



Learning Enabler: Ismaila Odogba, Ph.D.

Office hours: Mon & Wed: 11:00-12:30 or by appointment

Class Schedule: Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30 – 10.45am

Email: iodogba@uwsp.edu

Office: Science B303

Venue: SCI A201

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.

U.S. National Geography Standards emphasized in the course:

- The physical and human characteristics of places.
- That people create regions to interpret the earth's complexity.
- How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.
- The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on the Earth's surface.

Enduring Understandings of the Course:

- The world is an interdependent system of regions linked by political and economic competition and cooperation.
- The partitioning of the earth is based on continental and physiographic settings.

Essential Questions:

- How do the divisions of a dominant viewpoint result in regional disparities?
- On what basis do geographers partition the world into regions?

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. To identify and recognize the major geo-political regions and economic realms of the world.
2. To describe globalization and how global forces shape local settings in world regions.
3. To distinguish developed nations from developing nations.
4. To illustrate themes and contrast the impact of European imperialism on societies around the world.
5. To demonstrate the position of regions in the global economy and articulate current issues (political, economic, and socio-cultural) in a geographical context.

General Education Program (GEP):

This course fulfills the Human Cultures & the Sciences and the Social & Environmental Responsibility of the GEP. Geography tends to examine, from a spatial perspective, the diversity and range of the physical and human systems across the planet. Consequently, it complements and aligns with the learning outcomes in these categories.

Human Cultures and the Sciences - Social Sciences

- Explain or apply major concepts, methods, or theories used in the social sciences to investigate, analyze, or predict human behavior. (Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 2).
- Examine and explain how social, cultural, or political institutions influence individuals or groups. (Course Learning Outcomes 2/4).

Social and Environmental Awareness - Global Awareness

- Identify the components found within one or more cultures that are distinct from those found in predominantly English-speaking cultures. (Course Learning Outcome 2).
- Analyze key forces or processes that contribute to global interconnectedness and their implications. (Course Learning Outcome 4).
- Demonstrate curiosity and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives. (Course Learning Outcome 5).

Course Format:

Designed largely for classroom delivery, the course shall involve lectures, map exercises, class discussions, assignments, movies, online quizzes, and exams. A core set of beliefs about teaching and learning influence my teaching; one of which is that ***learning is an active student-centered activity and teaching is simply not the transmission of knowledge from the instructor to the students***. The process of instruction involves both the enabler (i.e., the instructor) and students (learners) engaging in an interactive environment to discover, understand, and apply knowledge to practical issues.

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 use 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.

Course Policies:

Readings. Complete the assigned readings prior to class. Be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class. Being up to date on current events enhances one's geographical knowledge. Students should follow current world events by consulting a variety of sources. For example, www.bbc.com. You are responsible for all material presented in class and the assigned readings.

Participation. Participation in discussions is very desirable. You are strongly encouraged to participate during class. Do share your ideas, thoughts, and ask questions. If this is difficult for you due to language, shyness, or a disability, ***please see me***. The purpose of the class discussion is to enhance understanding; ***so, do respect the ideas, thoughts, and opinions of others***. Do note that each member of the class deserves to learn in an environment where they are all treated with the highest levels of dignity and respect. Abusive, offensive, discriminatory, or otherwise harassing behavior is not permitted.

Attendance and Gadgets (Voodoo). I will take attendance regularly as school regulations require it. Arriving late and leaving early disrupts class and shall result in a reduction in your total course score by **2 points for each occurrence**. Everyone is permitted **only one unexcused absence**. Thereafter, every unexcused absence will cost you **2 points**. If you are unable to attend class, please inform me ahead of time (except in case of an emergency or illness). All electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, and similar devices are prohibited during class. Cellphones are to be turned off (or on vibrate) during class, and do not answer phone calls or text messages during class unless there is an emergency. Laptops and tablets may be used in class for note-taking purposes and for the in-class group activities. Please refrain from checking email, web browsing or other activities that are not related to the class as these activities are distracting to other members of the class and are also disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor. If you are using a laptop, sit in the front row and expect to be consulted during lectures to provide ancillary information. Note that you are responsible for all material presented in class and the assigned readings. Thus, if you miss a class, do not email me asking, “What did I miss?”

Exams, Quizzes, and Assignments. You must submit all assignments and take quizzes at the scheduled time. Some of the tests will be collaborative. The instructor will not accept late submissions without a verified excuse; **late submissions will receive zero credit**. Likewise, make-up quizzes will require a verifiable excuse.

Why let students take exams and quizzes collaboratively? There are several reasons, most of which have been *explored empirically*. When students discuss questions and possible answers, they intensely engage with the content, which increases the learning potential of an exam/quiz experience. The activity develops cooperation and communication skills. But the reason most often given is that working with other students decreases exam anxiety, particularly for those students whose levels of anxiety compromise their ability to perform on exams.

Email. I strongly advise that you check your email regularly. If an unanticipated emergency necessitates a class cancellation or other last-minute change, you will be notified via email. Part of being professional is learning to communicate professionally with your professors and colleagues. The following are some etiquettes for sending good Email messages. I will not respond to unprofessional Emails.

1. Begin with a salutation (for example, “Hello, Professor SpongeBob”)
2. Always include a subject heading so that your email does not get put into the spam folder and deleted.
3. Be concise and brief. Lengthy discussions should be held in person.
4. Pay attention to grammar and spelling. Emails are professional communication and should not read like text messages.
5. Be professional and polite. Ask for help rather than make demands or lodge complaints. Negatively tinged emails usually go over poorly with the recipient. It is almost always better to talk to your instructor in person.

DO NOT send an email about information you can easily find on your own (e.g., something on the syllabus, UWSP home page or the like) or that reads like a text message.



Grading:

This course is worth “400” points.

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| 1. Attendance | 20 pts. |
| 2. Current Events | 50 pts. |
| 3. Group Participation | 30 pts. |
| 4. Quizzes (11; 10 pts. each) lowest score dropped | 100 pts. |
| 5. Comparing Regions Assignment | 50 pts. |
| 6. Exams (3; 50 pts. each) | 150 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 grades for A+ or D-. 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) attend class 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. Do feel free to email me or drop by my office if you have any difficulties regarding this course; emails should contain ***your name, class, and section number***.

Informed Contribution

Students will get points for contributing to the class when they participate in class dialogues. A quality contribution to class discussions has any or all of these attributes:

1. It contributes new information to the dialogue. For instance, if a student agrees with a colleague’s statement, the student must present reasons that were not cited by the initial speaker.
2. It raises a question that generates reflection on the subject.

The informed contribution points earned will be added to the overall course points before the course grade is determined. **Note:** This is subject to a student having attended at least 24 classes.

Special Accommodations:

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodation for 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.

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>

Emergency Response Guidance:

In the event of a medical emergency call 9-1-1 or use the nearest Red Emergency Phone. Help if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victims. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room in the building without window exposure See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span structures (gyms, pools or large classrooms). In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet at a safe location more than 200 yards away from the building. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. Active Shooter/Code React – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so. Follow instructions of emergency responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Procedures at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures for details on all emergency responses.

Student Policies:

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> serves as 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, videos assignments, etc.) are available on Canvas.

Tentative Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and schedule when necessary to meet the learning needs of the students, compensate for canceled classes or other unforeseen circumstances.

Week One (September 5, 7):

- September 5: Welcome to the Course, Course Overview/Meet the Professor – *Introductions, Course Policies, and Expectations*
- September 7: Geography: An Exploration of Connections

Week Two (September 12, 14):

- September 12: Geography: An Exploration of Connections
 - Readings: Chapter 1
 - Quiz #1 online
- September 14: North America
 - Readings: Pages 63-111
 - *The Region as a Concept*

Week Three (September 19, 21):

- September 19: North America
 - Readings: Pages 63-111
 - Quiz #2 online
- September 21: Middle and South America
 - Readings: Pages 129-171

Week Four September (26, 28):

- September 26: Middle and South America
 - Readings: Pages 129-171
 - Quiz #3 online
- September 28: ***Assignment Discussion in class***
 - ***Comparing Regions Assignment posted on Canvas due November 21***

Week Five (October 3, 5): Europe

- Readings: Pages 191-235
- Quiz #4 Quiz online

Week Six (October 10, 12): Exam I (Online) and Debrief

Week Seven (October 17, 19): Russia and the Post-Soviet States

- Readings: Pages 257-292
- Quiz #5 collaborative testing in class
- *Current Events #1*

Week Eight (October 24, 26): North Africa and Southwest Asia

- Readings: Pages 305-345
- Quiz #6 collaborative testing in class
- *Current Events #2*

Week Nine (October 31, November 2): Sub-Saharan Africa

- Readings: Pages 365-411
- Quiz #7 collaborative testing in class
- *Current Events #3*

Week Ten (November 7, 9): South Asia

- Readings: Pages 425-469
- Quiz #8 collaborative testing in class
- *Current Events #4*
- *Peer teaching activity*

Week Eleven (November 14, 16) Exam II (Collaborative testing in Class) and Debrief

Week Twelve (November 21, 23)

- ***Group Evaluation & Comparing Regions Assignment due on Canvas on November 21***
- ***November 23 - 26: Thanksgiving recess begins 18:00 on November 22***

Week Thirteen (November 28, 30): East Asia

- Readings: Pages 485-530
- Quiz #9

Week Fourteen (December 5, 7): Southeast Asia

- Readings: Pages 551-594
- Quiz #10
- *Speed sharing activity*

Week Fifteen (December 12, 14): Oceania

- Readings: Pages 613-659
- Quiz #11

Week Sixteen: Exam III (Open testing). Tuesday, December 19, 2023, from 2:45 - 4:45

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

Some Important Dates:

Sept 4, 2023: Labor Day

Sept 14, 2023: Last day to add or drop a 16-week course without a grade.

Nov 10, 2023: Last day to drop a 16-week course.

Nov 22-26, 2023: Thanksgiving recess begins at 6 pm on Nov 22.

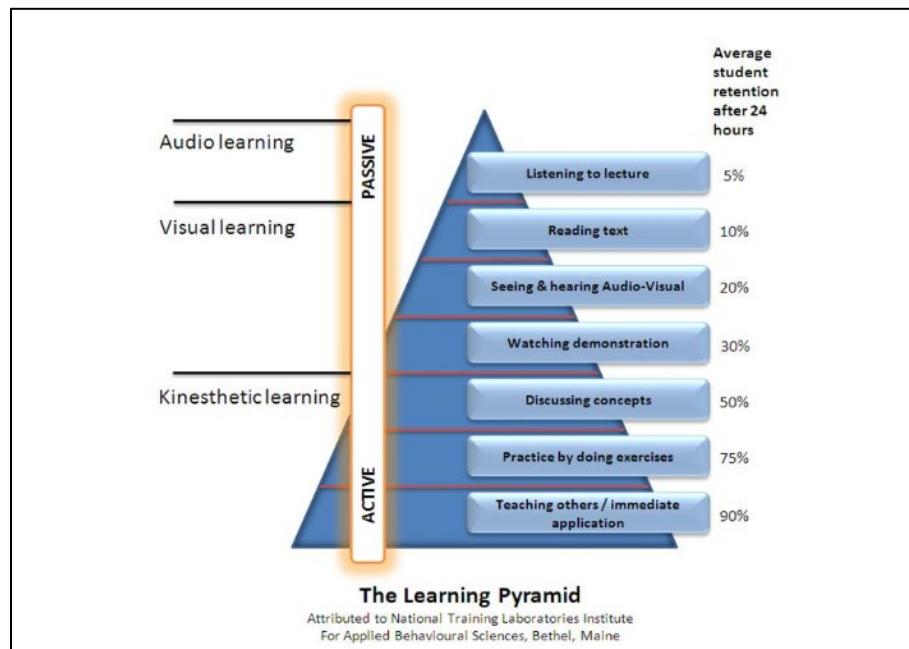
Dec 15, 2023: Last day of classes

Dec 16, 2023: Commencement

Teaching Philosophy:

Teaching is a fundamental component of my scholarly life. Over the last few years, I strived and continue to strive to improve the ability of my students learn, think critically, and augment their problem learning skills. I design and conduct my courses in a manner that is most conducive to

developing in my students a life-long interest in learning and a greater capacity to think critically. My teaching philosophy is that learning is a student-centered lively activity and knowledge should be largely applicable to the resolution of real-world problems. Due to this belief, this syllabus is structured using backward design, core performance tasks, and other teaching techniques to create an interactive learning environment that hopefully helps the students improve their learning and to engage in critical thinking. The process of instruction, for me, involves both the learning enabler (i.e., the instructor) and students (learners) engaging in this interactive environment to discover, understand, and apply knowledge to practical issues.



Bligh (1998) gives some evidence for the effectiveness of different teaching methods. In 1954, a similar pyramid with slightly different numbers had appeared in a book, *Audio-Visual Methods in Teaching*, published by the Edgar Dale Dryden Press, New York.

Contractual Agreement:

This syllabus is a contract between the professor and the students. Please study it carefully, as you are expected to prepare for the quizzes and tests, follow instructions, and complete the assignments contained in the syllabus on time even if the professor doesn't remind you. 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.