

World Geography Geog 100

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*** This course provides content necessary to enable secondary licensure students to address the K-12 Colorado Model Content Standards in Geography.**

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide students with basic knowledge about the human and physical characteristics of places and to encourage critical thinking about the interrelationships between and among human societies and their environment. Countries and regions of the world possess numerous characteristics which when considered together make each individual place somehow unique. The study of the world's geography helps one to gain insight into the causes of this uniqueness, which identifies each place and is a combination of both its physical and human attributes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic geographic literacy with regard to the major regions, countries, and human and physical features of the world.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of geographic concepts and processes as they apply to the major regions, countries, and cities of the world.
3. Demonstrate the ability to ask geographic questions.
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply the appropriate methods and research skills to analyze and solve geographic questions.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the principle theories and models used by geographers.

REQUIRED TEXT

Rowntree, L., M. Lewis, M. Price, and W. Wyckoff, *Diversity Amid Globalization*, Prentice Hall, 2000.

Espenshade, E.B., Jr. (ed.), *Goode's World Atlas*, Twentieth Edition, Rand McNally, 2000.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to attend class on a regular basis, participate in classroom discussions, successfully complete the assigned readings, mapping assignments, and research project, and earn passing grades on the exams. Effort alone will not earn a passing grade in this course.

- Exams: There will be two midterm exams (100 points) and a final exam (100 points). The dates of midterm exams and the final exam are given on the course outline (see below). There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of a severe medical or personal/family emergency. In the event of an emergency, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor of your absence and to make arrangements to complete the exam. The University scheduled the date of the final exam, not your instructor. You must take the exam during the scheduled time period, so make your travel plans accordingly.
- Mapping Assignments: Approximately 6-10 mapping exercises will be assigned during the semester. Some of these exercises will be in-class activities while others will be assigned as homework. It is your responsibility to attend class and to complete all assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted. You will be allowed to drop one assignment.
- Research project: Each student is expected to successfully complete a research project (100 points). The purpose of this assignment is allow you to demonstrate your understanding of geographic concepts, processes, and theories, and to apply research and mapping skills to answer a geographic question. The guidelines for this assignment are provided under a separate handout.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Your grade in this course will be based on the total number of points accumulated from mapping assignments, map quizzes, a research/mapping project, and exams. Letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following percentage values:

- A = 92-100% (outstanding)
- B = 80-91% (above average)
- C = 70-79% (average)
- D = 60-69% (below average)
- F = <60% (failing)

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center (970.351.2289) as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART 1: INTRO TO GEOGRAPHY, THE GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Readings: Chapter 1: *Diversity Amid Globalization*
Chapter 2: *The Changing Global Environment*
Chapter 4: *Latin America*
Chapter 5: *The Caribbean*
Chapter 6: *Sub-Saharan Africa*

Exam One

PART 2: THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE, RUSSIA, & CENTRAL ASIA

Readings: Chapter 7: *Southwest Asia and North Africa*
Chapter 8: *Europe*
Chapter 9: *Russia and Its Neighbors*
Chapter 10: *Central Asia*

Exam Two

PART 3: THE GEOGRAPHY OF ASIA & THE PACIFIC RIM

Readings: Chapter 11: *East Asia*
Chapter 12: *South Asia*
Chapter 13: *Southeast Asia*
Chapter 14: *Australia and Oceania*

Final Exam

Research Project Guidelines**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of geographic concepts and research skills to solve a geographic question. Upon the successful completion of this project, you will be able to:

1. ASK GEOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS
2. ACQUIRE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
3. ORGANIZE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
4. ANALYZE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
5. ANSWER GEOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

DUE DATE

This assignment is two weeks before the end of the term. Late projects will be penalized 20%.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Select an issue or problem from a region or country (other than the US) that is of interest to you. Limit your research to only one country or region. Possible topics might include: deforestation; human rights; status of women; impact of El Nino, impact of drought, the status of indigenous peoples; biodiversity; influence of missionaries; slave trade; military oppression; natural resource depletion; recent increase of democracy or capitalism; drug trade; ethnic diversity (cooperation and/or conflict); natural disasters; political or economic alliances; urban patterns; migration; external cultural influences; impact of oil; role of multinational corporations; class differences; border disputes; population growth/control; rural to urban migration; access to water; dams/hydroelectric power; etc. Some sample geographic questions are provided for you on the attached handout.
2. Formulate a geographic research question - one that has a spatial quality and can be mapped. (What geographic factors have influenced the rise of the Marxist guerrilla movement, the Shining Path, in Peru? What geographic factors contribute to the spread of diseases in equatorial Africa?) Choosing and writing a good, clear, researchable question is probably the most important step in this assignment. Your question must show patterns that can be analyzed and explained. If you cannot map your data then change your topic. Do not wait until the week before this assignment is due to seek help with your topic, it will be too late at that point.
3. Select a descriptive title for your project. This should be as succinct as possible.
4. Accurately map the characteristics that portray and clarify your issue (i.e., regions of extreme poverty and wealth in Peru, recent battles between the Shining Path guerrillas and the Peruvian military). Include a map title and legend (key), and be sure that all symbols and text used on the map are clear and legible.
5. In two to three type-written pages (double-spaced), relate your topic to important geographic concepts, models and/or theories presented in the course. Interpret the pattern or patterns from the data you mapped. Your interpretation should be supported by evidence (data). Explain your conclusions from the mapped data that links cause and effect. Do not just describe the spatial data on the map, but explain what may have caused the spatial patterns (i.e., The Shining Path Maoist guerrilla movement is an outgrowth of the extremes of wealth and poverty in Peru and the spatial distribution of ethnic groups).
6. Use at least five cited references in the body of your paper; do not use encyclopedias as cited references. You should use a high quality and variety of cited references (i.e. professional journals, textbooks, international newspapers, and/or the internet).
7. Base maps may be traced or copied from standard atlas outline maps (e.g., *Maps on File*), or purchased from various sources. The map should be no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches. Computer generated maps are acceptable, but do not download or use maps created by someone else. Crayon is not an acceptable medium; other color media or patterns are preferable. Your map does not have to be fancy, but the content must be clear and legible.

8. Organization: all papers should include the following sections:
 - a. Statement of Question: a clear and direct statement of the question being researched.
 - b. Introduction: a brief overview (1 or 2 paragraphs) of the topic or issue being explored.
 - c. Discussion: relate topic to important geographic concepts, models, and/or theories and interpretation of the patterns depicted on map.
 - d. Conclusion: draw a conclusion or conclusions that are supported by evidence.
 - e. References: provide a full list of references used.
9. Format: The title page should contain: (a) the title of the paper in capital letters; (b) your name; (c) the course name and number; (d) the semester and year; (e) the date of submission. Start a new line for each entry, and center it on the page. The title should be repeated on the first page of the text about 1 inch from the top of the page and separated from the beginning of the text by three spaces. Capitalize, but do not underline, the title. Papers should be 2-3 pages long, not including the title page, the list of references, and the map. In any case, the text should not be more than 3 pages in length. Number all pages in the body of the paper except the first page and use standard margins (one inch on each side).
10. The bibliography should be entitled References. It should be single-spaced with a double-space between items and should be alphabetized by the first author's surname. All references must be complete and properly organized.
11. Use the scientific notation method for cited references. Sources are noted in the text itself as follows: (a) for paraphrased material, use the author's last name and date of the source in parentheses, e.g., (Scott, 1994); (b) for quoted material add the page number of the quote, e.g., (Scott, 1994, p. 59).
12. Papers will be evaluated for adequacy of research, content, logic of presentation, clarity and consistency of style, and spelling and grammatical usage. Use your best writing style, proofread, and let several good writers edit your rough and final drafts.
13. Check with your instructor if you have questions. It is your responsibility to ask for help if you need assistance or do not understand any part of this assignment.