questions. As with the Learn-Smart modules, they have an expiration date listed on the course schedule. Please make every effort to complete these.

In-class Quizzes

There are a total of 9 in-class quizzes over the course of the semester. If you must miss a 1 quiz due to approved university activities or due to circumstances beyond your control, I will give a make-up quiz given during finals week.

Departmental policy is that once I hand out a quiz in class, students are not allowed to leave the classroom. If you leave the classroom while taking a quiz, it will be collected at that point. IF you have an emergency during a quiz, please let me know.

Seminar / Regional Issue Paper

You will be required to attend 1 out-of-class seminar. You will be given a list of presentation dates and times. Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet **AFTER** the presentation. Occasionally there are events not sponsored by the department that can be used to satisfy this assignment. In those cases, you are responsible for writing a 1-2 paragraph paper briefly summarizing the event. **These papers are due within 1 week of the event, late paper will not be accepted.**

Optionally, if you are unable to attend the out-of-class seminar due to schedule conflicts you will be required to write a 3 page paper on one of the regions covered in class. The format for this paper is:

- I. Introduction to the topic (.5 page).
- II. Brief description of the region (.5 page).
- III. Discussion of a specific problem within the region (1 page).
- IV. Potential solutions to the problem (.5 page).
- V. Summary and conclusions (.5 page).

Please inform me of your topic prior to writing the paper. These papers can be handed in at any point during the semester, but **will not be accepted after our final class meeting prior to the scheduled final exam time.**

Class Attendance and Participation

Much of the material you will be responsible for *is not* found in the textbook, therefore class attendance is very important. Occasionally circumstances arise that prevent students from attending class, and the occasional missed class is understandable. However, it is in your best interest to attend **all** classes if possible. The attendance policy is as follows:

75 Min Classes (MW or TTH, 28 classes per semester):

- 2 missed classes without penalty.
- 2pts deducted of FINAL GRADE for each additional class missed, up to 6 total missed classes.
- Automatic F grade if 6 or more classes are missed (20% of the total classes per semester).

50 Min Classes (MWF, 42 classes per semester)

- 3 missed classes without penalty.
- 2pts deducted off FINAL GRADE for each additional class missed, up to 8 total missed classes.
- Automatic F grade if 8 or more classes are missed (20% of the total classes per semester).

Our departmental policy is to make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences, therefore **ANY** time you miss class it will be counted, this includes but is not limited to university sponsored events, illness, family emergencies, athletic events, etc... Remember that if you find that you are unable to attend a class(es), you are still responsible for that class material. Please make an effort to get class notes from fellow students. ***I do not give out notes.***

Academic Integrity

It is expected that your work in all facets of this course to adhere to University and Geography Earth-Science Department standards of academic honesty. If you are unfamiliar with University policies regarding such matters, please review the Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism sections at the following web page: <http://www.ship.edu/catalog/>. Note that academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Submitting another student's work as your own; also providing another student with your work.
2. Bribing or attempting to bribe, faculty or staff personnel in order to attain an unfair academic advantage.
3. Possessing course examination materials prior to administration of the examination by the instructor without the instructor's consent.
4. Using unauthorized materials or devices such as crib notes during an examination.
5. Providing and/or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination.
6. Using a substitute to take an examination or course.
7. Allowing others to conduct research for you or prepare your work without advance authorization from the instructor, including, but not limited to, the services of commercial term paper companies.
8. Intentionally and without authorization falsifying or inventing any information or citation in an academic exercise, such as making up data in an experiment or observation.

As stated in the student handbook, plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Shippensburg University does not tolerate plagiarism and makes every effort to discourage it. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another writer's own words, facts, ideas, or other materials in your own writing. When other writers' words or materials—even short phrases, specific terminology, or graphics—are used, you should put these words inside quotation marks and you should then cite the source of the quotation either in the text of your writing or in footnotes. If you use someone else's graphics, you must state the source. When the ideas of another writer are restated in your own words (paraphrased), you should also indicate the source of the paraphrased material in your own text or in footnotes. Citations should also be made for borrowing from media other than printed texts, such as websites, lectures, interviews, broadcast information, or computer programs.

Failure to adhere to these academic honesty policies will constitute an alleged instance of academic dishonesty, and I will pursue resolution through the Dean of Students. For first-time offenders, documentation of the offense will be placed in your confidential student file; multiple offenses may result in expulsion from Shippensburg University.

Special Circumstances

I am willing to make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disability, including learning disabilities. However, you must see me during the **first week of class** to discuss any special need you have. Also, any expected religious holiday absences must be given to me in writing during the **first week of class**.

Class Room Etiquette

Discussion in of the topics and materials is encouraged. However, side conversations will not be tolerated since they disrupt the class. If you are late, please enter the class quietly. If you are habitually late I will ask you to take appropriate step to solve the problem. If you have a problem that needs to be addressed, please see me during office hours or after class rather than during class time. Failure to act in a professional and responsible manner, both to me and other students, will have negative repercussions. In particular:

- ***All cell phones WILL be turned OFF and put away before class begins.***
- ***Do not leave you cell phone on the desk during class.***
- ***Computers will not be allowed in class, even for taking notes.***
- ***NO electronic devices will be allowed in class during quizzes, this includes cell phones.***
- ***Texting or similar activities during class will result in the loss of 1pt from your final grade total per incident.***
- ***Do not 'pack up' early, it is distracting. I will make every effort to end class on time.***

I recently compiled some statistics on people who habitually check their cell phones during class and those who do not. Habitual cell phone checkers earn an average of 6 points less for their final grade. This is half a letter grade difference.

Additional Important Information

- Privacy laws prohibit faculty from discuss grades over the telephone or via e-mail, so please do not ask. I will not return phone calls or e-mails on this subject.
- The timeline for the course may need to be adjusted for severe weather events or other unforeseen circumstances. If this happens I will notify you via email.
- If a due date for an exam or assignment is missed due to a University closure (for weather or other reasons), the activity will be due / made-up during the first class period after the closure. Please note that only the President's office makes such decisions, and class will or will not be held on the basis of the President's decision. Information regarding closures or schedule changes is available at 717-477-1200 or on the University's webpage (<http://www.ship.edu>).