

GEOG 150 - World Regional Geography
Fall 2012
Sec 002 [Code1449]: Sat 1.10pm - 4 pm
HN 1022

Instructor: Prof. Henry Sirotin
Office Hours: Saturday, 4-5 pm, and by appt., HN1032
Email: hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu; please make sure that all email messages include GEOG 150 in the subject line, and also sign your text with your full name. I do not respond to unsigned emails from addresses like kissmesweetie2960.

Course Description and Objectives: Meets requirements for GER 2/B and PD/A or B.

The course will cover an introduction to the concepts of contemporary geography, followed by a survey of key current global issues and an examination of several of the world's major geographic realms. Students will learn issues of globalization as well as particular details of four regions (East Asia, South Asia, Europe, North America) critical to their role as informed residents of the United States. My teaching perspective is an epistemologically pragmatic objectivist combination of historical geography and geographic analysis of contemporary issues. In other words, "Just the facts, folks. Leave your ideologies at home." Other views, however, will be entertained, if well defended.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of disciplinary content, including an understanding of geographical analysis, an understanding of contemporary issues such as the development of globalization, population, urbanization, and energy, a factual introduction into aspects of the spatial development of East Asia, South Asia, Europe, and North America.
2. The use of maps and statistics in studying the above.
3. Deeper understanding of regions of the world outside the experience of many Hunter students.
4. The ability to think critically about the issues covered in class.

Text:

DeBlij, Muller, Nijman, *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, 15th edition, Wiley, 2012; ISBN 978-1-118-12320-1 [Note that this is the binder edition, not the main book version. For the hardcover book, check 978-1-118-09360-3]

Earlier editions are significantly different and are not acceptable.

I have ordered the considerably cheaper binder edition, which is NOT resalable to the bookstores. It is available at Shakespeare Books, 939 Lexington Ave. (across the street from Hunter). For value copies, including used, e-book, and rentals, check

<http://www.allbookstores.com/book/compare/9781118123201> for the binder edition and <http://www.allbookstores.com/book/compare/1118093607> for hardcover **and rental** editions.

I will be communicating with you both in class and by Blackboard, so make sure your Blackboard account is active. I will not be responsible for bounce backs from your accounts, Please note that this has been a particular problem with transfers still using CUNY community college accounts.

Grading:

There will be two class exams and a final exam, all in short answer format. The exams will not be cumulative. The final grade will be determined on an average of the three exams, with allowance for class participation, and will be assigned as a letter grade based on the numerical standards that can be found in the Hunter College Undergraduate Catalogue. Exam dates are tentative, but I will give at least one week's notice before them.

Please be aware that the number of students I have each term makes it impossible for me to offer extra credit assignments.

All exams, or approved make-ups, must be taken. Makes-ups will be scheduled at my convenience. To receive an incomplete (IN) a student must present evidence of a satisfactory reason and must have done "C" work or better PRIOR to the filing of the incomplete; otherwise, the student will receive a grade of WU.

Regarding attendance, I do not have a set policy, but note that 20% of my exams are based exclusively on lecture notes, 20% exclusively on the reading, and 60% on both.

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

Classroom Electronics:

I permit the use of electronic recording devices and dictionaries during lectures. ALL other personal electronics should be turned off before coming into the classroom. This includes cell phones, Blackberrys, etc. A computer may be used FOR TAKING NOTES ONLY, but if what you are doing becomes a distraction to others around you, I will ask you to shut it off.

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED DURING EXAMS. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic grade of zero for the exam, and the possibility of further disciplinary action.

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.

Other Notes:

Keep in mind that this is an intensive class, so missing one session is the equivalent of missing a full week's work. I would suggest you develop a "buddy system" with one or more classmates to cover notes should you miss a session.

Except for changes that substantially affect grading, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be given in class and through Blackboard notification.

It is up to the student to make sure that their Blackboard link is working.

Calendar:

Sat Sept. 1 st	First day of classes
Sat Nov 24 th	No classes, Thanksgiving
Sat Dec 8 th	Last Day of Classes
Sat Dec 15 th	Final exam, in the classroom, 10 am-12 pm

Course Schedule:

1. Geographical Concepts and Global Issues [Introduction and readings on reserve] Sept 1st, 8th, 15th 22nd)

First Exam (Sept 29th)

2. East Asia [chap. 9A/B] (Sept 29th, Oct 6th, Oct 13th)

3. South Asia [chap. 8A/B] (Oct 13th, 20th, 27th)

Second Exam (Nov 3rd)

4. Europe [chap. 1A/B] (Nov 3rd, 10th, 17th)

5. North America [chap. 3A/B] (Nov 17th, Dec 1st, 8th)

Final Exam (Dec 15th)