

Geography 105-001 Spring 2004

World Regional Geography

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 12:00 - 12:50 p.m. in 220 Farrah Hall

Dr. Roberta (Bobbi) Webster

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Do **not** call me at home unless it is an emergency.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:30 p.m., or by appointment.

REQUIRED TEXT FOR THIS COURSE:

H. J. de Blij and Peter O. Muller, Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts, 11th edition, John Wiley and Sons, 2004.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Geography 105 provides an introduction to some of the world's major geographic regions. The primary focus is on various cultural and physical factors which give distinctive character to specific world regions. When applicable, special emphasis will be placed on current events, problems, and conflicts.

The course emphasizes the need for students to become more geographically informed. There are four overall course objectives: (1) to introduce students to the broad subject matter of geography through a survey of selected world regions and countries; (2) to encourage students to develop an appreciation for the diversity and complexity on the earth's surface; (3) to better understand some of the major regional issues and problems ongoing in our global environment; and (4) to encourage students to become more sophisticated in their daily use of geographic knowledge.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- have attained an introduction to the broad subject matter of geography through a survey of selected world regions and countries
- be able to use maps to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective
- be able to use mental maps to better organize spatial information about people and places in specific world regions
- recognize that geographers use the regional concept to interpret the Earth's complex landscapes, including complexities on the physical landscape, the cultural landscape, and those complexities that generate cooperation or conflict among people and places
- recognize that regions change over time
- better understand some of the major regional issues and problems ongoing in the world
- be more sophisticated in their daily use of geographic knowledge

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING:

Your grade for the course will be based on 3 exam scores, each contributing 1/3 of your course grade. Exams will generally consist of multiple choice and true-false questions from required reading, lecture material, place name lists, handouts, videos, and guest lectures. The 3rd exam will be given during the final exam period, but it is **not** comprehensive. Students are encouraged to take advantage of extra credit assignments as they are assigned throughout the semester.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

If you cannot take a regularly scheduled exam, you MUST contact the instructor before the exam or within 24 hours after the examination. Failure to do so jeopardizes any opportunity to take a make-up exam regardless of your explanation. Make-up examinations can only be given for verifiable emergencies, serious illness, or your required participation in an official university activity. You must request a make-up exam from the course instructor in writing. All requests for make-up exams will be forwarded to the departmental chair who will decide whether a make-up exam is warranted. Your request must include your name, your phone number or e-mail address, the reason(s) why you missed the exam (or will miss the exam), and any supporting documentation that you can provide. Make-up exams generally consist of short answer questions. All departmental make-up exams are given on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. in 220 Farrah Hall.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

*Regular attendance is crucial to good performance in this course. My lecture notes and/or transparencies **cannot** be made available to students outside of class **FOR ANY REASON**.

*International students who need to use a dictionary during an exam will be allowed to use only dictionaries in traditional book form. You **cannot** use any type of electronic or hand-held device for translation purposes. Furthermore, your dictionary **cannot** contain place name related information.

*Academic honesty. Any act of misconduct or dishonesty **must** be reported to the academic dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

*Student disabilities. The University makes reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services.

*Final Examination. Your final exam is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2004. Exam #3 will be given at this time. **Any student who has a conflict with the published final examination time must contact the course instructor no later than April 15, 2004, to request a change in exam time. All requests must be in writing and will be forwarded to the departmental chair for a decision.**

Tentative Course Outline and Required Reading

- Jan 7-14** What is Geography?
Enhancing Geographic Literacy
Required Reading: De Blij and Muller, Introduction Chapter, especially pp. 2-7, 14-32.
- Jan 16-21** Defining Europe as World Geographic Realm
European Paradoxes
Required Reading: De Blij and Muller, Chapter 1, pp. 40-95.
- Jan 23-30** Centripetal Forces across Europe
Supranationalism: Evolution of the European Union
Possible New Members of the EU
The Impact of the Chunnel on European Unification
- Feb 2-6** Centrifugal Forces across Europe
Devolutionary Pressures
Eastern Europe as a Shatter Belt
Balkanization
- Feb 9-16** Devolution in Czechoslovakia
Devolution in Yugoslavia
Milosevic's Role in Yugoslavia's Devolution
- Feb 18** **Exam #1**
- Feb 20** Defining the Russian Geographic Realm through 3 Time Periods: Russian Empire,
U.S.S.R., and Russian Federation
Required Reading: De Blij and Muller, Chapter 2, pp. 98-133.

- Feb 23-27** “Discovering Russia” -- An Overview of the Cultural and Historical Landscape
Constraints on Russia’s Population Distribution Pattern: Friction of Distance, Climate, Implosion
- March 1-5** Chernobyl’s Legacy: Why are we still talking about Chernobyl?
Devolution in the Russian Federation? Primorskiy and Chechnya
- March 8-12** Defining the Middle American Realm
Mainland-Rimland Framework: Mexico and Haiti
Required Reading: De Blij and Muller, Chapter 4, pp. 186-221.
- March 15-19** Caribbean Tourism: Tourist Motivations and Impacts
Panama Canal: Engineering Marvel, but What about Its Future?
- March 22** **Exam #2**
- March 24-26** Defining the North Africa and Southwest Asia (NASWA) Realm
Who is Arab? Who is Muslim?
Required Reading: De Blij and Muller, Chapter 7, pp. 320-371.
- Mar 29-Apr 2** **No Class – Spring Break**
- April 5-9** Diffusion and Significance of Islam across NASWA
Islamic Fundamentalism: The Case of the Taliban in Afghanistan
Oil Reserves in NASWA and the Role of OPEC
- April 12-14** Arab-Israeli Conflict over Palestine
- April 16** **No Class – Honors Day**
- April 19-23** Defining the Sub-Saharan African Realm
Symptoms of Underdevelopment
European Involvement and Exploitation
Required Reading: De Blij and Muller, Chapter 6, pp. 265-317.
- April 26-30** Apartheid and Post-Apartheid in South Africa
Patterns of Disease: Ebola and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa
- May 6** **Exam #3**