



**Learning Enabler:** Ismaila Odogba, PhD

**Office:** Science D337

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**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. An on-line environment is not for everyone. Visit <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/overview/> for a brief overview. Also, peruse the **Distance Education Student Primer** under documents on the Home Page of Canvas.

### **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 **Home Page** has a weekly framework of tasks and other related course materials.

### **Course Policies:**

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 **Announcement Page** and discussion lounge daily,

read the course materials, participate regularly in online discussions and, ask questions if in doubt. The Posts are 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.ccn.com, 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, all course tasks have to be completed 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. You may use many computers on campus, the public library, or local internet café.

I will check my 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 180 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 5 points)             | 20 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.

### 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 Post/Reply:**

You will Post comments to a current world event in the context of the assigned readings. Subsequently, each student will review and reply to a Post by another student in terms of areas of deficiency as pertains to the assigned readings. The **Post and Reply for each topic amount to a complete assignment**; you will not get partial credit for a Post only. These short Posts (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.

#### *Post Instruction*

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 Post. 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 2019 for your Posts. Only use a news item that has not been used by any of your course mates.**

#### *Reply Instruction*

**Critique a fellow student's Post** in terms of what important information from the textbook has been omitted or not fully dealt with. A Reply must be no less than 400 words. Base your **constructive critique** on the original news item and back-up your argument with material from the relevant textbook readings. The point of the Reply, 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 Reply to a Post with no prior response.**

### **Special Topic Response (STR):**

Unlike the weekly Post/Reply, for the special topic response **you only have to respond to a question by the instructor**. For those that like working ahead, the special topic questions are in the syllabus (See week 1 and 3 on the Home Page or Assignments Page on Canvas). The special topic response should be no more than 1,000 words.

You can type or paste your text directly into the text box provided under each task by the specified date. Note that the Reply to a Post is due on the same day as the Post or the following day but not later. **(Each 'Post' is due by 11:50 pm on the day assigned and the 'Reply' is due latest by 11:50 pm the following day.)** There will be no credit for any Post/Reply included as an **attachment**. In order to ascertain if your words are enough, you can first type your Post in Word and use the word counter before pasting it into the text box on Canvas. Ensure that your Post/Reply is not too short. The quality of a Post and Reply determines the score, thus back up your arguments with materials from the relevant textbook readings.

**Exams:**

The exams will comprise of short essays relating to previously assigned readings from the textbook. On the exam day, three questions will 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.**

**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 <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Concerns%20for%20Students.aspx>

**Special Accommodations:**

I will only honor recommended accommodations from Disability and Assistive Technology Center at 715-346-3365. Please, do visit this office (room 609 in the Learning Resource Center) if you have any condition such as physical or learning disability that make it difficult to carry out the work as outlined or will require academic accommodations. In addition, I will accommodate religious belief according to UWSP 22.03.

**Course Materials:**

Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher and Alex Pulsipher. 2014. *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives*, (6<sup>th</sup> 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 24-28 (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: **POST** on the impact/influence of globalization in a North America city.  
Due by 11:50 PM today, **REPLY** to a fellow student by 11:50 pm on

Wednesday. Hereafter each 'Post' is due by 11:50 pm on the day assigned and the 'Reply' is due by 11:50 pm the following day. Note that it is okay to Post and Reply on the first day.

Wednesday: **Online Quiz** on chapters 1, 2, & 4 (Available 6/25/2019-6/30/2019).

**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. Response is due by 11:50 pm on Sunday, June 30.

**Week 2: July 1-5 (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)

Monday: **POST** on the 'Legacy of Colonization' latest 11:50 pm today and **REPLY** to a course mate's Post latest by 11:50 pm on Tuesday.

Tuesday: **Online Quiz** on chapters 3, 6, & 7 (Available 7/2/2019-7/7/2019).

Wednesday: **Midterm Exam.** Submit essay by 11:50 pm on Sunday, July 7.

**Week 3: July 8-12 (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)

Monday: **POST** on 'Rural-Urban Migration' in Asia latest 11:50 pm today and **REPLY** to a course mate's Post latest by 11:50 pm on Tuesday.

Tuesday: **Online Quiz** on chapters 8, 9, & 10 (Available 7/9/2019- 7/14/2019).

Wednesday: **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.

Response is due by 11:50 pm on Sunday, July 14.



**Week 4: July 15-19 (Environmental Degradation)**

- Readings: Chapter 5 (Russia and the Post-Soviet States, pg. 256-295)  
Chapter 11 (Oceania, pg. 606-645)
- Monday: **POST** on 'Environmental Degradation' in the former U.S.S.R or Oceania latest 11:50 pm today and **REPLY** to a course mate's Post latest by 11:50 pm on Tuesday.
- Tuesday: **Online Quiz** on chapters 5 & 11 (Available 7/15/2019-7/19-2019)
- Wednesday: **Final Exam.** Submit essay by 11:50 pm on Sunday, July 21.

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