World Regional Geography
POLS 104, Section 03, Fall 2011

Time: Mondays 4:00 – 6:45 pm
Place: Education Center Room 116
Instructor: Brian Grabbatin
Office: 26 Coming Street, Room 302
Office Hours: Mondays 2:30 – 3:30pm; Tuesdays 8:00 – 10:00am (and by appointment)
Email: bgrabbat@cofc.edu
  • Type “POLS 104” in the subject line of all emails
  • Allow for a 24 hour turnaround for an email reply

Course Description:
“World Regional Geography introduces the geographic nature of a variety of topics including population growth, the organization of religions, and resource problems. Both the location of these activities and the processes that led to their patterns are explored using examples from throughout the world.”

Objectives: Studying geography means more than simply learning about locations on a globe. Thinking like a geographer involves understanding how places are interconnected by ecological, economic, political, and cultural processes. In this course you will learn about the distinct characteristics of particular parts of the world, then connect those places to one another through past and current events. By taking this course you are preparing yourself for a richer appreciation and understanding of human life and the global systems that shape our world. This course also gives you the opportunity to develop skills that will be directly applicable to your everyday life.

Students will:
• Gain a basic understanding of world regions and their distinct characteristics.
• Increase knowledge of how societies and environments vary across the world.
• Learn a geographer’s approach to understanding global politics and economics by exploring processes such as “development” and “globalization.”
• Have the opportunity to become a more informed world citizen.
• Gain skills in critical thinking, critical reading and research.


Assigned Reading: Articles, book chapters, and Internet links will be posted on our class website each week. Students are required to read these texts and bring them to class so they can participate in discussion and complete in-class assignments.
**News Articles:** Students will need to keep up with current news and international affairs, for required assignments and so they can contribute to class discussion. Below are some recommended sources:

- Visit the **BBC News** web site daily. BBS has an international focus and offers more in-depth analysis than sources like CNN. The BBC website has free articles and is available at: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/](http://news.bbc.co.uk/).
- Read **The Economist** weekly. You can access this magazine through your library or order a subscription from their website at a reduced student rate.
- Read a newspaper with a strong international focus on a daily basis. The **International Herald Tribune** ([http://www.iht.com](http://www.iht.com)) and **New York Times** ([http://www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) offer substantial world news coverage. Access these online, access them through our library, or get a home subscription.

**Evaluation:**

Exams (60%) Three multiple-choice and short answer exams, each counting for 20% of your grade, will be given in class this semester. Questions will cover material from lectures, textbook chapters, and class readings.

- Exam I scheduled for SEPTEMBER 26TH
- Exam II scheduled for NOVEMBER 7TH
- Exam III scheduled for DECEMBER 7TH

Current Events Assignment (20%) Over the course of the semester students will find interesting news articles about different regions of the world and write reflective essays that connect these news articles to class materials and discussion. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be posted on the class website.

- Part 1 due in-class on OCTOBER 31st (10%)
- Part 2 due in-class on DECEMBER 5th (10%)

In-Class Assignments and Participation (20%) Class-time will include lectures by the professor and discussions of the weeks’ readings. Students are expected to show up to class prepared, participate in discussion, and complete all in-class assignments.

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the semester the instructor will announce special events and assignments that can be completed for extra credit. If attending a special event, students must write a 500-word essay about what they learned and how it relates to class. Extra credit assignments should be completed and printed. Students can complete 3 of these extra credit assignments, for a total of 6 percentage points towards their final grade.

- Due on or before the last day of class: DECEMBER 5TH

**Grading Scale:**

A = (100-90%)  B = (89-80%)  C= (79-70%)  D= (69-60%)  F = (59- 0%)

Please keep track of your progress as you receive grades for assignments and tests. If you are concerned about your grade please come by during office hours or make an appointment to discuss it with me. DO NOT wait until the last week of class because it will be too late to turn things around.

**Make-up work:** Students are expected to turn in assignments in class on the scheduled due date. All other work will be PENALIZED BY ONE LETTER GRADE FOR EACH DAY IT IS LATE.
Assignments not turned in during class time will also be penalized as if they were one day late. No make-up exams or assignments are permitted unless you present written documentation of a medical excuse or family emergency.

**Attendance and Excused Absences:** You are expected to attend all scheduled classes. In order to do well in this course it is important for you to attend, listen, take notes, and ask questions. If you are absent it is your responsibility to contact a classmate or consult the course website to make sure you do not fall behind. If you are absent on a test day or are unable to turn in an assignment during class I must receive written documentation from the Absence Memo Office within one week of the absence. ([http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/services/absence.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/services/absence.php)). Legitimate excuses include:

- Doctor’s excuse for injury or illness
- Documentation of a family emergency
- Advanced notice of religious holiday or observance
- Advanced notice of university approved travel

**Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism:** CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Plagiarism refers to the presentation of someone else's ideas, work, or words as your own, without attribution. The minimum penalty for plagiarism and other forms of cheating is an “F” in the course, with suspension and dismissal possible. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* found at [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)

**Classroom behavior:** Be respectful and considerate of the teacher and your classmates. You are expected to arrive on time, pay attention, take notes, and raise your hand to ask questions. Talking, whispering, and using your phone during class is disrespectful. Before class begins turn off and put away your cellular phones, iPods, and other electronic devices, they are not permitted for use in this classroom. LAPTOPS ARE NOT PERMITTED unless you have discussed it with me first. We will discuss the readings and it is important that you pay attention and engage in a constructive exchange of ideas while in our classroom.

**Teacher Availability:** You are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions. I am available during regularly scheduled office hours (Mon. 2:30 – 3:30pm or Tues. 8:00 – 10:00am in Room 302 of the political science office building at 26 coming street) or by a special appointment arranged through email.

**Support Services:** If you have been diagnosed with a learning disability (or believe you may have one) seek evaluation from the college’s Center for Disability Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students who obtain a Professor Accommodation Letter must notify the instructor at least ONE WEEK BEFORE accommodation is needed.
**COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change)**

Additional readings and handouts will be posted on the course website each week. Students are required to print these materials and bring them to class so they can complete in-class assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK/DATES</th>
<th>TOPICS/READING</th>
<th>EXAMS/HOLIDAYS/ETC.</th>
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| 1: August 29 | Thinking Geographically  
| 2: September 5 | Environment and Society  
  **Read Chapter 1 (p. 1-12)**  
| 3: September 12 | Economy, Culture, and Politics  
  **Read Chapter 1 (p. 12-43)**  
| 4: September 19 | Europe  
  **Read Chapter 2** | |
| 5: September 26 | Exam I and In-Class Film  
  **Film: The Battle of Algiers** | **EXAM I:**  
  **Monday September 26** |
| 6: October 3 | Russian Federation, Central Asia, Transcaucasia  
  **Read Chapters 3** | |
| 7: October 10 | Middle East & North Africa  
  **Read Chapter 4** | |
| 8: October 17 | Fall Break | **FALL BREAK:**  
  **No Class 17-18** |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Region/Region</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9: October 24</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>Read Chapter 5</td>
<td>Choose one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>10: October 31</td>
<td>United States and Canada</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT PART 1 DUE: Monday October 31</td>
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<td>11: November 7</td>
<td>Exam II and In-Class Film</td>
<td>• Wasteland: Vik Muniz and the Rio de Janeiro catadores</td>
<td>EXAM II: Monday November 7</td>
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<td>12: November 14</td>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>Read Chapter 7</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>13: November 21</td>
<td>East Asia and South Asia</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>Read Chapter 9 (p. 306-315)</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>14: November 28</td>
<td>South Asia and Southeast Asia</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9 (p. 316-336)</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>Read Chapter 10</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>15: December 5</td>
<td>Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific</td>
<td>Read Chapter 11</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENT Pt. 2 DUE: Monday December 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>16: December 7</td>
<td>Study for Exam</td>
<td>EXAM III: Wednesday December 7 4:00 – 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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*Should change become necessary, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the requirements, pace, or scheduling of this course. Any change will be announced in class before it becomes effective.*

**Additional readings and handouts will be posted on the course website each week. Students are required to print these materials and bring them to class so they can complete in-class assignments.*