

World Regional Geography
Political Science 104
Dr. C. Veninga
Fall 2007

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Office Hours: M 1:00 – 2:00, Th 1:00 - 2:00, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to global diversity. Our approach to understanding the world's diversity is grounded in the regional geography perspective, which seeks to understand how human-environment interactions produce regional variation. Put another way, regional geography emphasizes the ways in which political, natural, cultural, economic, and social processes produce distinct geographic regions. In addition to examining the way difference is produced, we will also spend a significant amount of time looking at the ways in which peoples and places around the globe come into increasing contact with one another.

Through our examination of regional variation and globalization, students will also be introduced to key geographic concepts (e.g., place, scale, landscape, glocalization). Acquiring an understanding of such concepts will allow students to think geographically, which will facilitate their understanding of the causes and consequences of global diversity.

COURSE GOALS

Through active participation in all aspects of this course students should be able to:

- Recognize and appreciate the diversity and complexity of the contemporary world
- Understand the geographic processes that have contributed to that diversity and complexity
- Understand the geographic context of current events (with particular emphasis on one region)
- Draw on and deploy key concepts from the discipline of geography
- Locate major geographic features on a map

REQUIRED READING

Text: Rowntree, Lewis, Price, Wycoff. *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*. Pearson Prentice Hall: New Jersey, 2006.

Additional: *New York Times* newspaper
e-reserves

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are a possible 550 points to be earned in this course:

Exams (4 x 100):	400
NY Times Weekly Reviews (7 x 10):	70
Regional Analysis Presentation:	50
<u>Participation:</u>	<u>30</u>
TOTAL:	550

Grade breakdown is as follows:

A: 511 (93%)	B-: 440 (80%)	D+: 374 (68%)
A-: 495 (90%)	C+: 429 (78%)	D: 346 (63%)
B+: 484 (88%)	C: 401 (73%)	D-: 330 (60%)
B: 456 (83%)	C-: 385 (70%)	F: less than 329

Exams (400 points): There will be four exams in this course, each one is worth 100 points. The exams will cover material from the textbook, lecture, and class discussion. Each exam will have a series of multiple choice questions (10 @ 3 points each), a map quiz (10 locations @ 2 points each), and several short essay questions (5 @ 10 points each). Students will be admitted to exams up to the point the first exam has been turned in. Since there is no way to know when the first person will finish the exam, it's best to be on time. If you leave during the exam you will not be readmitted. Make up exams (predicated on an excused absence) will be essay exams, and must be scheduled prior to the subsequent exam.

NY Times Weekly Reviews (70 points): You are required to read the *New York Times* newspaper for this course. You will be assigned a region to cover in-depth and are required to keep track of the developments in the region over the course of the semester. Follow reporting in all sections (e.g. business, arts, main section, science, technology, etc.), letters to the editor, and cartoons. Cut out the articles that report on your region. Each week you will write a summary analysis (approximately 2 pages, depending on the week's coverage) of the events occurring in your region. Over the course of the semester, your summary analyses should tie developments in your region to lectures, discussions, and the textbook. Use the following questions to guide your analysis:

- What are the major news events from the region?
- Why do these things happen where they do?
- How are these events related to broader global processes?
- How do the events relate to what you have learned about the region's political, economic, cultural or environmental geography specifically?

In your weekly summary analyses use specific evidence and be sure to cite your references (in text, author last name). When you submit your paper, you must also submit your collection of articles; you can simply staple them to your paper. You must include hard copies of the newsprint – printouts from electronic sources will not be accepted. **Late summaries will not be accepted.** You should begin to read the paper and collect articles on August 31 and stop Nov 2.

The culmination of your individual reading will prepare you for the group presentation, see below.

Regional Analysis Presentation (50 points): This is a group presentation – you will work with your classmates who have been assigned the same region to cover through the New York Times. Each group will have 20 minutes to provide the rest of the class with an analysis of current events in their region and their relationship to other contemporary global processes. You can prepare up to 3 Powerpoint slides for your presentation (Powerpoint is not required). You will be graded as a group based on: content (was your analysis accurate and did it situate the region within a global context?), delivery (were you clear, concise, and composed?), and clarity (was the information clearly conveyed?). You can divide the labor within your group anyway you like; each member is expected to participate somehow.

Class Participation (30 points): You are expected to attend every class. Effective class participation includes asking pertinent questions and requesting clarification, responding to questions posed by the instructor and classmates, engaging in class discussions and activities. Disagreement among class members can stimulate fruitful discussions as long as everyone is treated with respect. Disruptive behavior, such as interrupting someone, snickering, having sidebar conversations, and using your cell phone, is not acceptable and will hurt your grade.

SNAP students: contact me as soon as possible regarding course requirements and accommodations.

Honor Code: Your enrollment in this course requires you uphold the Honor Code of the College of Charleston. Honor code violations are serious offenses and will be dealt with accordingly. Be aware that plagiarism, defined below, is a violation of the honor code.

Plagiarism: “The verbatim repetition, without acknowledgement, of the writings of another author. All significant phrases, clauses, or passages, taken directly from source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in footnotes/endnotes.

- Borrowing without acknowledging the source.
- Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgement.
- Allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his/her own."

-<http://www.cofc.edu/~agrestm/honor.html> Accessed 8/20/06.

For every exam that you turn in you are required to acknowledge that you have upheld the honor code. Use the following language: Honor code upheld: sign your name.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Note: subject to change.

Week/date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1: Introduction			
Aug 22	Introduction	1-45	
Aug 24	The Globe		
Week 2: The Geographic Approach			
Aug 27	Globalization		
Aug 29	Population Geography		
Aug 31	Economic and social geography	McWorld vs. Jihad	In class: McWorld vs. Jihad
Week 3: Europe			
Sept 3	Colonialism and Industrialization	327-328; 337-344; 348-373	
Sept 5	Nation State – consolidation and balkanization		
Sept 7	Cold War and the EU		NY Times Weekly Summary
Week 4: Latin America			
Sept 10	Settlement Patterns	127-128; 140-179	
Sept 12	Colonial Era and rise of nation states		
Sept 14	Economic development		NY Times Weekly Summary
Week 5: Caribbean			
Sept 17	Colonization	181-182; 191-221	
Sept 19	Post-colonial era		
Sept 21			EXAM I
Week 6: Russia and Central Asia			
Sept 24	Territorial Expansion	375-377; 384-419	
Sept 26	Soviet Era	421-422; 429-457	
Sept 28	Post-Soviet Era		NY Times Weekly Summary
Week 7: Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA)			
Oct 1	Settlement Patterns	279-286; 289-325	
Oct 3	Religion		
Oct 5	Geopolitics		NY Times Weekly Summary
Week 8: Sub-Saharan Africa			
Oct 8	Settlement patterns	223-225; 235-277	
Oct 10	Economic and political development		

Oct 12			EXAM II
Week 9: Southeast Asia			
Oct 15	Fall Break		
Oct 17	Population	555-559; 564-597	
Oct 19	Geopolitics		NY Times Weekly Summary
Week 10: South Asia			
Oct 22	Population	509-513; 516-553	
Oct 24	Colonial era		
Oct 26	Post-colonial era		NY Times Weekly Summary
Week 11: East Asia			
Oct 29	Population	459-464; 469-507	
Oct 31	Communist Era		
Nov 2	Reform Era		NY Times Weekly Summary
Week 12: Australia and Oceania			
Nov 5			EXAM III
Nov 7	Population	599-640	
Nov 9	Colonization and post-colonization		
Week 13: World Regions Presentations			
Nov 12	Presentations		
Nov 14	Presentations		
Nov 16	Presentations		
Week 14:			
Nov 19	Presentations		
Nov 21	Thanksgiving break		
Nov 23			
Week 15: North America			
Nov 26	Population	77-79; 86-125	
Nov 28	Nationalism		
Nov 30	New world order		
Week 16			
Dec 3			EXAM IV