

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Earth Sciences

Geography 141D

Professor Bill Wyckoff

Year: 2016

Semester: Fall: T/Th 1:40-2:55

Web Page: <http://www.montana.edu/wwwes/facstaff/wyckoff.htm>

Office: Traphagen Hall 205

Telephone: 994-6914

Office Hours: T/Th 3:15-5PM

E-mail: bwyckoff@montana.edu

Geography of World Regions

Textbooks: Rowntree, et al., GLOBALIZATION AND DIVERSITY (5th ed.)

Have you ever wanted to get on an airplane and travel the world? See its landscapes, comprehend its history, current events, and contemporary environmental issues? **GPHY 141, GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD REGIONS** is just the ticket for understanding global issues and for appreciating the world's rich cultural variety. It will transport you from the streets of Amsterdam to rural China. And there's no jet lag!

Geography 141D is also a required course for all Earth Sciences Majors who have an option in Geography. In addition, it fulfills the *Diversity* requirement under the MSU Core. The course also fulfills many other departmental requirements in various programs and options at MSU.

The course introduces the student to 1) fundamental geographical concepts and principles which are then applied to 2) learning the key interrelated characteristics of the world's major geographic regions. The course is structured around five key regional themes. These include 1) basic environmental patterns and issues, 2) patterns of population geography and settlement, 3) regional expressions of ethnic and cultural diversity, 4) geopolitical issues (often related to culture and ethnicity), and 5) regional social and economic geographies. *Globalization and Diversity*, as the title of the textbook suggests, are two key themes within the course. How do these forces play out in different regions around the world? Geographers are trained to examine such questions and to offer perspectives that 1) focus on key mappable distributions and patterns, 2) integrate physical and human components of the world, and 3) enrich our understanding of the world's interrelatedness as well as its unique regional character.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **First and foremost, come to class! This is residence education, not distance education. The book is OK, the notes a friend takes are useful, BUT, being here matters, so get your money's worth and show up, day in and day out!**
- **Read and Explore! The text is worth reading...read the assigned pages BEFORE you hear the lectures/discussion on the same material. And take advantage of the book's Internet opportunities to explore further!**
- **Work! It is a big world out there, so we are going to cover a great deal of material. Keep up with it all and use the course to explore places and ideas that YOU are interested in. As part of the course, you will complete two short writing/research projects (for a total of 100 points) designed to explore how your world and the world of regional geography intersect.**
- **Study! Three exams will be given (all worth 100 points). Map questions (based on some basic place names) will be a part of each test, BUT most of the exam will relate to detailed class lectures and readings that go FAR BEYOND just knowing where Pakistan is (although that DOES help!). Each exam will also contain writing/essay questions.**
- **Discuss! It is a large class, but we will also emphasize opportunities for classroom discussion and comments. If you have a question, share it with the group at an appropriate opportunity. Feel free to contribute your thoughts to class discussions. Most importantly, explore some of the key issues we introduce in class on your own time outside of class.**
- **Enjoy! As with everything else in life, you reap what you sow...the more you put into this class, the more rewards you will receive. Hopefully, in this class you will reap in knowledge and wisdom what you sow in interest and effort!**
- **Be courteous! Large classes sometimes invite accidental interruptions. So please observe these simple rules:**
 - a. **No cell phone calls/in-class texting please.**
 - b. **No informal chatting during class (save that for after class).**
 - c. **No leaving and entering the class once the day begins unless you absolutely must (it disrupts your neighbor more than you think!). If you are a minute late, feel free to quietly enter the room and find a seat, BUT being on time is greatly appreciated (both by me and your fellow students). In return, I will end class ON TIME!**

- **Summary of specific learning goals for the class:**
 1. Be able to describe and understand global patterns of environments, population distribution, and economic development.
 2. For 8 major world regions (Europe/Russian Domain/Latin America/Sub-Saharan Africa/SW Asia-North Africa/East Asia/South Asia/SE Asia), be able to....
 - a. Locate major locations/features/place names for the region
 - b. Identify patterns of regional climate/physical geography/key environmental issues shaping the region
 - c. Describe current patterns of population, migration, and settlement
 - d. Understand the evolution of key cultural patterns for the region (especially language and religion)
 - e. Describe major elements of the region's political evolution over time and also describe and explain current geopolitical issues for the region.
 - f. Identify current patterns of economic and social development within the region

- **Summary of learning activities for reaching these goals:**
 1. Weekly in-class powerpoint lectures/discussion (see Study guides)
 2. Weekly textbook reading assignments
 3. Place name exercises for self study
 4. Two outside class writing/research projects that examine different aspects of globalization and diversity. One involves a self-assessment of your own global connections and the other is an online exploration of a global media outlet.
 5. Optional evening review sessions before each exam

Summary of Course Metrics/Grades: Grading is simple and straightforward and all assignments (except the final) will be returned to you so that you can easily keep track of where you stand on grades. In assessing your performance in the class, we will have three exams (see syllabus for dates), and 2 out-of-class research and writing projects (that explore the themes of globalization and diversity). There will also be an optional extra credit assignment available (30 additional points)!

Midterm 1: 100 points
Midterm 2: 100 points
Final Exam: 100 points
Project 1: 40 points
Project 2: 60 points
400 points total

Additional Information about the Class:

- D2L will be used to post copies of this syllabus, class assignments, study guide, mapping exercises, any extra readings not in the text, but note the following: **GRADES will NOT be posted or configured on D2L, so don't log in and worry you have no scores! I will return all assignments IN CLASS and clearly show you where you stand on grades, the curve, etc. And let me know anytime you have a question about grades.**
- There **WILL** be an opportunity for an extra credit assignment (30 points) later in the semester.
- Powerpoint lectures are **NOT** posted online. That's why you come to class! **Success in this course begins with coming to class every day and taking some good notes.** It is that simple! If you must miss a class, make sure you have someone else in class taking notes for you. The Study guide will help you figure out what you missed, but you will need a good set of class notes for the day you had to miss.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS</u>
Aug 30 T	Course Introduction/ Basic Concepts
Sept 1 Th	Global Patterns: Environments TEXT 3-18, 43-65
Sept 6 T	Global Patterns: Environments ASSIGN PROJECT #1 (40 points)
8 Th	Global Patterns: Population/Development TEXT 19-41 DISTRIBUTE PLACE NAME LIST #1
13 T	Europe TEXT 253-69
15 Th	Europe TEXT 269-81
20 T	Europe TEXT 282-89
22 Th	Russian Domain TEXT 291-312 PROJECT #1 COLLECTED IN CLASS (40 points)
27 T	Russian Domain TEXT 312-321

	29	Th	MIDTERM #1 today (please bring #2 pencils)
Oct	4	T	Latin America TEXT 103-24
			HAND OUT PROJECT #2 (60 points)
Oct	6	Th	NO CLASS: Work on Project #2!
	11	T	Latin America TEXT 125-39
	13	Th	Sub-Saharan Africa TEXT 173-192
	18	T	Sub-Saharan Africa TEXT 193-205
	20	Th	Sub-Saharan Africa TEXT 205-215
	25	T	SW Asia/North Africa TEXT 217-32
	27	Th	SW Asia/North Africa TEXT 232-244
Nov	1	T	SW ASIA/North Africa TEXT 244-51
	3	Th	MIDTERM #2 Today (please bring #2 pencils)
	8	T	ELECTION DAY—NO CLASS
	10	Th	East Asia Introduction and China TEXT 349-65
	15	T	East Asia—China+ TEXT 365-365-376
	17	Th	East Asia—Japan+ TEXT 376-383
	22	T	South Asia TEXT 385-98
	24	Th	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY! NO CLASS...
	29	T	South Asia TEXT 398-410
Dec	1	Th	South Asia TEXT 410-17

PROJECT #2 and Extra Credit Projects are both due today!

Dec 6 T Southeast Asia TEXT 419-38
8 Th Southeast Asia TEXT 439-451

IMPORTANT DATE OF FINAL: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 2:00-3:50

FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN IN THIS CLASSROOM. ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GEOGRAPHY 141 MUST TAKE THE FINAL EXAM AT THIS SCHEDULED TIME. PLEASE PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULES, PLANE TRIPS, ETC. ACCORDINGLY! NO EXCEPTIONS.