

GEO 132: World Regional Geography (3 credits)
Course Syllabus, Spring, 2016
Jackson Community College

Instructor: Dr. Glenn Fox
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Class Dates: 23 June through 10 August
Class Location: Online, all course materials located on JetNet (<http://jetnet.jccmi.edu>)

Course Description:

This course covers all regions of the world from a human perspective. Topics include resources, population, settlements, agriculture, manufacturing and transportation. There is special emphasis on Internet research in the classroom. **Prerequisites: ENG 085* and ENG 090***

Textbook:

Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World (4th edition, Rowntree et al. or earlier)
I recommend buying a used 3rd edition – the text has not changed appreciably from the 4th edition, and you can find the 3rd edition online for much less.

Methods of Instruction:

We will hold class entirely online at <http://jetnet.jccmi.edu>

The nature of the course is mainly memorization and understanding where and why things are located in different regions of the world. If you have questions or want to raise a topic/issue related to the class material, you are always welcome to do so in the class discussion boards on JetNet.

Learning Objectives:

Students will be expected to achieve competency in the following topics and geographic areas: Introductory Topics, North America, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Southwest Asia, Australia & Oceania, Russia, Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia.

Course Grading System:

Grades for the course will be assigned on the following basis:

* Unit Exams:	4 total, 100 points each	= 400 points
* Assignments	7 total, 10-15 points each	=100 points

Total Possible Points = 500 points

Unit Exams:

There will be four unit exams in the course. Exams consist of 100 multiple choice questions, very similar to the type and difficulty of those found in the practice quizzes on the text's companion site. You will complete the exams remotely (online). Exams are timed (2 hours) and no materials (books, notes, etc) may be used during the exam. Exams will be available for you to take immediately, but you must complete the exam by the dates listed below.

You have one opportunity to take each exam. If you lose power or internet connection, you must supply official documentation (a letter from your ISP or power company) in order to have a second attempt at the exam (no exceptions). I highly recommend taking the exam from a reliable internet connection (e.g. a campus computer), or having a backup (e.g. cell phone) connection. Before attempting an exam, I also highly recommend that you attempt the practice exam to troubleshoot for browser/connection errors. As this is an online course, the burden of understanding technology and supplying access to the internet is on you (the student). If you have technology issues, you may always contact the JCC Solution Center (<http://www.jccmi.edu/informationtechnology/solcen.htm>).

Exam scores may be normalized (curved) to 70%.

Given the flexible nature of the exams there will be no make-up exams offered.

Exam Dates:

Sun., 10 July	Introductory Topics, North America, Europe (Chapters 1-3 & 8)
Sun., 24 July	Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa (Chapters 4-6)
Sun., 7 Aug	Southwest Asia, Australia & Oceania, Russia (Chapters 7, 14, & 9)
Sun, 14 Aug	Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia (Chapters 10-13)

Weekly News Article Discussions:

World issues are all over the news today, in large part due to the process of globalization and the ability to transmit information lightning-fast through the internet around the world. In a normal semester I would ask you to find one article for each realm of the world that we cover...but since we're dealing with only a seven-week course and I really am not trying to overload you (while making sure we cover the correct amount of material), I am going to keep this manageable yet effective. For each section of the course, you will be required to find, summarize and submit one online news article from some place within the realm(s) we are studying. For example, if we're in the second section of class (Russia, Africa, Mideast), then go find a news article relating to something that happened in one of those locations, and create a summary! Let me be a lot more specific about the details:

- You must find **one news article online** (preferred site is www.cnn.com/world). Any online news website is fine, i.e. abc, cbs, bbc, etc.
- Find an article that **contains either a Geopolitical Issue or an Environmental Issue** (i.e. a political and/or environmental issue with some kind of spatial component).

o For example, civil war between two countries is an acceptable topic, an oil spill is fine, river pollution, the fall of a government, disease issues...almost anything can be considered either Geopolitical or Environmental issue really.

-The article cannot be more than two weeks old! I want to see relevant issues here, and you will have no trouble finding these. Just make sure it's a geopolitical or environmental issue, and that it came from the respective area(s) we are studying!

Assignment For Every Article:

- 1) Type up a summary of the article (this should be at least 500 words, but please feel free to go longer, should you need to). Include why this is either a Geopolitical Issue or an Environmental Issue.
- 2) Discuss the local and global significance of the news event in question.
- 3) Please be sure to reference your article (in APA format) at the end of your posting. If possible, include a hyperlink to the article.

Please post your article no later than the Wednesday deadline, and make at least two substantive (formative) comments on your colleagues' postings through the end of the week. No late work will be accepted for a grade.

Grading Scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent</u>
4.0	90% - 100%
3.5	85% - 89%
3.0	79% - 84%
2.5	75% - 78%
2.0	70% - 74%
1.5	65% - 69%
1.0	59% - 64%
E (0.0)	Below 59%

Incomplete grades are only available in the most extreme of circumstances. A student must have completed greater than 80% of the course points with a grade of 2.5 or greater to qualify for an Incomplete. Incomplete grades are awarded solely at the discretion of the Instructor.

Associate Degree Outcomes:

ADO 7: Critical thinking
ADO 10: Diversity

Student Academic Integrity:

The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Jackson Community College has adopted a code of academic conduct and a statement of student academic integrity, found in the catalog mentioned above. Violations

include cheating and plagiarism, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty.

If I find that someone has committed academic dishonesty in this course, the first action will result in a grade of 0.0 for that particular exam/quiz. If it happens again, the student will receive a failing grade for the course, and be referred to the Academic Affairs office for further discipline. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated in my class, bottom line. I do not expect any of you will ever do this; however, I need to make sure I am perfectly clear on the consequences if it happens.

Class Participation:

If you want to earn a high grade, you need to keep up with the material each week, set aside at least 9-10 hours each week to learn the material, and watch the related videos, along with completing the required news article summaries. If you do that, you will earn a high grade in this class!

You may be dropped from the course due to non-attendance and/or non-participation. If circumstances prevent you from participating, please inform me ASAP. For instance, if you miss an exam or a week's worth of assignments with no explanation, you may be dropped from the course. To prevent being dropped from the course, advance written approval is required and official documentation is necessary. Once you are dropped from the course, there will be no readmission.