



Learning Enabler: Ismaila Odogba, PhD **Office:** Science D337
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Email: iodogba@uwsp.edu **Office hours:** By appointment Mon-Fri during on-line course time.

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the world's major realms and regions. It explores patterns of physical features, culture, and human-land relations with an emphasis on the flows and linkages between regions that affect political systems, economic development, and socio-cultural landscapes in a variety of contexts and settings. Specifically, this course will focus on 1) globalization, or the flows and linkages between regions and, 2) the colonial experience and geo-politics or the imprint of the colonial experience on current world events.

Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, successful students will possess the knowledge necessary:

1. To describe globalization and how global forces shape local settings in various regions
2. To identify the major geo-political regions and economic realms of the world
3. To articulate current issues (political, economic, and socio-cultural) in a geographical context
4. To illustrate themes such as rural-urban migration, self-determination struggles, geopolitics, and environmental degradation

Format:

This is an online distance-learning course. Distance learning uses technology to facilitate learning without the limitations of time or place. We shall not meet in the traditional face-to-face environment. Whilst an online environment is not suited for everyone, everyone is able to adapt. Visit <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/overview/> for a brief overview. Also, peruse the documents under the **Relevant Information module** on the **Course Home Page**. Be aware that this is an **Asynchronous online course**. This means that students are provided with content and assignments and are given a time frame to complete course activities. Asynchronous online learning environments are effective for students with time constraints or busy schedules. It is my belief that an asynchronous format is best considering that we have some students in different time zones and some of your other courses might have adopted a synchronous format.

Tech Skills:

Students should be competent in the use of computers, the World Wide Web, and commonly used software programs such as Microsoft Office Suite applications. In this course, we will be using the university's management system, **CANVAS**. Students without experience using Canvas can contact the Student Help Desk at (715) 346.HELP (4357) or 1.877.832.8977 to arrange instruction. The **Syllabus Page** has a listing of course activities that need to be completed with the respective due dates whilst the **Course Home Page** has a weekly framework of tasks and other related course materials.

Course Policies:

The World Regional Geography course is highly structured and adheres to a timetable of course tasks. The course is divided into four weeks. Each week covers selected world regions. The week is broken into a series of activities. As we move through the semester, you must complete all the



readings, assignments, quizzes, and postings as scheduled. Since we are working with an online course, we need to communicate with each other on a regular basis in order to ask any questions or to clarify any issues that arise during the semester. This also includes dialogue among members of the class. For the best way to communicate with your instructor, please refer to the **Course Communication Policy** under the Course Information module on the Course Home Page.

Over the duration of this course, you will post short written comments on current events in the world, respond to a post, and write short essays. To be successful in this class, the best strategy is to log in regularly – at least twice a day – check the **Course Home Page** and discussion lounge daily, read the course materials, participate regularly in online discussions and, ask questions if in doubt. The discussions are meant to provoke debate and to gain further insight of the issue at hand, so do respect the ideas, thoughts, and opinions of others. **I will not tolerate derogatory language or offhand comments. Any critique containing such language will receive zero credit.** You should complete the assigned textbook sections and work online during hours of your choosing. Being up to date on current events enhances one's geographical knowledge. You should follow current world events by consulting a variety of sources. Sources include the internet (e.g., www.bbc.com or www.npr.com), national sources (e.g., *New York Times* or *Newsweek*), and magazines/journals (e.g., *Economist*).

In order to enhance learning, complete all activities in their appropriate sequence and by the specified due date (the course calendar provides the specific dates and times.) You must complete all assignments and take quizzes within the scheduled timeframe (refer to the **Assignment Page**). I will not accept late submissions without a verified excuse; late postings, quizzes, and essays will receive zero credit. The failure of hardware/software is not a valid excuse for missing due dates.

I will check my phone messages/email and the **Discussion Lounge** on weekdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and respond latest by 4:00 pm on the same day to questions, queries, and comments. When circumstances do not permit, I will acknowledge receipt of the message and inform you of when to expect a feedback. I shall communicate using your university email.

Grading:

This course is worth 200 points and consists of the following components:

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| 1. Quizzes (4 each worth 10 points) | 40 pts. |
| 2. Discussions (4 each worth 10 points) | 40 pts. |
| 3. Special Topic Response (2 each worth 20 points) | 40 pts. |
| 4. Short Essay Exams (2 each worth 40 points) | 80 pts. |

Percentage ranges for letter grades

93-100% = **A**; 90-92% = **A-**; 87-89% = **B+**; 83-86% = **B**; 80-82% = **B-**; 77-79% = **C+**; 73-76% = **C**; 70-72% = **C-**; 67-69% = **D+**; 60-66% = **D**; Below 60% = **F**

University policy does not recognize A+ or D- grades. An incomplete is not an option in this course. I will only honor a request for an incomplete under the most extraordinary, and

documented circumstance (such as an illness documented with a doctor's written excuse) which hinders the completion of course requirements.

Requirements for an Excellent Grade: 1) log into Canvas regularly, 2) participate in discussions and class activities, 3) peruse the readings for each chapter, 4) complete and submit all assigned work on time and, 5) prepare adequately for quizzes.

Quizzes:

Students will complete weekly online quizzes. These easy open book quizzes (multiple choices/true or false) will cover the assigned readings for the week and **must be completed within the scheduled timeframe**. I shall Post PowerPoint slides and a brief summary of the chapters that inform you of where to focus on for the quizzes. You will have three attempts for each quiz and your final score will be the highest attempt. The correct responses to each quiz will be available a day after the deadline at 10:00 am.

Weekly Discussions:

For each week we will have an online discussion. The online discussions pertain to specific topics covered in each week. Topics and specific expectations for each online discussion are posted with the material for that lesson. You will submit your comments in the appropriate discussion forum. You will post comments to a current world event in the context of the assigned readings. Later, each student will review and respond to a posting by another student in terms of areas of deficiency as pertains to the assigned readings.

It is important that you participate in the online discussions for each week because this is where we exchange some of our ideas. Your contributions to each week's discussion are worth 10 points for a total of 40 points for the semester. **You are required to make an initial posting.** These short initial posting (between 400-500 words) should explain how a current world event in a news article relates to the subject matter. Such events permit us to update our knowledge from the textbook with current world developments. **Subsequently, you will then make a response posting to the initial posting of a classmate.** Your initial posting to the weekly discussion forum must be made by 11:50 pm on Tuesday. The response posting to a classmate's initial posting must be done by 11:50 pm on Friday. **Only respond to an initial posting with no prior comment. Note that your initial posting and a response posting amount to a complete assignment; there is no partial credit for only an initial or response posting.**

Initial Posting Instructions

First, **list the title, date, page number, and source of the news item you discuss.** Do plan on going over key world events daily in order to choose an appropriate article or news item for your initial posting. Second, in a clearly separated main body section of your essay, analyze and critique the article/news item in terms of how it offers new perspectives on what is, and what is not covered in the relevant textbook chapters. **Use only articles/new items beginning from the year 2020 for your initial postings. Only use a news item that has not been used by any of your course mates.**

Response Posting Instructions

Critique a fellow student's initial posting in terms of what important information from the textbook has been omitted or not fully dealt with. A response posting must be no less than 400 words. Base your response posting on **constructive critique** on the original news item and back-up your argument with material from the relevant textbook readings. The point of the response posting, i.e., constructive critique is to enhance comprehension of the issue at hand, better understand our own perspectives as well as those of others and, value how you and your classmates together approach and analyze geographic problems. **Only Respond to an Initial Posting with no prior response.**

Posting to Online Discussions:

Following is a set of guidelines that you are to use for all of your postings to the Discussion board.

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Use appropriate language for a classroom setting.
- Do not post long and rambling commentaries to a discussion.
- Do not "cut and paste" material from other websites into your postings. All postings are to be your own work. If you feel that that a website offers valuable information, then provide the URL for the website and brief explanation regarding its contents in your contribution.

You can type or paste your text directly into the text box provided under each discussion by the specified date. **Each 'Initial Posting' is due by 11:50 pm on Tuesday and the 'Response Posting' is due latest by 11:50 pm on Friday. There will be no credit for any Initial Posting/Response Posting included as an attachment.** In order to ascertain if your words are enough, you can first type in Word and use the word counter before pasting it into the text box on Canvas. Ensure that your initial posting and response posting are not too short. The quality of an initial and response posting determines the score for a weekly discussion, thus back up your arguments with materials from the relevant textbook readings.

Special Topic Response (STR):

Unlike the weekly discussions, for the special topic response **you will respond to a question by the instructor. For those that like working ahead, the special topic questions are in the syllabus** (See week one and three on the Home Page or Assignments Page on Canvas). The special topic response should be no more than 1,000 words.

Short Essay Exams:

The exams comprise of short essays relating to previously assigned readings from the textbook. On the exam day, three questions will be available in the Assignment/Home Page of Canvas at 6:00 am from which you will choose one. You will have four days for each exam. The exam essays should not exceed two double-spaced pages. **For those that like working ahead, the exams are available beginning from the first day of class.**

Submitting STR and Exams to the Dropbox:

All your lesson assignments and exams must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document, *.docx. Your file should be named using this format: Smith_Assignment Type .docx. You should also



include your name in the actual document. In naming your file, you should **not** use any spaces or any special characters (# \$ % & =); an underscore character is okay.

Academic Dishonesty:

UWSP prohibits academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to understand the issues concerning academic standards, disciplinary procedures, and students' rights and responsibilities at <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

Special Accommodations:

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and temporary impairments. If you have a disability or acquire a condition during the semester where you need assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible. DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or DATC@uwsp.edu. In addition, I will accommodate religious belief according to UWSP 22.03.

FAQs

Is the course self-paced?

Answer: Up to a point. The pace is flexible within an individual unit, but each unit must be completed before the date of its scheduled exam. Each unit is divided into lessons. You have the flexibility of doing some of the activities on weekends or working ahead. If an activity includes responding to a discussion question, then you should respond in a timely fashion so that a meaningful dialogue can take place.

Do exams have to be proctored?

Answer: No, your quizzes do not have to be proctored.

How do I find out if there are any new class announcement that I need to know about?

Answer: You should always check the Course Home page you see when you first log in to the course.

Course Materials:

Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher and Alex Pulsipher. 2014. *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives*, (6th Edition). New York: W.H. Freeman and Company.

Other materials (slides, synopsis of assigned readings, etc.) for the course will be available on Canvas.

Tentative Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus and schedule when necessary to meet learning needs or due to unforeseeable reasons.

Week 1: June 22 - June 28 (Glocalization)

- Readings: Chapter 1 (Geography: An Exploration of Connections)
Chapter 2 (North America, pg. 64-113)
Chapter 4 (Europe, pg. 196-238)
- Monday: Peruse course syllabus and start readings
Get Acquainted Task (One truth-one lie)
- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION** - The impact/influence of globalization in a North America city. Initial discussion posting due by 11:50 pm today.
- Wednesday: **QUIZ I** on chapters 1, 2, & 4 (Available June 24 – June 28).
- Thursday: **SPECIAL TOPIC RESPONSE:** Globalization and free trade involve the increasing interconnectedness of regions through the common processes of economic, political, and cultural change. What has led to increased globalization? Explain two key points that opponents of globalization/free trade have raised. Due 11:50 pm on Sunday, June 28.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION** - The impact/influence of globalization in a North America city. Response posting to a classmate's initial posting due latest by 11:50 pm.

Week 2: June 29 - July 5 (European Imperialism)

- Readings: Chapter 3 (Middle and South America, pg. 130-173)
Chapter 6 (North Africa and Southwest Asia, pg. 308-352)
Chapter 7 (Sub-Saharan Africa, pg. 368-412)
- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION** - Legacy of Colonization. Initial discussion posting due latest 11:50 pm.
- Wednesday: **QUIZ II** on chapters 3, 6, & 7 (Available July 1 – July 5).
- Thursday: **MIDTERM EXAM.** Submit essay by 11:50 pm on Sunday, July 5.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION** - Legacy of Colonization. Response posting to a classmate's initial posting due latest by 11:50 pm.

Week 3: July 6 - July 12 (Development, Urbanization, and Geopolitics)

- Readings: Chapter 8 (South Asia, pg. 426-471)
Chapter 9 (East Asia, pg. 486-530)
Chapter 10 (Southeast Asia, pg. 552-593)

- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION** - Rural-Urban Migration in Asia. Initial discussion posting due latest 11:50 pm.
- Wednesday: **QUIZ III** on chapters 8, 9, & 10 (Available July 8 – July 12)
- Thursday: **SPECIAL TOPIC RESPONSE:** Elderly populations are growing in Japan and other countries because of increasing life expectancy and decreasing fertility. In China, the one-child policy has reduced population growth, but it puts the burden of caring for aging parents on the one child. These scenarios and others are shrinking the workforce and could lead to a decline in a country's wealth. Fully explain the benefits and drawbacks of an aging population that are unique to China. Due 11:50 pm on Sunday, July 12.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION** – Rural-Urban Migration in Asia. Response posting to a classmate's initial posting due latest by 11:50 pm.

Week 4: July 13 - July 19 (Environmental Degradation)

- Readings: Chapter 5 (Russia and the Post-Soviet States, pg. 256-295)
Chapter 11 (Oceania, pg. 606-645)
- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION** - Environmental Degradation in the former U.S.S.R or Oceania. Initial discussion posting due latest 11:50 pm today.
- Wednesday: **QUIZ IV** on chapters 5 & 11 (Available July 15 – July 19)
- Thursday: **FINAL EXAM.** Submit essay by 11:50 pm on Sunday, July 19.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION** – Environmental Degradation in the former U.S.S.R or Oceania Response posting to a classmate's initial posting due latest by 11:50 pm.

Students are strongly encouraged to check their UWSP email and the **Home Page** regularly for information pertaining to the course.

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