

GEOGRAPHY 1030-001 / 10942/ WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY / SPRING 2016

MWF 1:25-2:15/ Room 100, Hardin Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Challenging the premises behind the key words of the course title: *world*, *region*, and *geography*, we will survey the regions of the world both conventionally and critically. We will visit the world's countries and regions from a fresh unbiased perspective, one in which the United States is a large and important country, but not necessarily always right or the best of all places.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (for all of us):

- Focus, at least briefly, on the locations, shapes, sizes, and various other characteristics of every single recognized country in the world.
- Explain the benefits and limitations of many of various conventions for measuring and comparing countries of the world.
- Locate sources of meaningful data and reliable information about the condition and experiences of inhabitants of the world.
- Demonstrate/understand basic cartographic skills and conventions.
- Recognize the rationales, assumptions behind the conventional ways in which the world is regionalized.
- Experiment with novel regionalizations of the world.
- Evaluate reliability of world news media sources.
- Describe/explain current events without fear-mongering or emphasizing dualities.
- Demonstrate Social Science and Cross Cultural Gen-Ed proficiencies.
- Appreciate foreign language films as a kind of brief cultural immersion experience.
- Engage the "native" knowledge of Clemson's international students.
- Become more compassionate citizens of the world.
- Explore ways to learn by giving and/or improving the world.

Instructor	Title	Office Hours	Contact Info
Lance Howard	Senior Lecturer	MWF 10-12; W 4-6; and by appt. Hardin 030	lhoward@clemson.edu 864-656-2004
Clark Simmons	Teaching Assistant	W 10-12 and by appt. Hardin 001	msimmo3@g.clemson.edu 864-656-5378

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

- MasteringGeography access card package for *World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environments* (5th Edition). SA Marston, PL Knox, DM Liverman, V Del Casino Jr., PF Robbins. *The textbook itself is not required.* The access code may be purchased online at www.masteringgeography.com. Join the Class with this ID: **MGEOGHOWARD86003**
- Access to world news outlet (Satellite or cable TV, phone app, or online account)
- Colored pencil set with 8 or more colors.
- Portable online device

DAILY SCHEDULE

DATES	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
1/6, 8	X	INTRO	INTRO
1/11, 13, 15	INTRO	INTRO	S-S AFRICA HW1
1/18, 20, 22	S-S AFRICA Q1	S-S AFRICA	S-S AFRICA
1/25, 27, 29	M EAST & N AFRICA Q2	M EAST & N AFRICA HW2	M EAST & N AFRICA
2/1, 3, 5	M EAST & N AFRICA Q3	EUROPE	EUROPE
2/8, 10, 12	EUROPE Q4 A1	EUROPE	RUSSIA
2/15, 17, 19	RUSSIA HW3 Q5	RUSSIA	RUSSIA
2/22, 23, 25	S ASIA Q6	S ASIA	S ASIA
2/29, 3/2, 4	S ASIA Q7	E ASIA	E ASIA HW4 midterm grades
3/7, 9, 11	E ASIA Q8 A2	E ASIA	SE ASIA
3/14, 16, 18	<i>SPRING</i>	<i>BREAK</i>	<i>WEEK</i>
3/21, 23, 25	SE ASIA Q9	SE ASIA	SE ASIA
3/28, 30, 4/1	OCEANIA Q10	OCEANIA HW5	OCEANIA
4/4, 6, 8	OCEANIA Q11	N AMERICA	N AMERICA
4/11, 13, 15	N AMERICA Q12	N AMERICA	L AMERICA
4/18, 20, 22	L AMERICA Q13 A3	L AMERICA HW6	L AMERICA
Exam Week	Q14		FINAL REPORT DUE (Fri. April 29, midnight)

WHAT IS CT2, IS IT HARDER, WHY DO WE NEED IT, HOW WILL IT AFFECT THE COURSE?

In Clemson's most recent institutional evaluation it was noted that while our graduates in general scored well on math and language skills, we did not measure so well against our peers in critical thinking. To address this we are beginning to incorporate critical thinking methodologies into certain existing courses. If we succeed, you leave the course not only having gained geographic knowledge but also having gained the ability to use that knowledge to improve your geographic reasoning. To verify the effectiveness of this course in improving your critical thinking skills, you will be given course credit for taking two standardized critical thinking tests at the beginning and end of the semester. If you take both (before and after) tests with apparent earnest effort you will receive 10 points credit which may be substituted for a 10 point online quiz or the 10-point Outside Activity/Film Review assignment. Both CT2 tests must be taken or no credit is earned.

Since much of the informational content of the course is given in online HW assignments, Atlas, and Quiz assignments, our face-to-face time in the classroom provides us with us opportunities to hone critical thinking skills a) by learning and "trying on" various perspectives on particular issues of global concern from different countries in different regions; b) to provide examples and illustrations of important geographical terms and concepts for mastery of the terms/concepts; c) to question the integrity of the current region of study and explore possible alternative regionalizations; d) to examine media coverage of particular world news events from multiple media perspectives; e) to delve more deeply into the environmental, cultural, demographic, economic, and/or political characteristics of places/countries/regions for the purpose of cross-cultural understanding and/or understanding of social science methodologies. For more information on CT2 go to <http://www.clemson.edu/assessment/thinks2/>

ATTENDANCE, ATTENTION, AND CLASS CULTURE

The contact hours for this course will not be used primarily to download course content from me to you. Rather, our time will be spent with illustrative presentations, some of which you will prepare, small group discussions, and international student visitors. Your attendance is therefore essential for the success of the course. Without your attention and participation less will be learned. Every class should be a unique experience that cannot be fully duplicated. We are working together, teaching each other how to better understand the world. You are part of the teaching process. Along with that role you have responsibilities:

- Arrive and be seated by 1:25 PM (notify TA of need for late arrival or early departure)
- Remain in your seat for the entire duration of class. **Walk-outs must check out with TA or be counted absent.**
- Keep laptops closed unless asked to use them.
- Refrain from eating during class.
- Refrain from all cell phone use during class unless instructed otherwise.
- Avoid mundane inter-student chatter.
- Treat everyone with the highest respect and compassion.
- Remove and recycle any wrappers or containers you consume.

At the TA's discretion, violating any of the behavioral standards listed above may constitute ½ or more absence. We welcome you to report any behavior you find distracting for the sake of an improved learning environment.

Once we have established our seating chart all absences will be recorded by the TA and posted in a column in Blackboard at the end of each week. You are allowed six absences without question. These six are intended to include both “elective” absences as well as “excusable” absences. You are encouraged to explain your “excusable” absences by sending an email to the Instructor (not the TA): lhoward@clermson.edu.

If you accumulate seven or more absences without legitimate explanation you may be emailed a warning that you are at risk of being dropped from the course. ***Furthermore, you will lose important privileges such as the ability to turn in late work (with minor penalty) and the ability to earn extra credit.***

SUBREGIONS AND ASSIGNED SEATS

A few days into the course you will be assigned a numbered seat for the semester. If that seat is vacant on any particular day you will be marked absent. According to its location in the classroom your assigned seat also carries with it a subregional designation. It assigns you to a particular subset of countries in one of the world’s ten world regions (as defined by Mastering Geography). Your subregional identity will determine the way you respond to certain assignment questions and Group Work.

COURSE WORK

The work for the course is broken into several different modules worth various amounts of course points. All points are weighted equally even though some may seem “easier” to earn than others. It is, therefore, important to your final grade that you acquire the “easier” points. Do not expect to earn your grade by cramming and acing exams. There aren’t any.

LATE WORK is generally accepted within a week of the due date, but penalties up to 10% per class period late may be imposed if the lateness is deemed unwarranted.

Brief descriptions of each module follow. I reserve the right to modify some of the instructions or due dates if the need arises.

MASTERING GEOGRAPHY HOMEWORK (HW) ASSIGNMENTS (120 points total; 6 @ 20 each)

The 6 homework assignments follow a sequence of world regions as defined in Mastering Geography. The regional sequence has been re-ordered to follow the believed route of humans from their hypothesized place of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa to the place of supposed most recent habitation in South America. These interactive multiple choice HW exercises introduce you to the fundamental terms and concepts of geographical inquiry and the main features of each of the ten world regions. The terms, concepts and features will be reinforced in the classroom discussions and exercises and in quiz questions. **HW** due dates are listed in the Daily Schedule above.

ATLAS (A) ASSIGNMENTS (120 points total; 3 @ 40 each)

The 3 Atlas Assignments will (re)establish and reinforce your knowledge of country locations as they also inform you of thematic patterns on regional and global scales. Each Atlas will consist of a full set of ten world region maps and one or more world maps. You will print outline maps from the Mastering Geography site and then color and mark them with thematic information

from the three overarching themes of 1) physical geography, 2) social and cultural geography, and 3) economic and political geography. You may also be assigned subregional map exercises.

The Map portion of the Atlas is worth roughly 30 points. In addition, you will be given Analysis questions requiring you to evaluate and interpret the data in your map sets. Your Analysis will be uploaded into a BB portal.

The Map portions of Atlases will be scored by the TA and should be turned in as hard copies in class or outside my office door in 030 Hardin. Atlas (A) due dates are listed in the Daily Schedule above.

ONLINE QUIZZES (Q) (140 total; 14 @ 10 each)

Open book, untimed quizzes will be given weekly on Blackboard, requiring you to review all the course material we have gone over during class or new material sent by email. The quiz questions will be sent and posted at least two full days before the due date.

Quiz (Q) due dates are listed in the Daily Schedule above.

GROUP WORK (120 points total, 4 @ 30 points each)

Four assignments will involve work in your assigned subregional groups collecting and comparing data or other kinds of information and/or working towards understanding and solving world problems. Your Group Work will involve collaboration and discussion with others in your subregion and/or world region. You will file a single group report but each person will be expected to contribute to each report.

Group Report due dates will be given with each set of assignment instructions.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY/FILM REPORT (10 points possible (+2/+10 extra credit))

Qualified Outside Activities (lectures, films, festivals, brickmaking, etc.) listed on the Blackboard Course Calendar may be reported upon (following specific guidelines) for up to 10 points Extra Credit and/or to substitute for another assignment. Instructions for writing the report will be posted on Blackboard. Twelve points (+2 EC) will be given for attending and adequately reporting on such an event. As an alternative, for 10 points maximum, you must watch an approved foreign language film made in a country from your subregion and write a report following specific guidelines. Outside Activity reports are generally due within three class periods of the activity. Film Reviews are due on the last day of scheduled class. Both must be uploaded into a BB portal.

You may report on a second approved Activity or film for up to 10 points EC.

FINAL REPORT (30 points (+5 extra credit))

The final report will require two essays designed to generate responses that will serve to demonstrate your competency in GEOG1030's two Gen-Ed designations: Social Science and Cross-Cultural Awareness. For the cross-cultural essay you must watch a foreign language film, made in a country from your subregion if possible. The social science essay will involve choosing and analyzing sets of statistical information from your assigned country. A five-point extra-credit option will be available on the Final Report. The Final Report is due on the last day of exam week.

DETERMINING YOUR SCORES AND GRADES

Your course grade will be determined by your accumulated point total at the end of the session. Raw scores for the online work are immediately recorded in the MasteringGeography Gradebook. All scores except for HWs will be posted in Blackboard Gradebook. A column for the HW totals will be added at the end of the semester in order to display your total course points. The table below shows the allocation of points according to assessment module (quiz, atlas, HW, etc.) and the letter grades to be awarded according to course point total.

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS PER ASSESSMENT MODULE		LETTER GRADE CONVERSION SCALE	
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS	120	A	495+
ATLAS ASSIGNMENTS	120	B	440-494
ONLINE QUIZZES	140	C	385-439
GROUP WORK	120	D	330-384
FINAL REPORT	40		
OUTSIDE ACTIVITY	10(12)		
EXTRA CREDIT	(10)		
CT2 TESTS	(10)		
TOTAL POSSIBLE	550		

GEN-ED COMPETENCY

Geography 1030 meets the Social Science and Cross-Cultural Awareness General Education requirements. This course is part of a pilot program to test new possibilities for assessing Gen-Ed competencies in the two aforementioned areas. Your Final Report will contain two essays, one to serve for each competency.

SPECIAL LEARNING ARRANGEMENTS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should make an appointment with Dr. Margaret Camp (656-6848), Director of Disability Services, to discuss specific needs within the first month of classes. Students should present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services when they meet with instructors. Accommodations are not retroactive and new Faculty Accommodation Letters must be presented each semester.

THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TITLE IX (SEXUAL HARASSMENT) STATEMENT

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity (e.g., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in any complaint process, etc.) in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy is located at <http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/>. Mr. Jerry Knighton is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator. He also is the Director of Access and Equity. His office is located at 111 Holtzendorff Hall, 864.656.3181 (voice) or 864.565.0899 (TDD).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As members of the Clemson University community, you are expected to uphold the vision of this institution as a 'high seminary of learning.' Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others.

When, in my opinion, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, I may make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, with a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

In addition, anyone found committing academic dishonesty will receive a 0 for the quiz, exam, or paper affected, and may be dropped with the grade of F from the course and reported to the Academic Integrity Committee.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

Many materials in this course are copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act. Students should be reminded to refer to the Use of Copyrighted Materials and "Fair Use Guidelines" policy on the Clemson University website for additional information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/library/reference/gr/patents.html>.

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

This syllabus is a contract between the professor and the students. Please study it carefully, as you are expected to prepare for the quizzes and tests, follow instructions, and complete the assignments contained in the syllabus on time even if the professor doesn't remind you. The professor reserves the right to make changes in special circumstances, but will discuss any changes with the students.