



**Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Anthropology and Geography Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/geography/>

GEOG 1303 | Online | #16757

Fall 2019 | 16 Weeks (August 26 – December 15)

HCC Online

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Joella Robinson Office Phone: Home office – 281 -580-6182
HCC Email: joella.robinson@hccs.edu Office Hours: Anytime by appointment.

Please contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in class is important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and to discuss course topics.

E-Mail: joella.robinson@hccs.edu (HCCS e-mail)

Use Canvas mail after first day of class.

I will strive to respond to emails within 24 hours. Response may be slower over holidays or non-testing weekends.

Department of Anthropology and Geography Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Tomi Middleton

Tomi.Middleton@hccs.edu 713-718-5625

We will take on the world in one semester. You are about to study the world via the Internet. We will begin the semester by taking on some specific themes within geography to establish a base and then move on through the regions of the world.

Welcome to Geography 1303! There is no class quite like it! We fuse physical and human geography to view the ever-changing world. My favorite student comment, "I understand the world news".

Course Prerequisites

This course requires college-level reading and writing skills. Research indicates that you are most likely to succeed if you have already taken and passed ENGL 1301. The minimum requirements for enrollment in this course include placement in college-level reading (or take INRW 0420 or ESOL 0360 as a co-requisite). If you have enrolled in this course having satisfied these prerequisites, you have a higher chance of success than students who have not done so. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

Special Notice: Students who repeat a course for some third or more times may soon 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 receiving passing grades.

Eagle Online Canvas Learning Management System

This section of GEOG 1303 will use [Eagle Online Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>).

It is recommended that you **USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS YOUR BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Textbook Information

This textbook is **required** for this course:

"World Regional Geography: People, Places, and Globalization" (University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing)

Link: <http://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/front-matter/publisher-information/>

Note: This is a FREE digital textbook (Ebook). Paper textbooks are not offered at HCC bookstores. Also, other (free) readings may be assigned throughout the semester.

Please bookmark the link for easy access throughout the course.

ONLINE TUTORING

HCC provides free online tutoring in writing, math, science, and other subjects. Look for [Upswing](#) on your Canvas log-in page. This directs students to the HCC tutoring site: <https://hccs.upswing.io/>

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>

Course Overview

This course is a study of the world's regions with an emphasis on prevailing conditions and developments. Using a spatial lens, the course looks at cultural, physical, and historical characteristics of regions around the world, and develops awareness of the diversity of ideas and practices found in these regions.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

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, 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.

Teamwork Skills – Examples may include but are not limited to: collaborative work on case studies, atlas exercises, reports, projects or presentations which measure not only the end result, but quality of contribution, cooperation, and self-management in the process of working on a team-based assignments.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

The PSLOs for Geography can be found at the following link:

<http://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geography/more-about-geography-hcc>

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

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.

Learning Objectives

- 1 Define and explain the geographic concept of "region" as it pertains to locations such as North America, Europe, Latin America, North Africa, Southwest Asia, East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.
 - 2.1 Locate significant geographic features of regions of the world and describe their cultural, economic, political, and physical characteristics.
 - 3.1 Demonstrate knowledge of each region's role in a globalizing world, such as the relationship between Latin America and the Global North.
 - 4.1 Apply geographic concepts to understanding current events, conflicts, and issues in a regional context, such as conflicts in Sudan, Syria, and Afghanistan.
 - 5.1 Utilize maps to understand locations of places, the connections between places, and spatial patterns and trends of cultural and physical phenomena on earth.
 - 6.1 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.

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Attain a raw score of at least 50% on the departmental final exam
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#)
- Take the required-on campus final.

Grading Formula

Exams 1 – 3 - 50%

Current Event Quizzes 20%

Final Exam 30%

Please use the above formula to average your class average and do not rely on the class average displayed online.

Evaluation/Exams:

Evaluation: There will be three tests and a final this semester. We will utilize online testing for all exams, **excluding the final**. The tests will include multiple choice, and short answer. Each test will cover assigned readings, lectures, discussions, and other activities covered in that unit of the course. Your lowest exam grade, (excluding the final), will be dropped at the end of the semester. If you miss one of the first three exams, you will receive a zero, and that will be the lowest grade dropped during grade tabulation. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. Exam close out times are set very specifically, and they will close at the exact time listed, regardless of whether the exam is in progress, or completed.** Exams 1-3 will count for 50% of your grade. If all exams are taken, and your lowest exam grade is the final, all exams are averaged together for 50% of your grade. The final exam is mandatory, **and worth 30% of your grade. Failure to take the final will likely result in a failing grade for the course. You will be provided with final exam locations and times.** Students who live or work outside the HCC service area and need to take the final exam at another college **MUST** plan one month prior to the final exam.

Current Events Quizzes

To improve your knowledge base of the world and keep up with international current events, you will be expected to read assigned articles and take quizzes based on the provided readings. You will be provided with instructions and a breakdown of articles to be read. The articles can be found under current event articles and they will correspond with the topics and/or regions you will cover in class. All quizzes will be taken through the Eagle Online quiz feature and require the Respondus Online Program. Due dates can be found on the course calendar. The quizzes will constitute **30% of your final grade**. Acceptance of late work and penalization for late work is subject to the instructor's discretion.

Your Class Grade The standard college policy is followed for all grades: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (below 60).

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Incomplete Policy:

An incomplete grade can only be given if the student has completed at least 2/3rds (roughly 67%) of all the graded coursework for the semester by the semester's end. Furthermore, an Incomplete can only be given under extreme emergency conditions accompanied by acceptable written documentation, given that the student has already completed 2/3rds of the graded coursework. In all cases, the

instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

Missed Assignments

Acceptance of missed or late work will always be left in all circumstances to the *sole discretion* of the instructor. The instructor may ask for documentation, failure to produce said documentation upon request will likely result in a denial to turn in late or missed class work.

Course Calendar

Your online course is set up in a week by week format, to maximize organizational skills and help you achieve your goals in class. You will also be provided with "Important Dates at a Glance", which can be found on your course homepage. This document gives you all due dates during the semester on one page. You also will be given a link to receive texts or e-mails to remind you of upcoming due dates and exams.

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Academic Integrity

Please note that cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will result in a failing grade for the course. This policy will be enforced for all examinations, discussions, and assignments. (See the student handbook for further details on H.C.C. policy.)

<https://www.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/district/pdf/2018-2019-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

CLASS ATTENDANCE

As stated in the HCC Catalog, all students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students in DE courses must log into their class or they will be counted as absent. Just like an on-campus class, your regular participation is required.

Although it is the responsibility of the student to withdraw officially from a course, the professor also has the authority to block a student from accessing Canvas, and/or to withdraw a student for excessive absences or failure to participate regularly. DE students who do not log into their Canvas class before the Official Day

of Record will be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Completing the DE online orientation does not count as attendance.

If you stop attending classes after the "Last day to withdraw":

- Academic consequence – grade of **"FX"** (same impact on your GPA as an "F")
- Financial consequence – required to repay all or a portion of your financial aid

**Future financial aid eligibility may be affected no matter when you withdraw.

Virtual Classroom Conduct

As with on-campus classes, all students in HCC Online courses are required to follow all HCC Policies & Procedures, the Student Code of Conduct, the Student Handbook, and relevant sections of the Texas Education Code when interacting and communicating in a virtual classroom with your professor and fellow students. Students who violate these policies and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action that could include denial of access to course-related email, discussion groups, and chat rooms or even removal from the class. <http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Technological Requirements

HCC uses the Canvas learning management system (LMS), which we call Eagle Online. To access Eagle Online, you will need a PC (Windows 7 sp1 or better), or Mac (OS X 10.8 or better) with a broadband connection to the Internet. You may use mobile devices to access basic class materials, yet **mobile devices are not recommended for online quizzes and exams.**

Eagle Online should be used with Firefox, or Chrome failure to use the browser can lead to problems with quizzes and exams.

If you do not have this program you can download it for free.

<http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>

<https://www.google.com/chrome/>

You will also need the following free programs.

[Respondus LockDown Required for all Quizzes and Exams](#)

[Download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

Technical support can be reached at <https://www.hccs.edu/online/technical-support/>

Geography Program Information

- Geography Program at HCC Learning Web:
<http://learning.hccs.edu/programs/geography>
- Geography Library Website:
<https://library.hccs.edu/geography>
- The HCC Anthropology and Geography Club meets several times a semester. Officer positions are available. Please contact Prof. Zamanian at ramin.zamanian@hccs.edu for more information and meeting dates.

HCC Policies

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

Academic Information
Incomplete Grades
Academic Support
International Student Services
Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
Health Awareness
Career Planning and Job Search
Libraries/Bookstore
Childcare
Police Services & Campus Safety
Disability Support Services
Student Life at HCC
Electronic Devices
Student Rights and Responsibilities
Equal Educational Opportunity
Student Services
Financial Aid TV (FATV)
Testing
General Student Complaints
Transfer Planning

Grade of FX
Veteran Services

EGLS3

The EGLS3 (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS3 surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go to [HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. **Please use the Canvas e-mail feature to communicate with your instructor.**

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

For students with financial emergencies; contact hcc.fincoach@hccs.edu

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

Disability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy, please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator.

All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross Director EEO/Compliance Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity

3100 Main (713) 718-8271

Houston, TX 77266-7517 or

Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

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