

## ***Course Syllabus – INTRODUCTION TO WORLD GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS***

### **Course Information**

Course number –GEOG - 2303

Course title – INTRODUCTION TO WORLD GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

Term –Spring 2017

Section – 001

Classroom – GR 3.606

Time – Tuesday/Thursday 8:30-9:45 am

### **Professor Contact Information**

Name – Dr. Irina Vakulenko

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Office location – GR 3.213

Office hours – Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-11:00 am; by appointment

### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. General academic skills of analytical thinking, comparison, essay writing, working with statistical material, map reading will be helpful.

### **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:

- Understand the basic methods of regional geographic research through manipulation and analysis of numerical data and observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Practice the methods of regional geography by describing the human and physical geography of 8 world regions, promoting competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- 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 Textbooks and Materials

Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts, 16<sup>th</sup> Edition by H.J. DeBlij, P.O. Muller, J. Nijman, 2014. ISBN 978-1-118-67395--9. (It is better but not required to have a new, 17<sup>th</sup> edition, of Regions by J.Nijman, P.O.Muller, H.J. de Blij, 2017. ISBN 978-1-119-30192-9.

### Suggested Course Materials

Students are expected to take notes during PowerPoint presentations and complete exercises posted on e-learning.

### 2303 Assignments & Academic Calendar

#	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	1/10/17	Introduction: the Evolution of Geography, Perspectives of Geography. Systematic Geography: People, Environment and Resources.	Introduction, class notes
2	1/12/17	Cultural Components of the Human Environment: Culture and Physical Environment, Elements of Culture, Social and Political Organization of Societies, Political Map of the World, Categories of Economic Activities.	Introduction, class notes
3	1/17/17	Characteristics of Development. Classification of World Economies.	Introduction, class notes, Appendix B
4	1/19/17	Classification of Realms. Plan of Analyses. US and Canada: physical geography, resources for industrial growth, European culture cores, westward expansion, demographic characteristics, population mobility.	Chapter 3A (1)* <u>Map 1</u>
5	1/24/17	US and Canada: economic growth and restructuring. Income Disparity and Regional Problems. Global Contacts and Influence. Problems in Developed Realm: minorities' socio-economic situation, Canadian identity and unity.	Chapter 3A (1)
6	1/26/17	US and Canada: Regions: Case study. Map. Review.	Chapter 3B (1)
7	1/31/17	Test 1	Map 1 is due
8	2/2/17	Europe: relative geographical location, landforms, climate, resources, environmental modifications and crisis. History of Development.	Chapter 1A (4) <u>Map 2</u>
9	2/7/17	Europe: Population: Demographics, Religion, Languages, Level of Living, Distribution, Urbanization. Primary and secondary economic activity.	Chapter 1A (4)
10	2/9/17	Europe: Political Geography. Supranationalism and Devolution. EU. Map. Western Europe.	Chapter 1A,1B (4)
11	2/14/17	Europe: British Isles, Northern and Mediterranean.	Chapter 1B (4)
12	2/16/17	Europe: East European Transformation and Perspectives.	Chapter 1B (4)
13	2/21/17	Russia and other Former Soviet Union: Geographical Position, Natural Regions and Resources, Population.	Chapter 2A (5)

14	2/23/17	Russia and other Former Soviet Union: The Soviet Economic Reforms, Present Economic Activity and Reforms. Foreign Policy and International Relations. Truths and Myths about Russia.	Chapters 2A, 2B (5)
15	2/28/17	Test 2	Map 2 is due
16	3/2/17	Pacific Rim: East Asia, Australia. Physical and Human Overview: Monsoon Climate, Population and Favored Environments, Unity and Diversity, Colonial and Modern Economics.	Chapters 9A, 10A, 11, 12. (9-12) <u>Map 3</u>
17	3/7/17	Japan and Asian Tigers.	Chapter 9B, 10B (9)
18	3/9/17	Southeast Asia	Chapter 10A-B, (10)
19	3/21/17	China	Chapter 9B (9)
20	3/23/17	South Asia	Chapter 8A, 8B (8)
21	3/28/17	Test 3	Map 3 is due
22	3/30/17	Southwest Asia and North Africa: physical/ cultural environment. Historical Overview, Role of Islam.	Chapter 7A (5-6) <u>Map 4</u>
23	4/4/17	Development and Petroleum Economy, Isolation and Globalization. Geopolitics of the Realm.	Chapter 7B (5-6)
24	4/6/17	Large States–Integrated Economies and Small States–Unique Economies.	Chapter 7B (5-6)
25	4/11/17	Sub-Saharan Africa: Environmental Diversity, Colonial Legacy. Main Regions.	Chapter 6A, 6B (7)
26	4/13/17	Latin America: Physical Diversity and Cultural Heritage.	Chapter 4A, 5A (2-3) <u>Map 5</u>
27	4/18/17	Middle America: Regional Review.	Chapter 4B (2)
28	4/20/17	South America: Regional Review.	Chapter 5B (3)
29	4/25/17	Test 4	Maps 4-5 are due
30	4/27/17	Review . Map Questions. Bring and show your optional homework and get up to 3 pts!	Paper is due.
31	TBA	Final Exam is at	

(1)\* - Corresponding chapters in the 17<sup>th</sup> edition.

## Grading Policy

You are required to take four tests during the semester that consist of multiple-choice questions and map questions as well as “challenge assignments” (essays, fill-ins, tables, etc.). Each of them will cover one or several of the world major realms. Each test will count **15%** toward your final grade. Average of Tests 1 and Test 2 will make your **Midterm Grade** to be posted on **March 4, 2017**. You are also expected to submit a short, 4-5 pages, paper on a country of your choice\* or make a 10 minutes country presentation during the class on a larger region. This individual assignment will count **10%** toward your grade and is due no later than **April 30, 2017**. The Final Exam on **TBA** will make other **20%** of your grade. You are also to work at five regional maps that have a value of **2** points each toward your final grade, if presented on the day of the test or earlier. Past due date maps are accepted with 1 point toward your final grade. The other blank maps and bonus homework in every packet are offered as part of an individual performance for extra credit. All graded material will be assigned a numerical value on a scale of 100. Letter grades are given as follows: 97% and over A+; 93% to 96% A ; 90% to 92% A- ; 87% to 89%

B+; 83% to 86% B; 80% to 82% B- ; 77% to 79% C+; 73% to 76% C ; 70% to 72% C- ; 67% to 69% D+ ; 63% to 66% D ; 60% to 62% D; Less than 60% F.

\*A paper should be in a printed format with a cover page, at least one illustration, and a list of at least three scholarly sources (excluding your textbook, Wikipedia, url without proper referencing). MLA format is advised. The narrative should follow the plan of a country characteristics discussed in class #4 (extra homework 1:3).

### **Course & Instructor Policies**

Attendance is crucial for the successful learning and will be taken each class. Many of my lectures and our discussions will include materials not found in the text. As a result a good set of class notes and contour maps will be extremely helpful if you plan excelling in this course. To work on the assignments you need to have a pencil, eraser, and colored pencils at every class. No maps colored with anything other than colored pencils will be accepted.

Attendance will be used as deciding factors for determination of bonus points for extra homework. No makeup tests. (Individual consideration may be given in case of overwhelming circumstances).

If you wish to look at the ancillary syllabus material, a link to that material is as follows  
<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***