World Regional Geography
POLI 104/GEOG 101
Spring 2020
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:50-12:05
Room: ECTR118

Instructor: Dr. Annette Watson
953-5864 (office)
WatsonAM@cofc.edu [this is the best way to reach me]
Office: 152 SSMB (Science and Math Building)
Office hours: Tuesdays 3-5 and Fridays 12-1, or by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Mark Long
953-1883 (office)
longm@cofc.edu [this is the best way to reach me]
Office: 26, Coming St, Room 202 (POLISCI Annex)
Office hours: Mondays 1-3 and Thursdays 3-4, or by appointment

Class Syllabus

Course Description

Geography is about much more than knowing where places are. The purpose of this course is to help you develop geographical skills that will enable you to better understand contemporary politics, economies, and cultures—and appreciate the place where you live as well as places around the world. This course is about understanding the fundamental politics of our interconnections.

Geography offers an integrated way of understanding that is increasingly useful for addressing some of the world’s most pressing political and economic problems. The war on terrorism has dramatically altered the geopolitical landscape, both at the scale of daily life and at the global scale. Pollution and environmental exploitation threaten the health of ecosystems and human communities at local, regional, and global scales. Globalization increases interdependence among places, meaning that events in one city may have significant implications for places halfway around the world. Uneven geographies of unprecedented wealth and abject poverty persist and worsen both at the global scale and at the local scale, even within the richest of countries. We now live in an epoch being called the “Anthropocene,” which recognizes the influence that people have on our environmental systems, and an era of great social-ecological change.

On the other hand, our ability to solve these problems and adapt to new ways of being in the world are potentially greater now than at any time in the past.

The concepts and ideas we discuss in class will help you to make sense of the world we live in and may help you begin to formulate your own ideas to solve many of the problems we face at
in the 21st century. The understanding you take away from this class will not only benefit you as a citizen, it will also be of use to you in a future vocation.

Class time will be divided between lectures, media, discussion. You will be evaluated based on: exams, essays, assignments, and participation.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Compare the world’s major geographic regions and their distinct physical, economic, and cultural characteristics.
- Demonstrate how to apply geographical concepts and the spatial perspective (geographer’s approach) to study global interconnectedness and interdependencies among places.

**Social Science Learning Outcome**
This course counts towards the general education social science requirement. **Students can apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions, or social institutions.**

This learning outcome will be assessed in Essay 1 for this course.

**Course Relevance:**
Of interest to students pursuing careers in fields such as geography, government, business, teaching, journalism, environmental or social activism, and non-profit management.

**Assigned Readings and Video:**
Reading the *New York Times* and the *Economist*; assigned articles and videos are preparatory. That is, you will be expected to engage the relevant material before lecture and class discussion on that topic.

**Required** texts: these include assigned media, such as youtube videos, to be watched outside of class, and your two current events texts, the *New York Times* and the *Economist* (links to subscribe here).

https://www.nytimes.com/subscription/education/student?campaignId=7FFWJ&campaignId=7FFWJ&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4IbxwLjv5gIVkJ6fCh1YiwT5EAAYASAAEgL1_vD_BwE&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4IbxwLjv5gIVkJ6fCh1YiwT5EAAYASAAEgL1_vD_BwE&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4IbxwLjv5gIVkJ6fCh1YiwT5EAAYASAAEgL1_vD_BwE

https://subscription.economist.com/offerpage/37366/DA/PPC/MillennialFY1920/Extension

**Class Communication:**

The syllabus, assignment instructions, and all lectures in PowerPoint (including links to videos shown) will be available on OAKS. Assignments are to be submitted electronically, via OAKS dropbox.
Class policies:

**Attendance** is mandatory. You are expected to be on time, participate in class discussions, and do the assigned readings. **Notices from the Absent Memo Office do not constitute an excused absence.** Present to the instructors directly your evidence of your absence if you wish to be excused. Unexcused absences may result in a failing grade. If you are required to participate in college-sponsored activities that will cause you to miss class, you must fill out the appropriate forms at 67 George St., or call Constance Nelson (953-3390). Of course, you must notify us as soon as possible of your absence. Only illnesses that require hospitalization will constitute appropriate medical excuses for absences.

You may NOT use cellphones, computers, or other electronic devices to “chat” or to browse the internet. You will be asked to place your equipment at the front of the room if you are using such a device for any reason other than to take class notes.

**Assignments** are due by the end of the day they are scheduled to be due (i.e., 11:59 pm), unless otherwise noted. You will lose a full letter grade for every class meeting that an assignment is late. **Missed exams are not excused**, nor given the opportunity to be made up, unless the instructors are notified during the first week of the semester that an exam will be missed due to officially-sponsored activities or hospitalization.

It is assumed that all students will act with academic integrity and will not engage in behavior such as plagiarism, academic dishonesty, misrepresentation, or cheating. Please refer to the college’s policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in an XF in the class. The entire purpose of this class is to acquire useful skills; to cheat is to lose the opportunity to improve these skills.

Plagiarism refers to the presentation of someone else's ideas, work, or words as your own, without attribution. If you use someone else's exact words, even when from an unattributed source from the internet, then you must use quotation marks in addition to a citation; simply naming the source is not enough. If you paraphrase someone else's ideas in your own words, then you still have to cite the source, but you do not have to use quotations. When in doubt, cite the source. If you have questions about whether you have provided adequate citation for an assignment, consult with one of us before the assignment is due.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)

**Support Services:**

Please take advantage of the College’s Center for Student Learning; they have walk-in labs for writing—a skill you will need to improve (and be tested on!) during this semester. The CSL is located in the Addlestone Library (953-5635) and offers a wide variety of tutoring and other academic resources that support many courses offered at the College. Services include walk-in tutoring, by appointment tutoring, study strategies appointments, Peer Academic Coaching (PAC), and Supplemental Instruction (SI). All services are described and all lab schedules are posted on the CSL website [http://csl.cofc.edu/](http://csl.cofc.edu/).
You should be proactive here: if you have had problems taking notes in the past, for example, then contact the CSL early in the semester. Likewise, time management etcetera.

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying us as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before accommodation is needed.

Grading

General guidelines for grades:

A – achievement is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirement

B – achievement is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C – achievement meets the course requirements in every respect.

D – achievement is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.

I (Incomplete) – assigned due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, which prevent the completion of work on time. Requires a written agreement between student and instructor.

This course will use +/- grades, allocated as follows:

A/A+ =93% or above  B- =82-80%  D+ =69-68%
A- =92-90%  C+ =79-78%  D =67-63%
B+ =89-88%  C =77-73%  D- =62-60%
B =87-83%  C- =72-70%  F =below 59%

525 points are available and they will be assigned as follows:

○ Three Exams (Exams will not be cumulative and will consist of multiple choice, essays and map sections) 300 points (3X100)

○ Where in the World assignment 25 points

○ Current Events in the World’s Regions weekly post (Discussion Board assignment; our of 12 regions, you can skip 2 for a total of 10 posts) 50 points
Wounded Cities and the Cultural Landscape essay (Karen Till lecture) 25 points

Regional Dossier (using the New York Times and the Economist) 100 points

Participation Attendance and participation in discussion (on OAKS and in class)
Your participation grade can easily make the difference between an A and a B, or between a C and a D…! 25 points

HINTS FOR EXCELLENCE:

1. Prepare for class by reading the New York Times and the Economist, and viewing videos and other materials posted on OAKS. Be sure take notes then and during class in some form. You might print the lecture slides out ahead of that lecture, and take notes right on the page!

2. Make a conscious effort to incorporate the lexicon of the class into your own intellectual framework and be thinking of examples from your own experience and independent reading. Try those out on your peers sometimes. This will help you do better on tests.

3. Ask questions! If the time does not seem right, write them in your notes and then ask later when we pause for questions—do not be shy on this one. Email the instructors, or come to office hours if you simply cannot bring yourself to ask in class.

4. Stay on pace with the course materials posted on OAKS, and in your weekly news.

WRG schedule spring 2020

Read the NYT and the Economist every day/week for class
Be sure to view all regional videos and materials posted on OAKS in advance of class meetings

Week 1: Thurs, Jan 9th
Thurs: Introduction to class and the breadth of geography

Week 2: Tues Jan 14th and Thurs 16th
Tues: Maps and regions
Complete Where in the World? Assignment
View first 4 videos

Thurs: The emergence of regions in the modern world
View regions videos
Week 3: Tues Jan 21st and Thurs 23rd
   Tues: From Globalization to the Anthropocene
   View videos: Luckiest Nut in the World; Burtynsky TED; Anthropocene
   Thurs: Europe

Week 4: Tues Jan 28th and Thurs 30th
   Tues: Europe (contd.)
   Thurs: Russia

Week 5: Tues Feb 4th and Thurs 6th
   Tues: Russia (contd.)
   Thurs: Southwest Asia and North Africa

Week 6: Tues Feb 11th and Thurs 13th
   Tues: in-class Exam #1
   Thurs: Southwest Asia and North Africa (contd.)

Week 7: Tues Feb 18th and Thurs 20th
   Tues: Sub-Saharan Africa
   Thurs: Sub-Saharan Africa (contd.)

Week 8: Thurs Feb 25th and Thurs 27th
   Tues: The United States and Canada
   Thurs: The United States and Canada (contd.)

Week 9: Mar 3rd and Thurs 5th
   Tues: Latin America
   Thurs: Latin America (contd.)

Week 10: Tues Mar 10th and Thurs 12th
   Tues: in-class Exam #2 (midterm)
   Thurs: the Pacific
   Geography Lecture: Dr. Karen Till – 5pm, Alumni Center (Attendance required)

Week 11: Spring Break: NO CLASS

Week 12: Tues Mar 24th and Thurs 26th
   Tues: East Asia
   Thurs: East Asia (contd.)

Week 13: Tues March 31st and Thurs Apr 2nd
   Tues: South Asia
   Thurs: South Asia (contd.)

Week 14: Tues Apr 7th and Thurs 9th
   Tues: Southeast Asia
   Thurs: Australia/New Zealand
Week 15: Tues Ap 14th and Thurs 16th
   Tues: Australia/New Zealand (contd.)
   Thurs: Polar regions

Week 16: Tues, Ap 21st
   Tues: in-class Exam #3:

Week 17: Tues, Ap 28th
   Tues: Regional Dossier due

Have a great Summer!

Notes: