Geog 272 – GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE
Summer 2012
Tuesday and Thursday, 1520 to 1828
Hunter North 1022

Instructor: Prof. Henry Sirotin
Office Hours: After class, and by appt.
Email: hsirotin@hunter.cuny.edu; please make sure that all email messages include GEOG 272 in the subject line, and also sign your text with your full name. I do not respond to unsigned emails from addresses like kissmesweetie2960.

Note that earlier editions are extremely different and not recommended.

Course Description and Objectives:
The course will survey both the physical and human geography of the continent. It will also examine questions such as the geographical definition of “Europe,” the role of geographical factors in historical development, interrelationships between population and the environment, and political and economic issues that arise from these questions.

Grading:
There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. I will provide at least one week's notice on the date of the midterm, and the final will not be cumulative. Both exams, or approved make-ups, must be taken. Makes-ups will be scheduled at my convenience.

A research paper of 1250-1500 words (5 to 7 pages) will be required. Format, research methods, and sources will be discussed in class and individually. A timeline is provided below in the calendar section. You may choose any topic you like, but all topics MUST be approved by me in advance, and Wikipedia IS NOT a quotable resource. Requirements for graduate attendees will be given separately.

Each exam will be worth 40% of the final grade, with 20% for the paper. Class participation will be taken into account. 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. Final grades will be assigned as a letter grade based on the numerical standards that can be found in the Hunter College Undergraduate Catalogue.

Hunter College 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.
Calendar

Tu  June 5th  First day of class
Tu  June 26th  Paper topic must be approved by this date
Tu  July 10th  Final paper is due
Tu  July 12th  Final exam, in class time, in the classroom.

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.

Other Notes
I would suggest you develop a “buddy system” with one or more classmates to cover notes should you miss a session.

Well-behaved children are welcome at any time.

Outline:

1. Where and What is Europe? (chap. 1) [June 5th]
2. Habitat: The physical environment (chap. 2) [June 7th]
3. The Biological Realm: Demography (chaps. 3 and 11) [June 12th]
4. The Cultural Tradition:  
   a. Religion (chap.4) [June 14th-June 19th]
   b. Language (chap.5) [June 21th]
   c. Final (June 26th)
5. The Economy [June 26th-June 28th-July 3rd]
   a. Agriculture (chap. 7)
   b. The rise of the industrial world (chaps. 8 and 9)
   c. Cities (chap. 10)
6. Politics (chaps. 6 and 12) [July 5th-July 10th]

Additional readings may be assigned via Blackboard.