

Midland College
Master Syllabus

GEOG 1303: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY

**Core Curriculum Course*

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT: For Online courses, students **MUST** actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official census date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the world's major regions seen through their defining physical, social, cultural, political, and economic features. These regions are examined in terms of their physical and human characteristics and their interactions. The course emphasizes relations among regions on issues such as trade, economic development, conflict, and the role of regions in the globalization process.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Define and explain the geographic concept of "region."
- Locate significant geographic features of regions of the world and describe their cultural, economic, political, and physical characteristics.
- Demonstrate knowledge of each region's role in a globalizing world.
- Apply geographic concepts to understanding current events, conflicts, and issues in a regional context.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Will be current. Students should contact their instructor prior to purchasing the text and supplies to confirm required course materials.

INCLUSION OF CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES:

This course fulfills three hours of the Social and Behavioral Science requirement in the Midland College **Core Curriculum**. The Core Curriculum is a set of courses that provide students with a foundation of knowledge, skills and educational experiences that are essential for all learning. Social and Behavioral Sciences courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture. As part of the core, this course addresses the following four objectives:

Critical Thinking: Concepts, models, and theories within the Geographic discipline are presented, compared, analyzed, and evaluated. This is accomplished through the following: class discussions; interpretation of maps, graphs, tables, and models; written assignments; & quizzes and exams.

Communication: Students are required to participate in all of the following: class discussions; essay questions on homework assignments; & written assignments.

Empirical & Quantitative skills: Data analysis and interpretation, including map reading and interpretation, are woven throughout the entire textbook and are integrated into virtually every facet of the course, including discussions, written assignments, & quizzes and exams.

Social Responsibility: Human/environmental relationships and the role environmental stewardship plays in resource management are presented. Increasing global interdependence between nations and societies and the importance of understanding intercultural differences between world regions are also presented. Evaluation of these concepts is included in graded assignments (i.e. discussions, written assignments, quizzes and exams).

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND CLASS POLICIES:

Participation: Attendance is not the same as participation (see note on attendance, however). You can enhance your participation grade in class by making positive contributions to class discussion. This would include, *expressing your opinion, calling attention to an overlooked detail, bringing in relevant information, adding to someone's argument, and sharing relevant personal experiences*. Behavior to avoid would include, *belittling the ideas or opinions of others, taking honest criticism personally, interrupting a classmate, or any actions that are disruptive to class*.

Cell Phones: Keep them on silent and do not use except as part of a class activity or in case of emergency. Please, NO texting in class! If I see you texting in class, I will take points off your participation grade.

Classroom Etiquette and Civility: Apart from cell phone use, one of the biggest etiquette issues in classrooms is talking while the professor or another student is speaking to the class. If I or another student is talking to the class, please do not talk or whisper. You'd be surprised how well sound travels in a classroom. Talking over (or under) someone is not only disruptive, but it is rude. It will also result in a deduction from your participation grade.

Attendance and Punctuality: Attendance and punctuality in this course, like in any college course, is vital. Students are expected to regularly attend class, be on-time, and actively participate. **A significant portion of your grade consists of participation, so absence from class will adversely influence your grade average.** Students should attend the entire class period, thus late arrival or early departure from class will influence participation grade.

It is the student's responsibility to notify me if an unavoidable absence occurs. If you participate in College sponsored activities (e.g. intercollegiate sports) you must provide appropriate documentation before you are absent.

Academic Integrity: Effective learning rarely occurs in isolation. Talking to classmates about assignments, working in study groups, and participating in other forms of legitimate collaborative learning is encouraged. However, you are expected to do your own work. I do not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. This includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, collusion, and any other activity that facilitates academic dishonesty. Consequences for academic dishonesty will be dire. Disciplinary options include, but are not limited to, a 'F' for the course, suspension, and possible dismissal from MC. (See the *Midland College Student Handbook* for a complete explanation of college policy). Simply put, cheating is not worth it.

Course Reading: In this course, we will use a conventional textbook, as well as other resources, including internet-based materials. It is very important you read all assigned material carefully and thoughtfully. This not only includes text readings, but also assignment instructions, announcements, and [this syllabus](#). As the semester progresses, you will likely have questions. Ask away! But make sure that you have checked the syllabus, course announcements, assignment instructions, etc. before sending that email or making that call. There's a good chance the answer is there. BUT, if it is not, do not hesitate to contact me. Your instructor is one of your most important resources.

Some reading advice: Do not read a textbook the same way you read a novel. Yes, you are expected to read the textbook, but not memorize it. You are expected to consider the material in the textbook in a contemplative way, not as absolute truth, but rather as a perspective. You are expected to gain a *perspective* on the substance of this course that you can build upon as time goes on.

Late Work: It is very important that you are mindful of all the posted due dates. One of this course's most important success factors is turning your work in on time. Failure to do so will have a severe impact on your grades. Any late work (i.e. assignments, quizzes, exams, discussions, etc.) turned in after the posted due date will be assessed a **20 point penalty for each day it is late**. Five (5) days after the posted due date, each assignment will be closed for the remainder of the semester and cannot be made up. Under certain circumstances I will make exceptions to this policy (e.g. having a baby, unlawfully imprisoned by a foreign power), but I will exercise the right to grant or deny exemptions. Should your computer or network fail at the last minute and you do not make a submission deadline, does not constitute a reasonable excuse. There is lead-time to work on each assignment so do not wait until the last minute to do your work!

Honors Program: If you wish to take this course for honors credit, please contact me. Refer to the Midland College catalog for more information on the honors program.

Dropping the Course: Check the MC College Calendar for the last day to withdraw from the course and receive a "W." Please talk to me before you withdraw.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:

- **Exams** will consist of multiple choice, matching-identification, and essay items. If you miss an exams, a make-up exam will be available, but it will be markedly more difficult than the regularly scheduled exam. **No student is allowed more than one make-up exam.** The Final Exam cannot be made-up.
- **Map Quizzes:** One of the basic aspects of geography is location. To enhance your understanding of where places are in the world, you will identify and locate places within the regions we study via 10 map quizzes. Each map quiz consists of 10 matching questions that are derived from the chapter readings, the data table in the back of the text, and the gallery from the chapter(s) each quiz covers. They are open book, but only have a 45 minute time limit. Once you open a quiz, you have to take it, so do not access a quiz until you are ready to take and complete it.

There is a practice quiz (not-graded) to help orient you to the matching format.

- **Participation and Discussion** in class are very important. The degree to which you participate will determine your participation grade. We will discuss several topics pertinent to our study of the world. I will typically assign a discussion topic each week, which you will be asked to respond to during the next class-meeting. I may also ask you to present, summarize, and discuss a pertinent geographic issue/topic before the class during the semester. Reading a good national newspaper or magazine will help you keep abreast of what is going on in the world (e.g. New York Times), and thus help you locate your articles and aid you in contributing in class.

GRADING:

All graded assignments, exams, quizzes, etc. are graded on a 0 – 100 scale. Assignments are grouped and weighted as follows (subject to change):

Grade % Breakdown	
Exams	45 %
Graded Assignments	20 %
Map Quizzes	15 %
Participation	20 %
TOTAL	100 %

All graded assignments ‘count’ towards your final grade. Unless, I specify otherwise, there are no ‘do-overs’. To determine final grades, I use the standard conversion matrix:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
59.9% or less	F

Note: I do not 'curve' grades. For example, if a student's final average is 89.9, they earned a 'B'. To ensure you do not find yourself in this type of situation, make sure you always know where you stand grade-wise in this course by checking your grade book regularly. The only way to ensure you make the grade you want is by earning that grade, so please...***no end-of-the-semester grade-grubbing!***

Non-Discrimination Statement:

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Tana Baker
Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer
3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131
Midland, Texas 79705
(432) 685-4781
tbaker@midland.edu

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit www.midland.edu/accommodation and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a "Notice of Accommodations" letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

Division Information: *Social & Behavioral Sciences; MHAB 176; 685-6829*

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