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GEOG 103.01: World Regional Geography

Sarah J. Halvorson

University of Montana - Missoula, sarah.halvorson@umontana.edu

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GEOGRAPHY 103: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Tuesdays and Thursdays

11:10a.m.-12:30p.m.

McGill 215

Instructor:

Sarah J. Halvorson

Office: Social Sciences Building 211

Phone Number: 243-2793

E-mail: sjhalvor@selway.umt.edu

Office Hours: TR 12:30-2:30

Teaching Assistant:

Feihua Yang

Office: Social Sciences Building 215

Phone Number: 243-4502

E-mail: yangfeihua@yahoo.com

Office Hours: TR 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

World Regional Geography is designed to familiarize you with important themes in the discipline of geography through an examination of specific regions of the world. The course adopts both a historical and current-events perspective on the various geographies of contemporary regions. A central goal of the course is to develop a basic level of geographical literacy. "Geographical literacy" in the context of this course does not simply mean memorized facts about regions, countries, and capitals. Rather, it means building an understanding of the processes that influence how regions came to be, how they relate to other regions, and how various regions matter in the world today. To appreciate these issues, we will examine specific regions that show how historical, political, social, economic, and environmental processes shape the geography of the world around us. This is not merely to gain basic competence in a specific body of knowledge, but rather to understand the geographies that those before us have created as well as those we will help to create in the future. This type of understanding and geographic perspective will help you be a more informed and civically engaged global citizen.

While the course is ostensibly about world regions, there are also several underlying themes that will be highlighted throughout the course. These themes include a critical appraisal of: (1) the processes and politics of "development"; (2) "globalization" and the increasing interconnectedness of the world; (3) society-environment interactions with a particular focus on some of the most pressing water problems that people in the world are confronted with today; and (4) critical thinking about data and information sources. In addition to addressing these

themes, this course is designed to encourage you to ask questions about regions and our relationship to them. Thus, we will strive to learn a new way of thinking critically about the world that will be meaningful to you beyond the scope of this course.

We will cover a variety of topics and a daunting amount of geographical territory in a short period of time. As a result, it is imperative that you remain on schedule with course readings and assignments.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Rowntree et al.'s *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development, Second Edition* (Prentice Hall).
2. *Diversity Amid Globalization Interactive CD* which accompanies the textbook.
3. *Atlas of World Geography* which comes bundled with the course textbook.
4. You are also expected to keep up with current world events during the semester. Some useful and reliable sources of news include:
 - * *The New York Times* (especially the Sunday issue)
 - * National Public Radio (NPR) shows "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" (on KUFM 89.1 FM)
 - * *The Economist* magazine
 - * British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)'s radio program "The World"
 - * *Christian Science Monitor* (a variety of student subscriptions are available)

NOTE: Copies of the textbook, CD and the atlas have been placed on RESERVE in the Mansfield Library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order for us to achieve the goal of acquiring geographical knowledge about the regions of the world, your attendance and active participation in the lectures are absolutely critical. It should be stressed that lectures will go beyond the material presented in the textbook; reading the textbook and showing up for exams will simply not be enough to pass this course. If you miss lecture, it is your responsibility to get the notes from one of your colleagues in the class.

Map Projects:

Map projects consist of completing map assignments and turning them in on the due date. For all of the map projects you will be using the interactive CD which comes with your textbook. If you have questions or run into problems using your CD, please consult the TA. You will be allowed two free late assignments up to one week after the due date. Subsequent late assignments will not be accepted unless permission is obtained from the instructor. If a lateness is due to an unforeseen medical difficulty or something similar, appropriate documentation must be provided stating such in order for late work to be considered for acceptance. Maps must be neatly completed by the time they are due, and all responses to thought questions must be typed. Some slight modifications of map assignments may be specified in class.

Exams:

There will be four exams: three will be mid-term exams and one will be a comprehensive final exam. The exams will test your knowledge and understanding of material presented in class, videos, readings, virtual field trips (on the CD), and map assignments. Please note all exam dates on the course outline. Make up exams will not be given without an official medical excuse.

Extra Credit:

It is possible to earn a maximum of 20 extra credit points during the semester. Potential extra credit activities which are worth up to 5 points include: attending a scholarly lecture, viewing a documentary film, participating in a community service activity which has an international dimension, or conducting an oral history with a friend or relative from another country. A typed report (1-2 pages in length) summarizing the activity, what you learned, and how it relates to course material must be turned in to me in order to receive points.

GRADES

The map projects combined are worth 200 points. There will be three mid-term exams and a final exam. Each exam counts for 100 points. The grading summary is as follows:

Grading Summary:

Map Projects	10 @ 20 points each	200 points
Exams	4 @ 100 points each	400 points
Final Grade		600 possible points

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week & Date	Topic	Readings
<i>Week 1</i>		
Sept. 3	Introduction to the course, Regions and their Representation	
Sept. 5	Building a Geography for the 21 st Century	Ch. 1
<i>Week 2</i>		
Sept. 10-12	The Changing Global Environment	Ch. 2
<i>Week 3</i>		
Sept. 17	Europe, Map Project #1 Due	Ch. 8
Sept. 19	Europe	Ch. 8
<i>Week 4</i>		
Sept. 24	Latin America & the Caribbean, Map Project #2 Due	Ch. 4 & 5
Sept. 26	Latin America & the Caribbean	Ch. 4 & 5

Week 5		
Oct. 1	EXAM I	
Oct. 3	Sub-Saharan Africa, Map Project #3 Due	Ch. 6
Week 6		
Oct. 8	Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 6
Oct. 10	Southwest Asia and North Africa, Map Project #4 Due	Ch. 7
Week 7		
Oct. 15	Southwest Asia and North Africa	Ch. 7
Week 8		
Oct. 22	The Russian Domain, Map Project #5 Due	Ch. 9
Oct. 24	The Russian Domain	Ch. 9
Week 9		
Oct. 29	EXAM II	
Oct. 31	Central Asia, Map Project #6 Due	Ch. 10
Week 10		
Nov. 5	<i>Election Day, no class</i>	
Nov. 7	Central Asia	Ch. 10
Week 11		
Nov. 12	East Asia, Map Project #7 Due	Ch. 11
Nov. 14	East Asia	Ch. 11
Week 12		
Nov. 19	South Asia, Map Project #8 Due	Ch. 12
Nov. 21	South Asia	Ch. 12
Week 13		
Nov. 26	EXAM III	
Nov. 27-29	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
Week 14		
Dec. 3	Southeast Asia, Map Project #9 Due	Ch. 13
Dec. 5	Southeast Asia	Ch. 13
Week 15		
Dec. 10	Australia and Oceania, Map Project #10 Due	Ch. 14
Dec. 12	Australia and Oceania, Course Wrap-up	Ch. 14
Dec. 17	EXAM IV 10:10-12:10	