



Learning Enabler: Ismaila Odogba, Ph.D.

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13:00 via Zoom. However, I am readily available via email or email to set up a Zoom appointment.

Office: Science B303

Office hours: Wed: 12:00-

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. Likewise, 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 within 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 to ask 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*).

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. 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 email and the **Discussion Lounge** on weekdays from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm and respond at the 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 feedback. I shall communicate using your university email.

Grading:

This course is worth 160 points and consists of the following components:

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| 1. Quizzes (four, each worth 10 points) | 40 pts. |
| 2. Discussion Activity (four, each worth 10 points) | 40 pts. |
| 3. Geographic Thinking Assignment (four, each worth 20 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 course 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, 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 summary of the chapters that inform you of where to focus on for the quizzes. You will have two attempts for each quiz and your final score will be the highest attempt. Quizzes are accessible on CANVAS from the first day of the course.

Weekly Discussion Activity:

A discussion activity is scheduled for each week; the discussions pertain to specific topics covered in each week. Topics and specific expectations for discussion activities 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 post by another student in terms of areas of deficiency as pertains to the assigned readings. It is important that you participate in the discussion activity each week because this is where we exchange some of our ideas. The contributions to each week's discussion are worth 10 points each for a total of 40 points for the semester.

Students will each make an **Opening Post**. These posts 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. The opening posts to the weekly discussion forum must be made by 11:50 pm on Tuesday. Subsequently, students will then reply with a Response Post to the opening post of a classmate. The Response post to a classmate's opening post must be done by 11:50 pm on Friday. Reply only to an opening post with no prior response post. **An opening post and a response post amount to a complete discussion; there is no partial credit for only an opening or response post. Incomplete discussions will receive zero credit.**

Opening Post 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 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. The opening posts to the weekly discussion activity must be made by 11:50 pm on Tuesday and should be between 400-500 words. Do not simply summarize the article. **Use only articles/new items beginning from the year 2022 for your opening posts. Only use a news item that has not been used by any of your course mates.**



Response Post Instructions

Critique a fellow student's opening post in terms of what important information from the textbook has been omitted or not fully dealt with. Base your response post on **constructive critique** of the original news item and back-up your argument with material from the relevant textbook readings. The point of the response post, 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. The Response post to a classmate's opening post must be done by 11:50 pm on Friday and must be no less than 500 words. **Reply only to an opening post with no prior response post.**

Posting to Discussion Activity

The following are a list of guidelines to adhere to for all postings to the Discussion board:

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Use language appropriate 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 posts should 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. **'Opening Posts' are due by 11:50 pm on Tuesday and the 'Response Posts' at the latest by 11:50 pm on Friday. There will be no credit for any post included as an attachment.** 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.

Geographic Thinking Assignments (GTAs):

These GTAs require students to develop their own interpretation of concepts by taking advantage of various sources of information to develop reasonable responses to prompts. Sources (at least 3-5 sources) of information in addition to the course text must be consulted. All Internet sources or materials used as a basis for your commentary should be provided using a professional citation style (which also includes the URLs of the websites). The **bibliography does not count in the page total**. The GTAs grade will NOT be based on your opinion (there is no single "correct" answer)! It will be based on how you support your position, the logic and completeness of your response, and the use of appropriate examples. Proper grammar and sentence structure will also be reflected in your grade. Proofread and edit assignment before final submission. Also refer to the grading rubric. For those that like working ahead, the GTAs prompts are in the syllabus and accessible on CANVAS from the first day of the course.

Submitting GTAs to Canvas:

GTAs must be submitted as a Microsoft document MS.docx. The titled, written short essay should be between 1.5-2 pages with a 12-point Times Roman font and 1" margins. The file should be



named using this format: Smith_Assignment.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 deadline. 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 announcements 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, Alex Pulsipher and Ola Johansson. 2020. *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives*, (8th Edition). New York: W.H. Freeman and Company.

The Web site <https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/product/World-Regional-Geography/p/1319206778> is an online resource. It offers activities and animated tutorials that enhance comprehension of the course materials and preparation for quizzes and exams. Other materials for the course (syllabus, PowerPoint slides, assignments, etc.) are available on Canvas.

Tentative Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and schedule as necessary to meet the learning needs of the students or other unforeseen circumstances.

Week 1: June 26 – June 30

- Monday: Peruse course syllabus and start reading.
Get Acquainted Task (One truth-one lie)
- Readings: Synopsis of Chapters
Chapter 1 (Geography: An Exploration of Connections)
Chapter 2 (North America, pg. 63-111)
Chapter 4 (Europe, pg. 191-235)
- Video clips: 1. From Pyramids to Pillars: Two Centuries of Change in the US. Population, 1860-2060
2. It's a World Region: Sub-Saharan Africa Explained
- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Impacts of An Aging Population in North American or a North American City. **Opening Post** due by 11:50 pm today, June 27.
- Wednesday: **QUIZ I** on chapters 1, 2, & 4 (Available June 26 – June 30).
- Thursday: **GTA 1 - A Continent Not:** In your own words, explain the term *World Region*. Why do geographers use the term *Middle and South America* instead of *Latin America*? Due 11:50 pm on Friday, June 30.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Impacts of An Aging Population in North American or a North American City. **Response Post** to a classmate's opening post due latest by 11:50 pm today June 30.

Week 2: July 3 - July 7

- Monday: Readings:
Synopsis of Chapters
Chapter 3 (Middle and South America, pg. 129-171)
Chapter 6 (North Africa and Southwest Asia, pg. 305-345)
Chapter 7 (Sub-Saharan Africa, pg. 365-411)
- Video Clips: 1. Colonialism
2. What is Globalization? Understand our Interconnected World
- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Legacy of European Imperialism. **Opening Post** due latest 11:50 pm, today July 4.



- Wednesday: **QUIZ II** on chapters 3, 6, & 7 (Available June 26 – July 7).
- Thursday: **GTA 2 - Our Interdependent World:** In your own words, explain the term *Globalization*. Discuss two factors that have made globalization possible. Is globalization good or bad? Due 11:50 pm on Friday, July 7.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Legacy of European Imperialism. **Response Post** to a classmate's opening post due latest by 11:50 pm, today July 7.

Week 3: July 10 - July 14

- Monday: *Readings:*
Synopsis of Chapters
Chapter 8 (South Asia, pg. 425-469)
Chapter 9 (East Asia, pg. 485-530)
Chapter 10 (Southeast Asia, pg. 551-594)
- Video Clips:* 1. The Future of our Cities: What Challenges and Opportunities will Urbanization bring?
2. China in Transition
- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Migration in Asia. **Opening Post** due latest 11:50 pm, today July 11.
- Wednesday: **QUIZ III** on chapters 8, 9, & 10 (Available June 26 – July 14).
- Thursday: **GTA 3 - Changes & Movement:** In your own words, explain the term *Urbanization*. How has globalization influenced urbanization in Southeast Asia? Due 11:50 pm on Friday, July 14.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Migration in Asia. **Response Post** to a classmate's opening post due latest by 11:50 pm, today July 14.

Week 4: July 17 - July 21

- Monday: *Readings:*
Synopsis of Chapters
Chapter 5 (Russia and the Post-Soviet States, pg. 257-292)
Chapter 11 (Oceania, pg. 613-659)
- Video Clips:* 1. Toxic Clean Up: Russia Begins Cleanup at Soviet Era Landfill
2. Climate Change in the Pacific Coasts



- Tuesday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Environmental Issues in the former U.S.S.R or Oceania. **Opening Post** due latest 11:50 pm today, July 18.
- Wednesday: **QUIZ IV** on chapters 5 & 11 (Available June 26 – July 21)
- Thursday: **GTA 4 - Mother Unappreciated:** In your own words, explain the term *Human-Environment Interaction*. How has globalization contributed to deforestation in South America? Due 11:50 pm on Friday, July 21.
- Friday: **DISCUSSION ACTIVITY** - Environmental Issues in the former U.S.S.R or Oceania. **Response Post** to a classmate's opening post due latest by 11:50 pm, today July 21.

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

Lecture materials and recordings for World Regional Geography are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may not copy or share lecture materials outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWSP Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.