

## World Regions in Global Contexts– Geography 150

July 13 – August 16

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

10:00 am – 11:53 am, synchronous

Online (Blackboard Collaborate or Zoom, chosen by student vote)

Instructor: Ekaterina (Katya) Bezborodko, eb926@hunter.cuny.edu

Office hours: daily 12:30 – 1 pm, or by appointment when available

Textbook (required): Marston, Knox, Liverman, Del Casino, and Robbins (2017, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition) *World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environments*. Pearson

### Course Description

This is a survey of the world's regions, focusing on interlinked themes to illuminate the diversity and dynamism of the world's peoples and places and the multiplying connections between them. After considering the advantages and limitations of studying the world by dividing it into regions, we will cover all the major regions of the world as they're commonly organized in North American textbooks. We will aim for a balance between appreciating the uniqueness of the world's regions and the forces putting these unique places into various forms of contact and interdependencies.

The main topics we examine in each region include:

- Ongoing relevance of global history
- Dynamic cultures and identities
- Social and political movements today
- Economic interconnections
- Rural/urban divides and synergies
- Climate change: causes, impacts, responses

While our main source of information and guidance will be the textbook, we will supplement it with musical pieces, clips from documentaries and artistic movies, newspaper articles, short fiction or poetry, and supplemental maps. Students are encouraged to suggest topics and materials of interest to them. Depending on student interest, the course might be supplemented by optional movie nights to sample world cinema pertinent to the regions and topics we cover.

### Evaluation

Course Activities:

Class Participation: 30%

Reading-based Quizzes: 30%

Exam: 30%

Map Quiz: 10%

## Description of activities:

### *Class Participation:*

- Students must actively participate in a variety of in-class activities such as interpreting maps, discussing news articles and short movie clips, and role-playing in simulations or debates.
- Students will be evaluated on degree of participation and whether they are referring to the materials and topics being covered.
- Students are also welcome and encouraged to ask questions and offer comments during lectures.
- Class participation means you should be attending regularly; if you run into an emergency and must miss class more than one time, please get in touch immediately to discuss accommodating you in class activities that you have missed.

### *Reading-based Quizzes*

- Ten online quizzes based on textbook chapters and occasional additional readings.
- Due the night before we start each region's lectures
  - o Submissions after class time will be accepted for emergency reasons only; please notify me if you need extra time.
- Format:
  - o 10-12 questions on average
  - o Mix of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short open response questions.
  - o Without time limit
  - o Do not have to be completed in one sitting
  - o Can only be submitted once
- The top seven scores will be counted used to calculate the grade.
  - o If you miss more than one quiz, one of your top seven grades will be replaced by a zero for every additional quiz missed, starting with your lowest grade.
- Get ready to read! We will cover almost every chapter in our textbook plus a few lighter journalism and literary pieces. Quizzes are designed to make sure you're reading carefully.

### *Exam*

- Format: multiple choice and open-response questions
- Open book, open resource
- Online, timed, and must be taken during designated exam time
- Housed on Blackboard, using the same format/technology as the quizzes
- Cumulative for the semester

### *Map Quiz*

- You will receive a list of places around the world organized by continent
  - o Countries and cities
  - o Physical features such as rivers, mountain ranges, deserts, etc.
- You will receive blank practice maps
  - o Printing out multiple copies is highly recommended
- Memorize where all the places on the list are

- Don't cram!
- Use appropriate maps in our textbook or atlases – *not* Google maps!
- Choose a 10-15 minute interval in the 24-hour period starting 9am on the exam day, and complete a timed map quiz.
  - You will view the same practice maps but labeled with letters.
  - Each question will ask you to match a place you memorized to a letter on the map
  - You will be tested on a subset of places from the list
- Format:
  - Open book (open map!) – do *not* assume you do not have to memorize; you will not have time to find every location on the map
  - Online, using same technology as regular quizzes, plus downloadable labeled quiz maps
  - 40 locations will be included
  - For 100%, you need to have 35/40 correct answers.
  - Fill-in-the-blank (you must type the letter corresponding to the place in the question)
- There will be a sample quiz available for practice at least a week before the real quiz
  - Take it as many times as you want until you're comfortable with the format

## Class Topic Schedule

Mon		Tues		Wed		Thur	
		Jul 13	Introduction: Interlinked Themes	Jul 14	Introduction: Representing Regions	Jul 15	Europe
Jul 19	Europe	Jul 20	Russia, Central Asia, Caucasus	Jul 21	Russia, Central Asia, Caucasus	Jul 22	Middle East & North Africa
Jul 26	Middle East & North Africa	Jul 27	Sub – Saharan Africa	Jul 28	Sub-Saharan Africa	Jul 29	US & Canada
Aug 2	Latin America	Aug 3	Latin America	Aug 4	East Asia	Aug 5	East Asia
Aug 9	South Asia	Aug 10	South Asia	Aug 11	Southeast Asia	Aug 12	Oceania
Aug 16	EXAM						

## Netiquette

- You are very highly encouraged but not required to turn on your camera during class time.
- Keep yourself on *mute* when not speaking.
- Please use the “raise hand” function before speaking.
- Emails:
  - *Must* contain “world regional geography” or equivalent in the subject line
  - *Must* include your full name as a signature
  - *Must* come from a CUNY-linked email account (if yours stop working, include “CUNY email broken” in the subject line of emails sent from non-CUNY addresses so I know it's from a student)
  - If you do not follow these guidelines, your email might not be read or replied to; “phishing”/malware emails are routinely sent to me, and I must take precautions.

- I will make all efforts to answer emails within 24-48 hours of their being sent, though I cannot guarantee that they will be answered on weekends.

## Grading policies

- We will follow the latest guidelines for CR/NCR for the summer 2021 term; you will be advised as they are finalized.
- If we are back to regular CR/NCR policies:
  - o You must complete all work; CR/NCR is not a substitute for missing work
  - o You must fill in relevant forms and notify me before the final exam starts.
- An INC grade will be assigned only in the event of an emergency; you must contact me as soon as possible, and not later than 48 hours after the final exam if you think you might need this option.

## Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

## ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

## Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College. a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444). b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123. CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-SexualMisconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>