

World Regional Geography GEOG 1302: 001

Class Meetings: MWF 9:00am-9:50am, Lawrence Hall 200

Instructor: Dr. Jen McCormack

Instructor Email: jennifer.mccormack@sulross.edu

Instructor Office Phone: (432) 837-8161

Instructor Office Hours and Location: LH 302, 10:00am-10:50 am MWF or by appointment



Welcome to World Regional Geography! You may be taking this for a requirement, but will leave this course a geography convert. We will conduct a survey of our amazing Earth by world region and obtain social science skills like critical analysis of text, research and writing, and group projects. In our course we will give special attention to political and economic movements around the world, including the diverse alternatives to globalization—as well as understanding globalization.

Each region will include a discussion on the Indigenous peoples of that region and the effects of colonial contact over time and today. We will consider how the natural environment affects culture, economy and society and conversely, how human activity has altered the physical environment. We will analyze contemporary issues like environmental sustainability, grassroots mobilization, alternative political structures as well as the mainstream international political and economic institutions of the United Nations, the World Bank, G8 and International Monetary Fund.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The graduating student will demonstrate:

- Acquisition of a geographical perspective on world regions, cultures, economy, environment, nations, states and non-state actors.
- Development of a geographical imagination and critical analysis of data, theory and texts
- Acquisition of research skills:
 - Primary research sources
 - Application of social theory
 - Written and verbal presentation of original research
- Analyze meta queries: What are world regions and how do they influence human identity (individual and group)? What are the impacts of human activity on the earth? What is space, place, nations, states, regions, and globalization?

The Americans with Disabilities Act

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832, Telephone Number 432-837-8203.

Class Policy

We won't always agree and that is what makes a stimulating discussion! However, we owe each other respect to listen and articulate diverse viewpoints. A dynamic classroom depends on you.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated at any level.

Textbook

The text is available for purchase at the Sul Ross State University Bookstore or online:

World Regions: In Global Context by Marston, Knox, Liverman, Del Casino and Robbins, 5e., Pearson, 2017

Additional Readings: Supplementary readings noted on the schedule are available on the course Blackboard site. Additional readings maybe be included throughout semester at discretion of instructor. These readings will allow us to develop a more complex understanding of global realities and the discipline of geography. All readings are integral to course and fair game in exams.



Assignments

Reading and Participation [20 points]: The readings for each week are listed on the schedule. Recommendation is to have material read by Monday class, unless otherwise noted by instructor. All the material in the readings is fair game in quizzes and exams, and not all of the reading will be covered in lecture and class discussions. Additionally, lecture, class discussions and film clips are also materials that will be included on exams and should be part of your response essays and reports. **Attending class on-time and participating in discussion is fundamental to passing this course.** One unexcused absence is permitted, other absences will be noted and deducted from participation points. Contact instructor via email if emergencies arise.

Data Analysis Assignments (DA) and Quizzes (Q) [10 points each, 80 points total]: There will be a short quiz on Fridays **OR** alternately, a data analysis assignment from that chapter, due on the Friday of that week. DA details will be distributed by instructor.

Response Essays (RE) [25 points each, 50 points total]: Two response essays of 2-4 pages, 12-point font, double-spaced with citation pages. The instructor will distribute prompts and load them on the Blackboard class site for reference. These essays will be an opportunity to analyze class concepts against your research and perspectives.

Mapping Projects (MP) [25 points each, 50 points total]: Two mapping projects will be part of class on mapping workshop days and then due in completion the following week. The instructor will give you a mapping guide the week of the workshop.

Small Group Regional Project [100 points]:

- 1) **Group meeting with instructor-** We will go over your in-class presentation on culture and resources for your report and the global summit. Email instructor for appointment during office hours or another time.
- 2) **Cultural Introduction-** The week that we discuss your region, your small group will present 10 minutes on the culture of that region on the Wednesday. Cultural presentations should include the following:
 - a. Introduction to the region, including the different nation-states and people groups of that area. This is the background information to situate your cultural influences and the dynamism of culture through space.
 - b. Select a cultural example to share and discuss with the class. This can be a film clip, music video, food dish, fashion, literature, art, language examples, etc. Be able to share this deep cut from your region and explain how it symbolizes a certain time of history, influence, politics, economy, etc. of your geography.
 - c. Finding your example: good beginnings to your research include reading the “Geographies of indulgence, desire and addiction” in the chapter of your region and the section “Culture and Populations.” Both sections talk about different culture examples. Secondly, visit a news source like the Guardian, BBC News, Vice, etc. to get deeper profiles of your region. You may select one country from your region to focus on in your research.
Guardian- <https://www.theguardian.com/us>
BBC News Country Profile-
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
Vice- <https://news.vice.com/>
Intercontinental Cry- <https://intercontinentalcry.org/>
Al Jazeera- <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/>

- 3) **Report-** Each group will submit a 3-5 page report on their region. The report needs to answer these questions:
- a. **Map of the region-**
 - b. **Nation-states and non-state actors in the region**
 - c. **What are the main economic forces in your region?** Think about natural resources and both local and global influences. Consider what parts of the economy are main drivers, what is legal/illegal.
 - d. **What are the political forces in your region?** Be sure to base your analysis from an internal perspective. In other words, don't look at this region in the content of what it means to the U.S., but what political realities are for the people there. What type of political system have they developed over time? Have they dealt with colonial forces?
- 4) **Participation in the Global Summit-** The class will participate in a global summit where each group will represent their region in the areas of politics, economy, environment and population. The instructor will pose different international problems for each region to address and collaborate. There will be two class meetings of the global summit.
- 5) **Assessment of Group Contribution-** Due final day of class, each group member will assess the contributions of the group as a whole. *If groups have challenges, contact instructor.

Mid-Term and Final [100 points each]:

There are two exams, each covering text book, lecture, film, field and class discussion materials up to the exam date. Materials shared by colleagues in their presentations can be included! The final is comprehensive.

Grading Scale

500-450	A
449-400	B
399-350	C
349-300	D
299-0	F

Schedule

*subject to change by instructor

Aug 22/Week 1: Introduction

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 1

Fri: **DA 1 Due**

Aug 29/Week 2: Global Economy, Power and Maps

Mon Reading: “Globalization” (Warf), “Political Economy” (Robbins, et al.)

Wed Reading: “Maps, Knowledge and Power” (Harley)

Fri: **Site Visit to Museum of Big Bend Map Collection (DA 2 Activity)**

Sept 5/Week 3: Europe

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 2

Mon: **DA 2 Due**

Fri: **Q1**, Mapping Workshop

Sept 12/Week 4: Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasus

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 3

Wed: **MP1 Due**

Fri: **RE 1 Due, No Quiz or Data Analysis**

Sept 19/Week 5: Middle East and North Africa

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 4

Film: *Five Broken Cameras*

Fri: **Q2**

Sept 26/Week 6: Sub-Saharan Africa

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 5

Fri: **DA3**

Oct 3/Week 7: U.S. and Canada

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 6

Fri: **Q3**

Oct 10/Week 8: Latin America and Caribbean

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 7

Fri: **DA4**

Oct 17/Week 9: Mid Term

Mon: Midterm Review

Wed: Midterm

Fri: Mapping Workshop

Oct 24/Week 10: East Asia

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 8

Wed: **MP 2 Due**

Oct 31/Week 11: South Asia

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 9

Fri: No class meeting for group projects work session

Nov 7/Week 12: Southeast Asia

Reading: *World Regions*, Ch 10

Fri: Q4

Nov 14/Week 13: Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific: Oceania

Readings: *World Regions*, Ch 11

Film: *Charlie's Country*

RE 2 Due on Friday, No Quiz or Data Analysis

Nov 21/Week 14: Global Summit, I

Mon- Global Summit

Wed-Fri-Thanksgiving Break

Nov 28/Week 15: Global Summit, II

Mon- Global Summit

*Small Group National Reports Due

Wed-Final Review

Dec 5/Week 16: Final

Final TBA