

GEOG 2303: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

Spring 2026 Course Syllabus

Class Location: Online Asynchronously

Instructor Information

Name: Fangchao Dong, Ph.D. Candidate

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Office Hours: TEAMS or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant

TBD

Course Description

This course considers how the key concepts of place and space can be used to understand the special character and interactions of history, culture, economics, and the environment in major regions of the world including North America, Europe, Russia, Pacific Rim countries, South Asia, Southwest Asia and North Africa, and Latin America.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completing this class students will be able to:

- Practice the methods of regional geography by describing the human and physical geography of nine world regions, promoting competence.
- Analyze aspects of relative geographical position, physical geographic characteristics such as landforms, climate and weather, resources of world regions through class presentations, individual research, and discussions. Employ creative thinking, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Interpret human geographic characteristics such as demographics, political organizations, economic conditions, language and religion through class presentations, individual research and discussions thus learning to effectively develop, interpret and express ideas via different forms of communication.

Required Textbook

- Rowntree, Lewis, Price, & Wyckoff, & Muller. *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*, 7th Edition. 978-0134539423

Attendance

This course is designed to be online and asynchronous. There will be no set class times and it's your responsibility to watch and/or read the provided materials and complete assignments. Attendance will be determined through eLearning course access and completed assignments. Please email me or send a message on Teams if you have any questions or concerns. A meeting in person or videochat can be scheduled.

Course Materials

Materials are provided for your personal use during this course. Do not share, distribute, or post them anywhere! This includes all videos, handouts, assignments, quizzes, and exams. Students must maintain secure passwords to access materials and follow UT Dallas policies. Not complying with these University policies is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Course Requirements

Students will be assessed on a combination of assignments, chapter quizzes, and exams. Regional map quizzes will involve identifying major geographical landmarks such as oceans, seas, mountain ranges, and countries as labeled in your textbook maps.

Grading

All graded material will be assigned a numerical value on a scale of 100. Letter grades are given as follows: 97% and over (A+); 94% to 96% (A); 90% to 93% (A-); 87% to 89% (B+); 84% to 86% (B); 80% to 83% (B-); 77% to 79% (C+); 74% to 76% (C); 70% to 73% (C-); 67% to 69% (D+); 64% to 66% (D); 60% to 63% (D-); Less than 60% (F).

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Assignments	Points	Percent
Attendance	100	10 %
Quizzes	100	20 %
Assignment	200	20 %
Exams	600	50 %

Assignments

Attendance will be assessed based on timely assignments. Points will be deducted for every assignment turned in after the due date.

Quizzes will begin with the chapter 1. They will involve identifying terms or major geographical landmarks in your textbook maps. They are **closed book** so no textbook, online access, or other help!

Assignments are listed in the syllabus and are also in e-Learning. They will be papers

Exams will be given through eLearning. The midterm exam cover the color-coded chapters shown in your syllabus. The final exam will be comprehensive and cover the final chapters as well as some questions from the previous exams. Question formats will include, but are not limited to, multiple choice and short answer.

Course and Instructor Policies

Make-up exams are offered ONLY to those who have made previous arrangements with me. Should a life circumstance occur at exam time, you need to contact me by email or Teams to let me know you will miss the exam and need a make-up. This communication should come **as soon as possible but no later than before the end of the due date**. You will have **1 week after exam grades are released** to address any concerns related your score. After this time your grade cannot be changed.

Assignments handed in late (i.e. after the due date) will be marked down 25% each day. Assignments will not be accepted if more than 3 days or 72 hours after the deadline (resulting in a grade of zero) without prior approval. Following assignment directions is extremely important. Students should also pay attention to spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and other language mechanics in addition to geographic analysis and application as these will be considered in the evaluation. Please take advantage of the resources available on campus to assist in these areas if needed.

Attendance will be noted by eLearning access and submitted assignments as this is an asynchronous course. It is your responsibility to check eLearning weekly for class announcements, read your textbook, watch the class videos, and complete assignments. Failure to maintain your course progress as dictated by the syllabus and due dates will 1) impact your grade negatively due to the content and discussion missed, and 2) increase the likelihood of missing various class points mentioned above, as well as indicating a lack of interest and concern with the course material. The syllabus and course schedule are subject to change by the instructor. If any changes are made, I will give you ample notice through announcements or email making it critical that you check both.

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Technical Support

The course syllabus, submission dropboxes and other course materials will be available on the eLearning website. If you experience technical problems using the site, contact the eLearning Help Desk for assistance. The helpdesk website is <https://ets.utdallas.edu/elearning-services/elearning-helpdesk>. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Academic Dishonesty

Comet Creed: *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."*

In this online format any form of communication with other people or outside resources during testing is academic dishonesty.

Anyone who plagiarizes an assignment or parts thereof will receive 0 points. Additionally, a notice of the academic integrity violation will be reported. For example, "cutting and pasting" from any internet source or poorly paraphrasing (i.e. changing a few words with the synonym function) without citing that source is plagiarism. Do not take the chance of placing yourself in this situation unintentionally! Refer any questions or concerns regarding proper use of sources to me.

Any use of AI is prohibited will be considered academic dishonesty. It will also result in a grade of 0 points. For example, generating or altering text via AI and citing it as your own is academic misconduct. When writing, open Microsoft Word and do not use any external aid. It offers spelling and grammar check so there is no valid reason for other software/app use in this class. It will also result in a grade of 0 points and be reported as an academic integrity violation. Once again, do not take the chance of placing yourself in this situation unintentionally! Refer any questions or concerns regarding software/app use to me.

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please see <https://www.utdallas.edu/academics/academic-resources/>.

The AccessAbility Resource Center (ARC) can provide assistance with disability or accessibility services. They are located in the Administration Building Room 2.224 and can be contacted at 972-883-2098 or studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

For further information on UT Dallas policies: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

GEOG 2303 Course Schedule*

Week	Topic	Assignments				
		Reading	Assignments	Quizzes	Due	
01/20	Concepts of World Geography	Chapter 1		Chapter 1		
01/26	Physical Geography & the Environment	Chapter 2		Chapter 2		
02/02	North America	Chapter 3		Chapter 3		
02/09	Latin America	Chapter 4	Assignment 1	Chapter 4		
02/16	Caribbean	Chapter 5		Chapter 5		
02/23	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 6		Chapter 6		
03/02	Southwest Asia & N. Africa	Chapter 7		Chapter 7		
Midterm Exam						
03/09	Europe	Chapter 8	Assignment 2	Chapter 8		
03/16	Spring Break					
03/23	Russia	Chapter 9		Chapter 9		
03/30	Central Asia	Chapter 10		Chapter 10		
04/06	East Asia	Chapter 11		Chapter 11		
04/13	South Asia	Chapter 12		Chapter 12		
04/20	Southeast Asia	Chapter 13	Assignment 3	Chapter 13		
04/27	Australia & Oceania	Chapter 14		Chapter 14		
05/04	Comprehensive Final Exam					TBD

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