

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

Course Information

Course Title: World Regional Geography

Prefix/Number: **GEOG 1303**

Credit: **Three (3) hours**

Day: **Tuesdays and Thursdays**

Instructor: **David D. Pinter**

Semester: Fall 2015 / 2nd Start

CRN : **# 15847**

Site: **STF2-Room 218**

Time: **10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Email: david.pinter@hccs.edu

About Instructor: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/david.pinter>

Meetings: **Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment.**

Department of Anthropology and Geography Administrative Office – (713) 718-5625

Key Dates: September 20

November 7

November 24-25

December 7

December 11

First day of class.

Last day for 2nd-Start to withdraw

Holiday / HCCS closed

Final Exam 1200 Noon to 2:00 pm

Semester Ends

Instructional Materials

Required:

Secure a Text Book Immediately - Reading Is Critical In This Course

- 1) The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography, 7th Edition
Jan Nijman, Peter O. Muller, Harm J. de Blij; May 2016; Wiley. ASIN: B01AKSZ9A2
- 2) A current WORLD ATLAS comparable to the “National Geographic College Atlas of the World 2/e”
- 3) Scantron answer sheets. Bring one to every class, along with pencil and blue/black pen for essay questions.
- 4) Access to the Learning Web, HCCS **library**, your HCCS **email** account , **TurnItIn.com**, **Google Earth**, and use of other Internet resources are vital to your success.
Ensure your access, password, and understanding of these resources are current.

The Password and Course Code for TurnItIn.com and the Password to the Couse on the HCCS Learning Web will be provided in-class at the first session.

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

Other:

- 5) **Google Earth Pro** is available as a FREE download to your own computer. Some computers in the HCCS Library have GE installed. **Register as a user** with Google Earth and learn the fundamentals of ***Google Earth starting day one***. There are many Google Earth Tutorials on-line. Practice by 1) entering this campus address and your home address, pin a Place Mark, then practice saving and opening Google Earth data files (kmz files). Learning and using Google Earth is largely a self-directed activity.
- 6) **Additional reading** may be assigned during the semester.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the world's 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, migration, and the role of regions in the globalization process. This is a core curriculum course that fulfills a Social and Behavioral Science requirement.

Objectives / Student Learning Outcomes – Courses at HCC have objectives which are centered on “Student Learning Outcomes” (SLOs). These reflect what students will know, be able to do, or be able to demonstrate once they have taken a course. The objectives for this course are guided by the measurable core competency and student learning outcome paradigms. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. *Define and explain the geographic concept of “region.”*
2. *Locate significant geographic features of regions of the world and describe their cultural, economic, political, and physical characteristics.*
3. *Demonstrate knowledge of each region's role in a globalizing world.*
4. *Apply geographic concepts to understanding current events, conflicts, and issues in a regional context.*
5. *Utilize maps to understand locations of places, the connections between places, and spatial patterns and trends of cultural and physical phenomena on earth.*
6. *Describe area and population patterns, important historical background, features that create regional unity or division, economic, urban and agricultural patterns, and geopolitical issues that help define each of the world's regions.*

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

Core Competencies – Courses offered at HCC which are taken within “core” status meet a set of stringent guidelines which will help the student advance core skills in foundational areas. World Regional Geography meets a Social and Behavioral Sciences core requirement at HCC. Social and Behavioral Sciences core area courses “focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human” and “the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on society and culture.” By taking a Social and Behavioral Sciences core offering, you will have the opportunity to further develop the following core competencies: critical thinking skills, communication skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility skills. These skills offer the opportunity to strengthen your understanding or and ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making. Throughout the semester, assignments and assessments in this class will help measure your advancement in each of these core competencies.

Assignments as they relate to each of the core competencies

Critical Thinking Skills - Examples may include, but are not limited to: research, reports, writings, use of Scientific Method, technology-based compilations or presentations which include analysis, analysis/solutions of problems/case studies, analysis of spatial data and patterns, justification of results, and explanation of reasoning as well as the ability to synthesize information.

Communication Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to: Assignments which present a grammatically correct essay or speech, effectively organized with a thesis statement, introduction, body, conclusion, supportive reasoning, and appropriately documented evidence. If the assignment is an oral presentation, the assignment should also require effective verbal and nonverbal delivery. Visual design elements should be incorporated into any communication assignment. Visual elements may include graphs, tables, charts, slides, or streaming video as examples.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to: case studies, atlas exercises, reports, creating or analyzing tables and graphs related to statistical data, projects that utilize applied mathematics or common geographic tool such as maps, a compass, Google Earth, and other selected data bases.

Social Responsibility Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to group discussion exercises, group assignments, analysis within map exercises, presentations, debate/point of view exercises, spatial analysis through remote sensing or GIS techniques and enhance your ability to work productively and successfully with others.

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

Course Structure. - Each class will consist of 1 hour and 50 minutes of lecture/discussion.

You are encouraged to bring your textbook and atlas with you each day.

Geography 1303 Course Policies:

HCC Mission Statement:

The Houston Community College System is an open-admission, public institution of higher education offering academic preparation, and lifelong learning opportunities that prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in an increasingly international and technological society. The Northwest Geography and Anthropology Department will provide an environment conducive to learning and encourages academic excellence. Furthermore, the Geography and Anthropology faculty will encourage the development of the following competencies: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Critical Thinking and Computer Literacy.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class meeting during the course of the semester. You are also expected to be in class on time. This is showing basic respect to your fellow classmates and instructor. You are however allowed up to 3 absences for whatever reason – **more than 3 absences and/or frequent lateness to class will result in points being taken from your grade.** An **attendance “Sign-In” sheet** will be available at each class. It is your responsibility to “sign-In” for each class. **If your signature does not appear on the sign-in sheet you are considered absent.**

If **the instructor** is **more than 15 minutes** late to class, students may identify the course and instructor on a blank paper and sign it to show proof of attendance and turn it into the front desk at the South West Campus.

Drop/Withdrawal:

It is the responsibility of the student to drop or withdraw from this course. I will not drop/withdraw any student who doesn't meet with me first to request/explain the need for a withdrawal. Failure to officially drop or withdraw will likely result in the student earning an “F” for the course.

The last day for student withdrawals is November 4th. This must be done prior to 4:30 PM that day in order to receive a “W” on your transcript. The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you repeat the same course more than twice, you have to pay extra tuition. The Texas Legislature passed a law

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

in 2007 limiting new students to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree.

Early Alert Notification:

HCC utilizes an Early Alert system managed by the HCC counselors to provide outreach and intervention to students who may be at risk of withdrawal or failure. Referrals to this system are typically made by a faculty member. If a professor is concerned about the student's performance in class, that student may be referred to Early Alert for counseling intervention.

"Course Repeat" Policy:

Students who take a course for a third time (or more) will face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. Please ask your instructor/ counselor about opportunities for tutoring/other assistance prior to considering course withdrawal or if you are not earning passing grades.

Academic Integrity:

Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by Houston Community College, the Department of Geography and Anthropology, and by your instructor. Students may consult the HCC Student Handbook to find out more about academic honesty. An online copy can be found at: <http://www.hccs.edu/handbook/StudentP.htm> . Consequences for violation of Academic Integrity policy's may include automatic failure of the course.

Notice: Students who repeat the course three or more times will face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with me or your counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

ADA Compliance:

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office. Please contact 713-718-5708 for more information.

Classroom Behavior:

- **Overall respect of fellow students and instructor is expected.**

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

- Possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on college property is illegal.
- Eating, drinking, smoking and soliciting are not allowed in classrooms.
- Pads, telephones and other electronic devices that distract students are not allowed in classrooms (for example, there is to be no text messaging taking place during class).

****** Points will be deducted from your grade 1) if your phone rings in class or 2) if you are seen texting. ****** In fact, there will be no tolerance for texting in class – if you are caught texting in class, you will be told to leave. Should this occur during a class session involving a quiz or test a zero will be given.

☒ Students creating disturbances that interfere with the conduct of the class or the learning of others will be asked to leave.

Workload. This course will follow the standard Carnegie Unit of college credit. This means that for each hour spent in the classroom, you will likely spend two hours outside the classroom. For a three-unit course, this translates into an average of about six hours a week for class readings, studying and other assignments. There are no extra credit options in this course.

DEADLINES: Deadlines are fixed. Work submitted late (within 48 hours after a deadline) will be accepted but will receive no more that 80% of the maximum possible points. Work submitted more than 48 hours after a deadline will NOT be accepted and will receive a zero. All assignments must be submitted electronically through TurnItIn.com. All work must be submitted using MS Word, Excel, Power Point, or KML/KMZ format.

Grading Policy. Extra credit is not available in this course. Generally speaking, make-up assignments will not be allowed (the exceptions being emergency room treatment or court mandated meetings. A physicians or judges statement must be provided. After the first class session Email attachments will not be accepted for any assignments. Your grade will be a reflection of your overall effort, participation and achievement in the course.

Your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Attendance	10%	<u>Course Grade</u>
Participation and Presentations	25%	90-100% = A
Assignments	25%	80-89% = B
Quizzes, Mid-Term Exam	25 %	70-79% = C
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>	60-69% = D
	100%	Below 60%= F

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

Additional important notices:

Course notes: Notes from lectures and presentations and study guides are your responsibility. Class prepare key terms and student prepared presentations will be posted on TurnItIn or the Learning web. You are encouraged to investigate student note cooperatives; or other note taking or study guide development that meets your needs.

Exam policy: No exams will be handed out once the first student has completed his/her exam. If you show up this late, the consequence will be a “zero” on the exam.

EGLS3-- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System: At HCC, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the HCC Student System online near the end of the term.

Feed back and honest, open exchange underpin the learning process. Please share your thoughts with the instructor throughout the course (pro and con) or identify topics that pique your interest. The following proposed syllabus evolves during the semester, allowing the flexibility to focus and refocus upon areas of special interest you identify.

The remainder of this page has been left blank intentionally

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

SYLLABUS

Learning is a dynamic process based on initiative, reflection, and change. A syllabus serves as a guide; evolving with knowledge. During this course you may wish to examine a topic or concept in more depth or current world events. Share your thoughts and interests with the instructor as we proceed; dates and sequence may change from time to time.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1	Introduction	Text- Introduction
	Geographic Principles and Tools	Atlas
	Session 1 Overview, Operations, Principles	
	Session 2 Maps, Google Earth, Geographers Prospective	
2	Europe	Text – Chapters 1A, 1B
	Session 3	
	Session 4 Team – Presents Europe	
3	Russia	Text – Chapter 2A, 2B
	Session 5	
	Session 6 Team – Presents Russia	
4	Sub-Saharan Africa	Text-Chapters 6A. 6B
	Session 7	
	Session 8 Team - Presents Sub-Saharan Africa	
5	North Africa / South West Asia	Text-Chapters 7A, 7B
	Session 9	
	Session 10 Team – Presents North Africa/South West Asia	
6	South Asia	Text-Chapters 8A, 8B
	Session 11	
	Session 12 Team – Presents South Asia	
7	East Asia	Text Chapters 9A, 9B
	Session 13	
	Session 14 Team – Presents East Asia	
8	South East Asia	Text Chapters 10A, 10B
	Session 15	
	Session 16 Team - Presents South East Asia	
9	Austral & Pacific Realms, Polar	Text-Chapters 11. 12
	Session 17	
	Session 18 Team Presents Austral & Pacific Realms	
10	South America	Text-Chapter 5A, 5B
	Session 19	

Geography 1303 / World Regional Geography

Course Information & Syllabus

Houston Community College – Southwest / Stafford

- Session 20 Team Presents South America
- 11 Middle America Text-Chapters 4A, 4B
- Session 21
- Session 22 Team Presents Middle America
- 12 North America, Local Text – Chapters 3A, 3B
- Session 23
- Session 24 Review for Final Exam

Final Exam - December 7th, 2016 ; 1000 to 1200 Noon