

SYLLABUS

Geography 150.00 – World Regions in a Global Context Fall 2021 - Tuesday & Thursday, 4:10 PM to 5:25 PM

Instructor: William Solecki
Email: wsolecki@hunter.cuny.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays 3-4 pm or by appointment (via Zoom link below)
Class Format: Synchronous and Online

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86090927126?pwd=aFc2TTJldVpiN2p5Y2k2RERkMVgvdz09>

Meeting ID: 860 9092 7126

Passcode: 496420

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86090927126# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,86090927126# US (New York)

Course background: This course draws on and explores the concept of the geographic region as a way to organize and understand our fast-changing and interconnected world. Geographic concepts (e.g., space, place, distance, scale, borders, and regions) are used to study environmental, economic, social, and political conditions and identify key concerns in the culturally diverse world. The course will examine geographic world regions (e.g., Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and others), connections in and between these regions, and how these regions and their populations interact as parts of a global system. For each world region, you will learn major historical events, specific interactions between natural environment and social systems, and their potential for and challenges to sustainable development.

Regions are the spatial expression of physical geography, as well as economic, social and political relations. The course provides knowledge on how the different regions interact with the global context, on the diversity of their trajectories and their specific development patterns. The course and discussions are designed to help student develop a critical analysis of the relationship among the different regions and on the link between space and societies. More broadly, the course aims to develop critical thinking regarding the concepts of development, globalization, sustainable development and situated knowledge. Students will learn to use and analyze spatial data from maps, statistical tables, internet resources and press resources. They will be able to follow current local and global debates and events and articulate them with the contents developed in class. Course objectives and learning outcomes include the following:

- Understand the links among people, places and regions.
- Use fundamental geographical concepts (e.g. scale, place, space, region, borders) and methods (e.g. thematic maps, population pyramids, interactive digital maps) in order to develop your arguments.
- Analyze the specificity of each world region and their relationship with each other using a wide variety of sources and material. Critically put in perspective those relationships regarding processes such as urbanization, globalization, development, and climate change.
- Understand how global crises and recent events (for example Covid-19, Indigenous movements, anti-neoliberalism protests, and nationalist movements) are articulated with these processes.
- Engage critically with development patterns and projects emerging from the different regions

as a response to those challenges. Compare them and understand their historical and epistemological grounds.

- Identify how categories such as race, class, tribe, and gender play a role in the relationships between world regions and the processes mentioned above.

Required Textbook: Marston, Knox, Liverman, Del Casino, and Robbins. World Regions in Global Context: Peoples, Places, and Environments, 6th edition. Pearson Prentice Hall: 2017. ISBN: 10:0-134-18364-9. **Suggested Textbook:** Goode’s World Atlas, 23rd edition or another atlas or website equivalent.

Grading: Final grades for the course will be determined according to the following percentages.

- Attendance/Participation/Discussion Forum (12.5%) - Your attendance and participation in class discussions are critical. Our online class sessions will be organized around chapters from the textbook, according to the class schedule (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:10pm to 5:25pm). Class participation involves regular connection to the course on Blackboard and our sessions via Zoom, and participation. It is expected that you will have your camera on especially when asking a question or involved in discussion. Attendance/participation in a zoom session is for the entire 75-minute session. If your participation is interrupted due to technical issues or an emergency for an extended periods please e-mail me.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in discussion forums on blackboard. Students will be able to post a (200 words max) critical response to the week’s reading and lecture in the class discussion forum on blackboard. Your response must be original and directly related to the topics of the week. Please do not summarize what was read or discussed in class. Your post can also be an opportunity to share additional information, resources, or in the form of questions you may have. Students should post five responses over the length of the semester.

- Map Quiz (12.5%) - There will be a global places map quiz to enhance your understanding of the location and spatial distribution of critical locations across the world. The quiz will be multiple choice. It will be accessible on Blackboard for over a period of hours.
- Mid Term and Final Exam (25% each exam) - The mid term and final exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions, which will be based on the content you have read throughout the semester and discussed in our sessions. As of the beginning of the semester it is planned that the exams will be offered on campus. Specific location and any updates on this are to be determined.
- World Regions and Global Themes (25%) – A key component of the class will be examining specific global themes and how the impact or reflect the different world regions. The class together will define the set of global themes to be examined and then will work in groups to examine the themes as they are reflected in each of the world regions. A group project and individual work will be submitted at the end of the semester. Individuals will be allowed to choose which theme and region they would like to work on. More details on this part of the course will be presented within week 2 and 3 of the semester.

The student grades will be calculated out of a total 400 points.

Attendance/participation/discussion	50 points
Map Quiz	50 points
Mid Term (25%)	100 points

Final Exam (25%)	100 points
Global Trends in World Regions	100 points

Communication: Please bring your questions to class and ask them in orally or via the chat. I also encourage you to use blackboard for any questions about the class. If you email me please add **GEOG 150** to the subject line.

Policy on the Giving of IN as a Grade: No incompletes (IN) for this course are given unless there are exceptional and documented individual circumstances. If you miss classes or an exam, please make arrangements to make up the work as soon as possible.

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.

Learning Environment: Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with your legal name. Feel free to change your zoom name to how you would like to be called. You are expected to treat all class participants with courtesy and respect in all interactions. Your comments to others should be factual, constructive, and free from harassing statements.

Mental Health: If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are resources available at Hunter College to assist you. The Counseling and Wellness Services division at Student Affairs offer free and confidential short-term counseling to students. Please visit their website for all contact information:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/cws/counselingservices/welcome>.

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.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf>

Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Updates will be posted regularly on Blackboard.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic
August 23	Class introduction
August 30	Chapter 1: World Regions in Global Context
September 6	Chapter 2: Europe
September 13	Chapter 3: Europe and Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasus
September 20	Chapter 3: Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasus
September 27	Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa
October 4	Chapter 4: Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa
October 11	Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa
October 18	Chapter 5: Sub-Saharan Africa – U.S. and Canada [MID TERM EXAM]
October 25	Chapter 6: U.S and Canada
November 1	Chapter 7: Latin America and the Caribbean
November 8	Chapter 8: East Asia
November 15	Chapter 9: East Asia and South Asia
November 22	Chapter 10: South and Southeast Asia
November 29	Chapter 10: Southeast Asia
December 6	Chapter 11: Oceania
December 14	Reading Day
December 15-	Final Exams