

Houston Community College - Northwest Katy Campus

Geography 1303 Course Syllabus

Course Information:

Course Title: **World, Regional and Local Geography**
Course Prefix/Number: **GEOG 1303**
CRN (Section Code): **24013**
Semester: **Fall 2012**
Site: **Katy 384**
Class Days/Times: **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 AM – 12:30 PM**
Credit Hours: **3**
Class structure: **Lecture/discussion**

Instructor Information:

Name: **Bryant Evans**
US Mail: **Houston Community College
Katy Campus
1550 Foxlake Drive, Suite 359B
Houston, TX 77084**
Phone: **(713) 718-5828**
Email: **bryant.evans@hccs.edu**
Office Hours: **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 AM
Office Location – Katy Campus 359B
*Tutoring available Tuesdays 8-9 AM, Katy Campus Library**
Instructor Webpage: **<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/bryant.evans>**

Instructional Materials:

Required: **"The World Today: Concepts and Regions in Geography 5/e"**
by H.J. de Blij and Peter Muller. Packet includes text and atlas.
**Please make sure that your atlas is the National Geographic
College Atlas of the World 2/e.**

Note: Other readings may be assigned throughout the semester.

Course Description. Study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments. Including emerging conditions and trends, and awareness and diversity of ideas and practices to be found in these regions. This is a core curriculum course that fulfills the Social Science or Cross/Multicultural Studies requirement.

Course Objectives. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to do the following:

1. Have a better understanding of the world around you.
2. Read and understand maps more readily.
3. Discuss the concept of a region and the "sub-region".
4. Connect the history and current events of the world to the locations where they happened or are happening.
5. Better appreciate where regions are located throughout the world and the environmental, political, historical and cultural features that help define these regions.

Course Structure. Each class will consist of 1 hour and 20 minutes of lecture/discussion. You are encouraged to bring your atlas with you each day.

Accessing Moodle-Eagle Online. Moodle is the name of the classroom management system where various resources and assignments in our course can be found. I would recommend logging in to Moodle at least once each week throughout the semester to access these class resources. The address for accessing Moodle on the web is <https://hccs1.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>. Your Eagle Online ID is the same as your HCC User ID (i.e. W0023456). The first time you log in to Moodle, you will type your user id and the default Eagle Online password of "distance". This password is independent of your online registration password, and it will be your responsibility to change your password.

Important Phone Numbers:

For questions concerning the course: Bryant Evans (713) 718-5828

For general information about the Katy Campus: (713) 718-5757

For general information about Houston Community College: (713) 718-2000

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 History and Geography Department will provide an environment conducive to learning and encourages academic excellence. Furthermore, the History and Geography 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.
- 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 Katy Campus.

Drop/Withdrawal:

Students may drop/add/swap the class by initiating a Program Adjustment Form at the Katy Campus until **August 26th**. Approval of requests for changes will be based on availability of space in the class to which you wish to transfer. **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 receiving an "F" for the course.

The last day for student withdrawals is **November 2nd**. This must be done prior to 4:30 PM on November 2nd 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 in 2007 limiting new students to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree.

Academic Integrity:

- Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by Houston Community College, the Department of History and Geography, 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>
- **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.
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on college property is illegal.
- Eating, drinking, smoking and soliciting are not allowed in classrooms.
- Pets, telephones, pagers 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 if your cell phone rings in class or 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.
- 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.

Your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Class Participation/Attendance	10%	Course Grade:
In Class Assignments/Quizzes	15%	90-100%=A
Term Paper	20%	80-89%= B
Midterm Exams*	25%	70-79%=C
Final Exam	30%	60-69%=D
TOTAL	100%	Below 60%=F

Grading Policy. There will be two midterm exams during the course of the semester. Your lowest midterm score will be dropped. A midterm score **can't** be a replacement for your final exam grade. Extra credit is not available in this course. Generally speaking, make-up assignments will not be allowed. Late papers will not be accepted. Your grade will be a reflection of your overall effort, participation and achievement in the course.

Writing Assignments. Your primary writing assignment will be your term paper, which will be due sometime in November. The length of the term paper will be approximately 5 pages and the content will be based on a geographic theme to be discussed at a later date.

Atlas Exercises. Your "class assignments/quizzes" grade will primarily consist of weekly atlas exercises. **You must be in class and have your atlas the day the atlas exercise is passed out** – otherwise, you can only partial credit for that particular exercise. Exercises must be completed and turned in on the due dates assigned – papers that are not turned in on time will only receive partial credit. Papers will not be accepted more than one class meeting beyond the due date.

Additional important notes:

- **Course Outline notes:** You will be able to access a general outline of the weekly notes by logging onto our Moodle course page. You will need to have PDF reader (which is free to download) in order to access and print out the notes. These are only meant to be a supplement to (and not a replacement) for in-class notes. The weekly notes will only be posted for limited time periods, so if you'd like to take advantage of this, you will need to access them during the designated time period that they are online. Do not ask for the notes to be posted before they appear online or after they've been "retired".
- **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.

- **Pandora's Box Film Festival:** The Pandora's Box Film Festival is scheduled to take place this semester on the Katy Campus. If you attend one of the films, get the voucher for attending and write a two paragraph synopsis of/ response to the film. You may replace your lowest class assignment grade of the semester. You may attend as many films as you'd like, but you may only replace one class assignment grade.

Course Outline - Please note that the content for specific dates given are "best estimates;" they may be adjusted from time to time.

Week 1:

August 28 - Introduction / Geographic Principles
 August 30 - World Regional Geography Introduction

Week 2:

September 4 - Russia (Chapter 2)
 September 6 - Russia – continued (Chapter 2)

Week 3:

September 11 - Europe (Chapter 1)
 September 13 - Europe – continued (Chapter 1)

Week 4:

September 18 - Subsaharan Africa (Chapter 6)
 September 20 - Subsaharan Africa – continued (Chapter 6)

Week 5:

September 25 - North Africa/Southwest Asia (Chapter 7)
 September 27 - North Africa/Southwest Asia – continued (Chapter 7)

Week 6:

October 2 - **Midterm I**
 October 4 - South Asia (Chapter 8)

Week 7:

October 9 - South Asia – continued (Chapter 8)
 October 11 - East Asia (Chapter 9)

Week 8:

October 16 - East Asia – continued (Chapter 9)
 October 18 - Southeast Asia (Chapter 10)

Week 9:

October 23 - SE Asia – cont. (Chapter 10)
 October 25 - Alternate Assignment

Week 10:

October 30 - Australia/New Zealand (Chapter 11)
November 1 - Australia/New Zealand – continued (Chapter 11); Midterm Review

Week 11:

November 6 - **Midterm II**
November 8 - Pacific Realm (Chapter 12)

Week 12:

November 13 - South America – (Chapter 5)
November 15 - South America – continued (Chapter 5)

Week 13:

November 20 - Middle America (Chapter 4)
November 22 - Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

Week 14:

November 27 - Middle America – continued (Chapter 4)
November 29 - North America (Chapter 3)

Week 15:

December 4 - North America – continued (Chapter 3)
December 6 - Texas Geography

Week 16:

December 11 - **Final Exam**