

Geography 150: World Regional Geography

Section 001 [Course Code 1238]

Section 181 [Course Code 4396]

CUNY Hunter College – Spring 2011

12:45pm – 2:00pm Tuesdays & Fridays in Hunter North 510 (HN 510)

Instructor: Ryan Ehrhart **E-mail: REhrhart@hunter.cuny.edu**

Required Text: Rowntree, Lewis, Price, Wyckoff: *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World*, Third Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 480 pages. ISBN#978-0-321-65152-5

			<u>Unit</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Friday	Jan	28	Introduction, Geographic Concepts	1
Tuesday	Feb	1	Geographic Concepts	1
Friday	Feb	4	Globalization & Diversity	1
Tuesday	Feb	8	Globalization & Diversity	1
Tuesday	Feb	15	Environment	2
Friday	Feb	18	Environment	2
Tuesday	Feb	22	North America	3
Friday	Feb	25	North America	3
Tuesday	Mar	1	North America	3
Friday	Mar	4	Latin America	4
Tuesday	Mar	8	Latin America	4
Friday	Mar	11	The Caribbean	5
Tuesday	Mar	15	The Caribbean	5
Friday	Mar	18	Sub-Saharan Africa	6
Tuesday	Mar	22	Sub-Saharan Africa	6
Friday	Mar	25	Southwest Asia & North Africa	7
Tuesday	Mar	29	Southwest Asia & North Africa	7
Friday	Apr	1	Europe (8) and Australia and Oceania (14)	8 & 14
Tuesday	Apr	4	Europe (8) and Australia and Oceania (14)	8 & 14
Friday	Apr	8	Russia (9) and Central Asia (10)	9 & 10
Tuesday	Apr	11	Russia (9) and Central Asia (10)	9 & 10
Friday	Apr	15	East Asia	11
Friday	Apr	29	East Asia	11
Tuesday	May	3	South Asia	12
Friday	May	6	South Asia	12
Tuesday	May	10	Southeast Asia	13
Friday	May	13	Southeast Asia	13
Tuesday	May	17	Conclusion	

Final exam date to be determined, some time between May 20th and May 27th.

Course Objectives:

In this course, we will cover the major themes of geography (location, place characteristics, human/environment interaction, movement, and region), but with special attention to the themes of region and place characteristics. We will look at a number of social, political, cultural, economic, and environmental issues using the concepts of place characteristics and regions as tools.

Grading:

- 66% Quizzes – 11 best scores out of the 12 quizzes that will be taken online
- 12% Posting comments on the discussion board
- 12% Region sub-theme paper (solo or 2-3 person collaboration)
- 10% Regional issue presentation (5-7 person collaboration)

Quizzes (66%):

Quizzes will be administered online on Blackboard. The timeframe for taking the quiz will be coordinated with the end of each unit. So, for example, the first quiz will correspond to the end of the Chapter 1/Globalization and Diversity unit that ends on February 8th. Thus you will have 24 hours from the end of class to take the quiz online. In other words, you may log on to Blackboard and take that particular quiz anytime between 2:00pm on Tuesday February 8th and 2:00pm on Wednesday February 9th. Once you log on and start the quiz, you will have a set amount of time to complete the quiz, such as 15 minutes. (Quiz time lengths may vary depending on the quiz.) Another example of the schedule is that the quiz on Chapter 2 will be available online from 2:00pm on Friday February 18th to 2:00pm on Saturday February 19th. The only quiz that will not be available directly after the unit is finished will be the final quiz on Chapter 13/Southeast Asia. That quiz will be available only during the scheduled final exam period, which at the time of writing, has not been determined yet by Hunter College.

Because the majority of your grade is based on these frequent quizzes, it is extremely important that you keep up with the reading and come to class for the lectures. There will be some material in quizzes that is NOT covered in the book.

Quizzes will be a mix of question styles such as multiple choice, matching, ordering, fill in the blank, true or false, etc.

A make-up quiz will only be given if you have a doctor's note to prove you were not physically fit to take the quiz during the specified time.

Posting Comments on the Discussion Board (12%):

For each of the twelve units (Chapter 1, Chapter 2, and then the ten different region units), there will be a class discussion board on Blackboard. Some topics will be

suggested for discussion. In order to receive a point (1% of your course grade for each unit or 12% of your grade altogether), you must post to this discussion board during the limited time frame that we will be covering that particular unit (typically one week). You will not be graded strictly on the quality of your postings, but it is expected that you make a good faith effort to rigorously engage in the discussion and show that you are familiar with the material. If it is found that your postings are not serious contributions to the discussion, then credit may be rescinded. Posting links to related articles is one very good way of participating, though this should not be your only activity on the discussion board. While differences of opinion and perspective are welcome on this forum, anti-social behavior will not be tolerated.

Region Sub-theme Paper (12%):

Each region chapter is already broken down into five parts by the authors of the text:

- Environmental Geography
- Population and Settlement
- Cultural Coherence and Diversity
- Geopolitical Framework
- Economic and Social Development

You will be assigned a specific sub-theme and a specific region on which to base your topic. For example, your assigned sub-theme may be Environmental Geography of North America. Or a different example would be Population and Settlement of Southeast Asia. With ten region units and five sub-themes, that means I will be receiving 50 different papers. You will only be responsible for one of those 50 papers. Depending on the size of the class, you will likely have a partner or two partners for this paper. If you have a partner who is also assigned the same region sub-theme, then you must collaborate with them to create your paper. You will both receive the same grade, though if a student cannot demonstrate their participation in the project (through e-mails or other hard evidence), then they will not receive credit. If your region sub-theme paper is late, 1% of your entire course grade will be deducted for every day that it is late. Submit a hard copy that is single-spaced and use one inch margins and twelve point type. Do not waste paper by using a title page or large breaks between sections. It is understood though that inclusion of a map may sometimes require a separate piece of paper if it is a large image.

The region sub-theme paper will be due on the first day that we start to cover the region to which your paper pertains. You do not need to have your topic approved by me ahead of time, but if you are not absolutely sure that you are talking about a relevant topic, then I urge you to consult with me ahead of time. This is a short assignment. The word range should be between 500 and 1000 words, so you need to be concise. In addition to describing the issue of your paper, you need to relate the issue

to the geographic core concepts and themes that we have talked about in class. It is important to make sure your topic is not simply reiterating things from the text. It should be something either not in the text or an expansion of something mentioned in the text. Therefore many of you will probably look to current issues in the news that relate to both your region and your sub-theme.

In addition to successfully relating the topic to core geography concepts and themes, some other criteria for grading are as follows: factual accuracy; making citations (see below) in every instance where information is taken from a source; the bibliography is done in appropriate form; high quality of bibliographic sources; the paper is written in a coherent manner; the paper is written without spelling and grammatical errors; the paper is between the 500-word minimum and 1000-word maximum word requirements (the bibliography is not included in this word count); and the assignment was submitted on time.

Regional Issue Presentation (10%):

For each of the ten region units that we cover (such as North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, etc.), there will be one or two in-class presentations on the days that we cover that unit. You will be assigned to a group of 5-7 people that will handle one of these presentations.

The presentation should clearly and accurately describe a particular and specific environmental, social, political, economic, or cultural *issue*. Then this issue must be successfully, explicitly, and with some degree of sophistication, related to the five themes of geography (location; place characteristics; human/environment interaction; movement; and region). Strive for accurate and insightful description of both absolute and relative location. Discuss relevant physical and/or cultural place characteristics of the location(s) under consideration. Discuss how concentrations of these place characteristics may constitute a region. Consider whether there are relationships between a region and another region. Discuss relevant dimensions of human/environment interactions. Examine the topic in terms of movement and spatial interaction.

The paper needs to be cohesive and this is where the group effort and group communication is important. However, you (or you and one other student) will be responsible for creating the content and delivering the portion of the oral presentation that pertains to **one** particular theme of geography (location; place characteristics; human/environment interaction; movement; or region).

Time is of the essence. You must have a presentation that is densely packed with information and analysis. Strict limits will be placed on the length of the overall presentation: a 10 minute minimum and a 15 minute maximum. That means that each

individual theme subsection will only be 2 to 3 minutes long. Thus each individual student has only a brief time in which to convey their information. Rehearsing your part of the presentation ahead of time is essential so you know you will not be taking too much of the group's allotted 15 minute maximum.

Half of your grade will be based on your individual subsection presentation and half of your grade will be based on the overall effectiveness of the group's presentation. All members of the group must be involved in the presentation and must be ready to field general questions on the topic afterward from the instructor and the rest of the class.

Your group should work closely with me in selecting a proper topic. Although the presentation itself is what will be graded, it will be wise to have written text ahead of time that I will be able to give feedback on before you finalize what you will be saying. It will be up to you whether you read from a script or speak with note cards or go without notes. Keep in mind though your time constraints.

A Microsoft PowerPoint presentation should accompany your talk. Keep it simple: no more than 10 slides for the entire presentation. Do not fill the slides with text. Use them for things like maps, data, photos, and other things that will give the audience a better understanding of your topic.

The group should choose one of its members to do approximately one minute of introduction of the issue before the five theme subsections begin. Keep in mind this is part of the overall 15 minutes though. A very brief conclusion may either be incorporated into the last subsection or may be done by a different student in the group.

Grades:

Grades will be posted on Blackboard – Grade Center.

E-mail:

You all have Hunter e-mail accounts. You must regularly check this account or you can redirect it to an account that you regularly check. Important announcements or communications regarding your grade or quizzes or papers will be sent to you. Also you will be coordinating with your fellow group members in the projects through this e-mail. Thus you must make sure that Blackboard is set up with an e-mail address that you actively use.

Incompletes:

Incompletes will only be given in cases of extreme medical situations. If late written assignments are not received by the day of the final, then the grade for the course will be an F.

Citations and Bibliography Guidelines:

Papers will be checked for the veracity of the sources and for plagiarism.

Remember to cite the sources of your information! If you do not, then this is plagiarism!

When you are citing a source in the body of your text (whether you are paraphrasing or using a direct quotation), simply use the author's last name and year of publication in parentheses at the end of the sentence. For example:

Paraphrasing information from a source:

Five thousand protesters gathered at the WTO conference in Hong Kong (Ronquillo 2005).

-or-

Using a direct quotation from a source:

"Remoteness allows a high level of dissociation between costs and benefits, between elite consumption benefits and ecological damage" (Plumwood 2002).

Bibliography:

When you are doing your bibliographies, I would like you to use the APA or MLA format. Here is a link which will help you with any questions you have on how the bibliographic entries should look.

<http://library.ncc.edu/apaguide.htm>

Accessing Blackboard:

On the Hunter website (www.hunter.cuny.edu) you can use the Quicklinks pull down menu to find Blackboard. When you get to Blackboard 8.0, you should find a link for our class, World Regional Geography: Geography 150.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

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 CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

See the following report by the Hunter College Senate for more details:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/senate/assets/Documents/Hunter%20College%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>

***** Please turn off phones and other electronic devices during class *****