



Houston Community College - Northwest Spring Branch

Geography 1303 Course Syllabus

Course Information:

Course Title: World Regional Geography
Course Prefix/Number: GEOG 1303
CRN (Section Code): 42936
Semester: Spring 2015
Site: SB 102
Class Days/Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30-11 AM
Credit Hours: 3
Class structure: Lecture / Discussion

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, 7-9:30 AM*
Office Location – Katy Campus, 359B ; also available Wednesdays at
Spring Branch, 8:30-9:30 (by appointment)
*Tutoring on 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 6/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. Geography is a dynamic spatial science that features a heritage of investigating the relationship between people and the natural environment through time and space. This course features a study of major world regions with emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments. It also includes 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 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. Utilize maps to understand locations of places, the connections between places, and spatial patterns and trends of cultural and physical phenomena on earth.
2. Understand the role that population growth patterns have had on international migration, settlement, and the historical geography of the world’s major regions.
3. Understand the key geographic patterns in each of the world's regions. This understanding should include physiographic features, major climates, natural vegetation, historical geography, demographics, ethno- linguistics, religion, land use, mineral resources, industrial activities, and political patterns (including conflict).
4. Understand the histories, complexities, challenges, and opportunities that help define multicultural and homogenous societies around the world.
5. Summarize the influences and impacts of European colonialism and the Industrial Revolution on the cultural and economic geography of the modern world.
6. For each of the world's regions, identify the area and population patterns, important historical background, features that create regional unity or division, economic, urban and agricultural patterns, and geopolitical issues.
7. Understand the processes of globalization and supranationalism and their impact on social, economic, and political patterns in each of the world’s major regions.

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. 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.

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.

Social Responsibility Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to group discussion exercises, group assignments, analysis within map exercises, written reports or essays, debate/point of view exercises, embedded essays on quizzes, spatial analysis through remote sensing or GIS techniques.

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 the web-enhanced segments of our course will take place. You will need to log in to Moodle at least a couple times each week throughout the semester to access notes, assignments, etc. The address for accessing Moodle on the web is <https://eo2.hccs.edu/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. In case you run into technical difficulties, you can access the Eagle-Online help desk at <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8513>

Important Phone Numbers:

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

For Moodle-Eagle Online technical support: (713) 718-2000 option 4-option 2-option 3.

For general information about the Spring Branch Campus: (713) 718-5700

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 Spring Branch 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 receiving an "F" for the course.

The last day for student withdrawals is **March 24th**. This must be done prior to 4:30 PM on March 24th 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, and other electronic devices that distract students are not allowed in classrooms (**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. 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.

Writing Assignments. Your primary writing assignment will be your term paper, which will be due sometime in April and submitted via Moodle-Eagle Online. 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.
- **No email attachments:** Email attachments of atlas exercises will not be accepted. Please make sure to turn in a hard copy of all of your work.
- **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.
- **REEL Culture Film Festival:** The REEL Film Festival at Spring Branch is tentatively scheduled to take place this semester. 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 atlas exercise grade of the semester. You may attend as many films as you’d like, but you may only replace atlas exercise 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:

January 19 - MLK Holiday – No Class
January 21 - Introduction / Geographic Principles

Week 2:

January 26 - World Regional Geography
January 28 - Russia (Chapter 2)

Week 3:

February 2 - Russia – continued (Chapter 2)
February 4 - Europe (Chapter 1)

Week 4:

February 9 - Europe – continued (Chapter 1)
February 11 - Subsaharan Africa (Chapter 6)

Week 5:

February 16 - Presidents’ Day Holiday – No Class
February 18 - Subsaharan Africa – continued (Chapter 6)

Week 6:

February 23 - North Africa/Southwest Asia (Chapter 7)
February 25 - North Africa/Southwest Asia – continued (Chapter 7)

Week 7:

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

Week 8:

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

Spring Break**March 16-22****Week 9:**

March 23 - East Asia – continued (Chapter 9)
March 25 - Southeast Asia (Chapter 10)

Week 10:

March 30 - SE Asia – cont. (Chapter 10)
April 1 - Australia/New Zealand (Chapter 11)

Week 11:

April 6 - Australia/New Zealand – continued (Chapter 11); Midterm Review
April 8 - **Midterm II**

Week 12:

April 13 - Pacific Realm (Chapter 12)
April 15 - South America – (Chapter 5)

Week 13:

April 20 - South America – continued (Chapter 5)
April 22 - Middle America (Chapter 4)

Week 14:

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

Week 15:

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

Week 16:

May 11 - **Final Exam (9 -11 AM)**