

Geography 113 - WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

SPRING 2007

Time and Location: Section 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11:15am; Section 2: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm on Wednesdays; Science A201

Instructor: Jia Lu; **Office:** D337 Science; **E-Mail:** jlu@uwsp.edu;

(Please send your email a couple days ahead, and include your name, class, and section number in your emails. Please expect reasonable response time due to instructor's teaching of about 200 students, as well as research and service responsibilities.)

Office Hours: Tue and Thu 10:15am – 11:45 am, Wed 4 - 6pm

Tutor: Alicia Sutherland; Email: asuth202@uwsp.edu

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the world's major realms and regions, from the perspective of geographers. The course will describe and analyze the geography of physical features (climate, landforms, water, soils, and vegetation), population, and diversity of cultural elements (religion, language, ethnicity, political systems, economic development, and urban and rural settlements), as well as human-land relationships. Knowledge of basic geographic characteristics of world realms and regions is important to an understanding of current global and regional events and issues, as illustrated, for example, by ethnic tension in Eastern Europe, ongoing political and ethnic conflict in Middle East and in Southwest Asia, and the emergence of the Pacific Rim of Asia as a major economic force. Critical thinking and team work skills are important objectives of this course as well.

Course Materials:

H.J. de Blij & Peter O. Muller, *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, tenth edition, 2002, John Wiley & Sons (rental text available in the University bookstore).

Set of **Outline Maps, Location Lists, and Concepts, Ideas, and Terms** (from de Blij and Muller). Purchase for \$1.00 in class or from the Department of Geography/Geology office (D332 Science) or download and print from D2L website. Included are maps and location lists for the following realms:

Europe, Russia, North America, Middle America, South America, North Africa/Southwest Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia

All course related materials (Power Point slides, syllabus, exam review sheets, etc.) can be found in D2L (<https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/>)

You are encouraged to follow current world events, by consulting newspapers, radio, TV, newsmagazines, and/or the Internet. *National Public Radio* has two very good news shows: **Morning Edition** from 5 am to 8 am and **All Things Considered** from 4pm to 6 pm. *The Christian Science Monitor*, a national weekday newspaper, provides excellent coverage of international and national news. Major city newspapers, e.g., *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, provide broader and deeper coverage of international news than smaller-town papers. Newsmagazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek* are also good sources for international and national news. Newspapers and newsmagazines are available on the second floor of the UW-SP library. *New York Times* is free for students to pick up on campus. The current issue of other newspapers is available on request at the Periodicals Desk in exchange for a student ID or driver's license. Back issues are kept for one month on the shelves east of the Periodicals Desk. Of many possible Internet sites, <http://www.csmonitor.com> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com> are excellent sources of foreign and domestic news.

Evaluation Procedures:

The course has a total of **460** points, divided as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Exam (Total: 220 points; 1 final exam) | 48% of Grade |
| Map Quizzes (Total: 180 points; 10 quizzes) | 39% of Grade |

Group Projects (Total: 60 points; 3 projects)

13% of Grade

Exam will be based on material covered in PowerPoint slides and in the textbook. Be sure that you examine and understand the concepts, ideas, and terms (from de Blij and Muller) that are listed on your course package for each chapter; some of these will be discussed in slides, but others will not. Exams will consist of multiple choice and/or true-false questions, with each question weighted at two points. The final exam will include 110 questions (mostly multiple choice) totaling 220 points. You have 110 minutes to finish the final on line. Exam Questions are randomly selected so yours might be different from your classmates.

Map quizzes will be based on location lists (of countries, cities, water and land features, and other places) provided to you for each realm covered. You should be able to find each of the places on the location lists from maps in your textbook-either on the maps at the beginning of each chapter or maps within each chapter. There will be 10 map quizzes in total. Each quiz includes 20 questions with each question weighted at one point. You can either **drop** one quiz with your lowest score or **skip** a quiz with your own choice. You have 10 minutes to finish each quiz on line.

Group Assignments will include written reports of assigned readings about current news and events in our study areas around the world. The group will select 1 or 2 person(s) in the group for each assignment to present findings and discuss in class, and another person to work on PowerPoint slides. Normally the reports will be two-page long, single-spaced with names of each group member as well as his/her contribution to the report listed. Each assignment will be announced in class or email or D2L news. Groups will be assigned in the first two weeks of the semester. Group members are required to meet and email or phone each other to discuss and work on assignments together. Members who do not contribute to an assignment will not get credit for the assignment. If you have problems with a group member, please let the other group members and the instructor know. We will work together for a solution. Each of the four assignments is worth of 20 points. The PowerPoint presentation and papers should be submitted using the drop-box in D2L.

Extra Credits will be given to students who go to group tutoring session (2 points for each session), special lectures/events **with** advanced notice, and pop quizzes in class **without** advanced notice.

Letter grades will be given according to the following percentage ranges:

A 93-100% A- 90-92.9% B+ 87-89.9% B 83-86.9% B- 80-82.9%

C+ 77-79.9% C 73-76.9% C- 70-72.9% D+ 67-69.9% D 60-66.9% F Below 60%

Letter grades on each of the exams and quizzes will approximate the percentage ranges indicated above, however, they may be adjusted or curved to reflect class performance. **Average score in this class is normally around 75% (C).**

An Example of Grade Determination

Jane Smart scores a total of 58 points in 4 group projects.

She scores perfects in 9 quizzes and got 19 out of 20 questions correct for Quiz 10. So she drops her lowest score - 19. Her actual points for quizzes will be

$$[(20 \times 9) + 19] - 19 = 180$$

Jane scores 91% in the exam (Final Exam). Her actual points is 200.

Jane's total course points will be:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Quizzes | 180 |
| Exam (Final Exam) | 200 |
| Group Projects | 58 |
| ----- | |
| Total | 438 |

Determination of Jane's grade: $(438 / 460) \times 100 = 95\%$

Check the letter grade table on page 2 of the syllabus, 95% fits in A range, so Jane's final grade for the class comes to A.

Exam Policy: Exams, map quizzes, and discussions should be taken at the scheduled time. Every on-line quiz has 1-day window that you can take it. **NO** early final exam is allowed. Exam must be submitted within the time-line; otherwise, D2L will automatically give you a score of 0, even if you are only a second late. Make-up exams, quizzes, and assignments will not be given unless there is an evidence that the absence was the result of a conflict with a scheduled University sports or religious activity (in such case the instructor must be notified in advance) or an illness or personal emergency that can be verified (parents' or doctor's notes are needed). "My computer does not work," "There is a power outage in my house," and "I have a project due today," are not legitimate excuses. If your computer does not work at home, please go to libraries or campus labs. If you miss a quiz, or an exam due to an excused absence, contact the instructor within 2 days and the instructor will make arrangement for you to make up what you missed. The instructor will also be happy to explain exercises or concepts and theories that might present some difficulties to you if your absence was **excused**.

In order to prepare for exam and quizzes, please take the following steps:

- 1) Check the PowerPoint on the web as a guideline and read the relevant reading in the textbook.
- 2) Email or come to see me if you still have difficulty understanding the concepts and explanations in the reading or have questions after you have done 1).

The way to improve your grade is to attend classes, and spend at least 6 hours every week reading PowerPoint slides and required textbook content, as well as discussing course content and projects with your classmates in the discussion area in D2L.

There is a great website for how to succeed in class: <http://www.studygs.net/>. Please read it in detail, especially on topics such as [Memorizing](#), [Studying in groups](#), [Ten tips for terrific test taking](#), [Multiple choice tests](#), [True/false tests](#), and [Collaborative/cooperative learning](#). "Teachers open the door; you enter by yourself (Chinese proverb)." Hope you all succeed in this class!

Computer Requirement:

This is a hybrid class, so internet connection is required during the course period either at home or on campus. Cable or DSL connection is strongly recommended at home. Dial-up service and wireless is discouraged. All exam and quizzes are timed so please use your time wisely. Internet Explorer 6 (not 7) is required to take the exam. Please make sure you have Adobe Reader 7.0; if not, you can download from www.adobe.com website. Please do NOT use phone calls or use the pagers in D2L site, instead, use emails to contact the instructor. You are encouraged to use discussion area to contact your fellow students about course and project questions. Please refresh your browser often to see new updates in

D2L.

Group Tutoring:

There is a group (or individual) tutoring opportunities available on campus for this class. You are encouraged to register in the Tutoring Learning Center at 018 at Learning Resources Center. Group tutor is **free** for students receiving financial aid, first generation college students, students enrolled in Educational Support Program, affiliated with the Office for Multicultural Affairs, working with the Office of Disability Services, or sponsored by the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. All others pay only \$10 for any number of groups for the semester. Your tutor's name and contact information is listed at page 1 of the syllabus. You are encouraged to reach your tutor by email. Your tutor will meet with you as a group once a week to go over materials covered in class, answer your questions, and help you review for exams and quizzes. Your tutor will post a set of time slots during weekdays available to work with you. You can vote in class to select which time is the most appropriate for you. Students who start attending tutoring early and who attend regularly have a greater understanding of coursework and, in the end, get higher grades. If you have any questions regarding the tutoring group, please email Toni Sage at tsage@uwsp.edu.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required for the class sessions listed on the syllabus. Seating chart will be assigned. You are expected to attend classes, just as you would be expected to show up for a job every day you are scheduled to work. This is in line with UWSP requirements (See the 2005-2007 Catalog). There will be regular roll calls during class. My experience confirms that students who attend regularly almost without exception do better on exams than those with irregular attendance. Lecture materials and activities will not necessarily duplicate material covered in the textbook. Please be courteous to your fellow students and not disrupting the classes, and remaining seated until the class is dismissed at the end of the session - this will allow us to use class time more efficiently. Cell phone usage, talking, and eating in classes are not permitted.

Students Rights and Responsibilities - Please make note of the following on-line document, specifically pages 2-4, that explains your responsibility and rights within the UWSP campus community, including required behavior by students and faculty within the classroom environment:
<http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights/RRBOOKLET8-2005-06.pdf>

Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures - You attention is drawn to UWS/UWSP Chapter 14: <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>

Accommodation of Religious Beliefs:

Your attention is drawn to UW System Chapter 22, Accommodation of Religious Beliefs, on page 26 of the UWSP publication *Community Rights and Responsibilities* (<http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights/RRBooklet0102.pdf>). A key component of this Chapter is the requirement that students "shall be permitted to make up an examination or other academic requirement at another time or by alternative method, without any prejudicial effect" as long as they have notified their instructors of a conflict existing due to their "sincerely held religious beliefs"; this notification must occur during the first week of a summer or interim course. Instructors "may schedule a make-up examination or other academic requirement before or after the regularly scheduled examination or other academic requirement" and "shall accept, at face value, the sincerity of students' religious beliefs."

Announcements:

All announcements pertaining to this class will be communicated to you by e-mail, in class, or D2L news site if appropriate. You are strongly encouraged to check your e-mail and D2L news site regularly for any information in connection with this class.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE - Section 1 (Subject to changes when it is necessary)

| Date | Tentative Topics of Discussion | Reading Assignments |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|
| | (quiz available: due date 1am-11:59pm) | |
| Jan 23 | Course Introduction | |
| Jan 25 | Geographic Concepts; Regional Framework | 2-8; 29-34 |
| | Physical, Culture, Population, Political and Economic Patterns | 8-29 |
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| Jan 30 | Europe | 42-105 |

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|--------|--|------------------|
| Feb 1 | Europe (on-line) - Map Quiz #1 | 42-105 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Feb 6 | Europe | 42-105 |
| Feb 8 | Russia (on-line) - Map Quiz #2 | 108-147 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Feb 13 | Russia | 108-147 |
| Feb 15 | Russia/North America (on-line) - Map Quiz #3 | 108-147; 149-195 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Feb 20 | North America - Group Assignment #1 | 149-195 |
| Feb 22 | North America (on-line) | 149-195 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Feb 27 | Middle America | 198-235 |
| Mar 1 | Middle America (on-line) - Map Quiz #4 | 198-235 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Mar 6 | South America | 237-277 |
| Mar 8 | South America (on-line) - Map Quiz #5 | 237- |
| | 277 | |
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| Mar 13 | North Africa/Southwest Asia | 280-333 |
| Mar 15 | North Africa/Southwest Asia (on-line) - Map Quiz #6 | 280- |
| | 333 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Mar 20 | Spring Break - No Class | J |
| Mar 22 | Spring Break - No Class | J |
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| Mar 27 | North Africa/Southwest Asia - Group Assignment #2 | 280-333 |
| Mar 29 | Subsaharan Africa (on-line) - Map Quiz #7 | 335-381 |
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| Apr 3 | South Asia | 383-425 |
| Apr 5 | South Asia (on-line) - Map Quiz #8 | 383- |
| | 425 | |
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| Apr 10 | East Asia | 428-491 |
| Apr 12 | East Asia (on-line) | 428-491 |
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| Apr 17 | Instructor at Conference - No Class | J |
| Apr 19 | Instructor at Conference - No Class | J |
| <hr/> | | |
| Apr 24 | East Asia - Group Assignment #3 | 428-491 |
| Apr 26 | East Asia (on-line) | 428-491 |
| <hr/> | | |
| May 1 | East Asia | 428-491 |
| May 3 | East Asia (on-line) - Map Quiz #9 | 428-491 |
| <hr/> | | |
| May 8 | Southeast Asia | 493-531 |
| May 10 | Southeast Asia (on-line) - Map Quiz #10 | 493-531 |
| <hr/> | | |
| May 17 | May 14-15 (Monday 1am - Tuesday 11:59pm) ***FINAL EXAM*** | |
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TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (continue) - **Section 2** (Subject to changes when it is necessary)

| Date | Tentative Topics of Discussion | Reading Assignments |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|

(quiz available: due date 1am-11:59pm)

 Jan 24 Course Introduction

| | | |
|--------|--|------------|
| | Geographic Concepts; Regional Framework | 2-8; 29-34 |
| | Physical, Culture, Population, Political and Economic Patterns | 8-29 |
| Europe | | 42-105 |
| = | | |

 Jan 31 Europe - **Map Quiz #1 (Feb 1)**

42-105

 Feb 7 Russia (on-line) - **Map Quiz #2 (Feb 8)**

108-147

 Feb 14 Russia - **Map Quiz #3 (Feb 15)**

108-147

 Feb 21 North America - **Group Assignment #1**

149-195

 Feb 28 Middle America (on-line) - **Map Quiz #4 (Mar 1)**

198-235

 Mar 7 South America (on-line) - **Map Quiz #5 (Mar 8)**

237-277

 Mar 14 North Africa/Southwest Asia (on-line) - **Map Quiz #6 (Mar 15)**

280-333

Mar 21 Spring Break - No Class

J

Mar 28 Sub-Saharan Africa - **Group Assignment #2; Map Quiz #7 (Mar 29)**

335-381

Apr 4 South Asia (on-line) - **Map Quiz #8 (Apr 5)**

383-425

Apr 11 East Asia

428-491

Apr 18 Instructor at Conference - No Class

J

Apr 25 East Asia - **Group Assignment #3**

428-491

May 2 East Asia- **Map Quiz #9 (May 3)**

428-491

May 9 Southeast Asia - **Map Quiz #10 (May 10)**

493-531

May 17 May 14-15 (Monday 1am - Tuesday 11:59pm) *****FINAL EXAM*****
