

Syllabus: World Geography, GEO 1310, Section # 326200, Spring 2007

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Evans Liberal Arts, Room 316

Instructor: Eric Samson

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Office hours: 10:45 – 11:30 Tuesday/Thursday ELA 392 (or by appointment)

Course Description: This course stresses the similarities and differences of the major world regions. Emphasis is given to human behavior in a spatial context.

Required Text: Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World, 2nd. By Lester Rowntree, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, William Wyckoff. Publisher: Prentice Hall. Available as eTextbook:

<http://www.coursesmart.com/disciplines?category=cs.gegrp> (\$45 – 180 day subscription). ISBN-10: 0131756958 ISBN-13: 9780131756953, Copyright: 2008. Paper bound book; 480 pages, \$90 on Amazon.com. **Note:** As an environmental geographer, I would clearly prefer that you purchase the eTextbook version and save some trees! **Be careful not to get the first edition – also, there is a more expensive version by the same authors called Diversity Amid Globalization, so don't get that by mistake.** Please have your book by the third class or tell me why you don't.

Attendance: We will be actively learning in this class so you are required to attend. 5% of your grade is based on your attendance. A percentage point is subtracted for each missed class up to five absences without documentation for extreme circumstances (no more points will be taken off after five absences). Make up tests will only be allowed in the most extreme cases for which there is adequate documentation (e.g.: doctor's note, death certificate). Should you become overwhelmed by some circumstance and discontinue the class, don't forget to officially drop – this is your responsibility.

Learning Outcomes: Students will learn the major driving systems of geography including environmental, cultural, economic, settlement, and political systems and how to interpret geographic areas in terms of these systems. The world will be studied by region and give students a familiarity with analyzing and synthesizing geographic regions. Students will learn to use maps and data sets to interpret the Earth.

TxState Academic Dishonesty Policy: All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting intellectual freedom and openness through rigorous personal standards of honesty and fairness. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education. Specific sanctions for academic dishonesty are outlined in the Texas State Student Handbook. All cases of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating, will be handled in accordance with University policy. **Note:** Do not hand in cut and pasted web pages – I have a program that will tell me where you got it and what percentage you copied – don't even think about it.

Accommodations for students with special needs (ADA Statement): Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) that will require compensatory arrangements must contact the instructor no later than the fourth class period to discuss specific arrangements and logistics. Students who have not already done so will be required to contact the Office of Student Disability Services located at LBJ 5-5.1 (512-245-3451). Texas State University and your instructor are dedicated to providing these students with necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.

Stuff I really don't need to say, but I will: Cell phones, ear phones, texting devices, lateness, talking, sleeping – enough said. Recording of class sessions in any form is prohibited without prior permission. If you have kids you can request special permission to have your phone on vibrate (please sit by the door). Let's be friends – please cooperate. Write down the name, E-mail and phone number of two people near you right now in case you miss class or need to consult about something.

1st person: _____

2nd person _____

Grades:

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

25% Test I

25% Test II

25% Test III

10% Outside review

10% Your job

5% Attendance

Course grade will be based on the following scale: A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 59% or lower.

Tests (noted on the agenda below) will be multiple choice, matching, and short answer. Class will be canceled April 17 in lieu of your attendance at an event on a subject of global interest – your outside review.

This could be a Ballet Folklorico performance, a lecture (or movie) on global warming, a lecture on human trafficking, etc. You are expected to write a two page (double spaced, Turabian documentation) review of your event and its significance to a world system(s) and supply the program or poster. You may also review an academic journal article or a major web page – get approval for your outside review by E-mail from me.

Your job is 10% of your grade. Various research questions can be answered, administrative chores, writing papers, all can comprise a job. Points will be meted out on an ad hoc basis, usually 2.5 points per job with bonuses given for good to great jobs. Jobs are easy at the beginning of the semester – hard at the end.

TRACS & E-mail: You are required to have a txstate.edu E-mail account for this class by January 31. All class information will be available on TRACS. All assignments should be handed in electronically through the TRACS Dropbox – **NO PAPER!** Put your name on the document itself, and put your last name and project name (or abbreviation) in the file name, e.g. Smith_Job1.doc, Perez_DemoMapJob.jpeg, or Ras_OtsdRvw.doc. Save and send your files as 97-2003 (old version) documents – our class computer uses older version. **DO NOT PUT COPYRIGHT RESTRICTION ON YOUR SUBMISSIONS IN TRACS AS THIS CAN ENCRYPT YOUR TEXT AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO READ IT.** It is your responsibility to get me assignments in the proper format.

Agenda (subject to revision and change):

Jan 15 First class: introduction	Mar 11 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Jan 17 Geographic Field Chapter 1	Mar 13 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Jan 22 Geographic Systems Chapter 2	Mar 18 Russia Chapter 9
Jan 24 North America Chapter 3	Mar 20 Russia - Last W grade withdrawal deadline
Jan 29 North America	Mar 25 Geographic Systems / Review
Jan 30 OFFICIAL 12th CLASS DAY	Mar 27 Test II
Jan 31 Latin America Chapter 4	Apr 1 Central Asia Chapter 10
Feb 5 Latin America	Apr 3 South Asia Chapter 12
Feb 7 Caribbean Chapter 5	Apr 8 South Asia
Feb 12 Geographic Systems / Review	Apr 10 East Asia Chapter 11
Feb 14 Test I	Apr 15 East Asia - China
Feb 19 Europe Chapter 8	Apr 17 WITHDRAW DEADLINE
Feb 21 Europe	Apr 17 Outside Review Allowance – NO CLASS
Feb 25 SW Asia and North Africa Chapter 7	Apr 22 Southeast Asia Chapter 13
Feb 27 Southwest Asia and North Africa	Apr 24 Australia and Oceania 14, Review, LAST CLASS
Mar 4 Sub-Saharan Africa Chapter 6	Apr 29 NO CLASS – ALL WORK DUE 5:00 p.m.
Mar 6 Sub-Saharan Africa	May 1 FINAL, TEST III 11:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.