



Houston Community College - Northline Campus

GEOG 1303

World Regional Geography

Fall (16-week) 2018

Course Syllabus

Course Information:

Course Title: World Regional Geography
Course Prefix/Number: GEOG 1303
CRN (Section Code): 17920
Semester: Fall, 16-week 2018
Site: [NL Campus](#), Room 236
Class Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-12:20AM
Credit Hours/Term: 3/16-weeks
Class structure: Lecture and Discussion

Instructor Name: Ron Albright
US Mail: Houston Community College
Northline Campus
[8001 Fulton Street](#)
Houston, TX 77022

Phone: 443.454.2693 (mobile)

Email: ron.albright@hccs.edu

Office Hours: Please call or e-mail me for appointment

(tutoring also available now)

Office Location – Northline Campus

Instructor Webpage: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/ron.albright>

Department Contact: Department of Anthropology and Geography
Ms. Tomi Middleton – Assistant, Office Phone 713-718-5625

Department Chair: Bryant Evans - Email: bryant.evans@hccs.edu, Phone: 713-718-5828

Instructional Materials: Textbook will be a digital version, and no paper version of the textbook is required.
An e-book is included in this electronic platform.

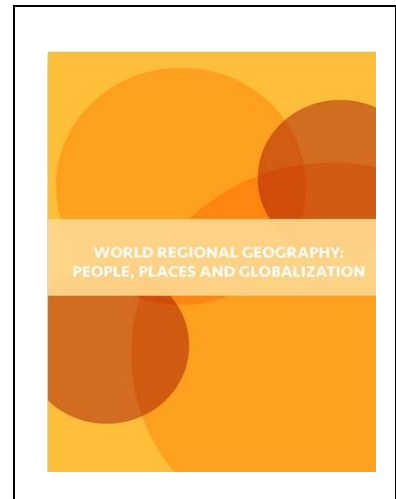
e-Book Required (Zero-Cost): “World Regional Geography: People, Places and Globalization” (Author Removed by Publisher)

e-Book PDF URL: <http://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/>

ISBN: 978-1-946135-27-8

Optional: National Geographic College Atlas of the World (2e)

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 introduces students to the processes that drive Earth's physical systems. Students will explore the relationships among these physical systems, with emphasis on weather and climate, water, ecosystems, geologic processes and landform development, and human interactions with the physical environment. The course meets a non-lab Natural Science Core requirement at Houston Community College.

Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Courses at HCC have objectives which are centered on “Student Learning Outcomes” (SLOs). These reflect what students will know, can do, or can 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.

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. Physical Geography meets a Life and Physical Sciences core requirement at HCC. Life and Physical Sciences core area courses “focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method” and “involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences.” By taking a Life and Physical 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 teamwork skills. Throughout the semester, assignments and assessments in this class will help measure your advancement in each of these core competencies.

Essential Needs Statement

“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 Student Success for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that HCC may possess.”

Office of the Dean of Students Contact Numbers at HCC

- **Central College**
[713-718-6076](tel:713-718-6076)
- **Northeast College**
[713/718-8066](tel:713-718-8066)
- **Northwest College**
[713/718-5611](tel:713-718-5611)
- **Southeast College**
[713/718-7006](tel:713-718-7006)
- **Southwest College**
[713-718-7789](tel:713-718-7789)

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.

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 result, but quality of contribution, cooperation, and self-management in the process of working on a team-based assignment.

Course Structure. This is a face-to face lecture and discussion course. We will meet regularly for class on-site, and class participation is expected as part of the total grade. There is no lab and no “redo” work for this class.

Accessing Canvas-Eagle Online. Canvas 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 Canvas at least a couple times each week throughout the semester to access notes, assignments, etc. The address for accessing Canvas on the web is <https://hccs.instructure.com>. Your Eagle Online ID is the same as your HCC User ID (i.e. W0023456). The first time you log in to Canvas, 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://www.hccs.edu/online/technical-support/>

Important Phone Numbers:

For contacting Geography and Anthropology Department: Ms. Tomi Middleton (713) 718-5625

For Canvas-Eagle Online technical support: (713) 718-5275 option 3.

For general information about the Northline Campus: (713) 718-1000

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

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 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 in the administrative offices at the Spring Branch Campus.

Drop/Withdrawal:

Students may drop/add/swap the class by doing so on or before June (TBD). 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 **June 25th**. This must be done prior to 4:30 PM that day to receive a “W” on your transcript. The State of Texas penalizes students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you repeat the same course more than twice, you must 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.

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>

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, Title IX Compliance, and Campus Safety:

- 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.
- 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 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 <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/>
- 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 on the basis of 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 Phone: (713) 718-8271; Email: Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
- At HCC, the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campuscarry/>

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 (for example, **there is to be no text messaging taking place during class**). **Points will be deducted from your grade** if your 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.

Your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Assignment	% of course, grade	Points
Class Participation/Attendance	10%	40
Article Assignments	20%	80
Geography Report	20%	80
Mid Term Exams*(denoted: Exam 1, Exam 2)	25%	100
Final Exam	25%	100
TOTAL	100%	400

Grades

360-400 points (90-100%) = A

320-359 points (80-89%) = B

280-319 points (70-79%) = C

240-279 points (60-69%) = D

239 points or below (below 60%) = F

Grading Policy: There will be *two midterm exams in our class. 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. Make-up assignments will not be allowed and late papers will not be accepted. Your grade will reflect your overall effort, participation, and achievement in the course.

Writing Assignment: Your primary writing assignment will be your **geography report/research paper**, which will be due sometime in June and be submitted via **Hard Copy** and **Canvas-Eagle Online**. The length of the research paper will be about 3 pages and the content will be based on a geographic theme of choice to be discussed at a later date. You must include a map, images, and a chart or graph, as is related to the paper's primary topic (one-page). Four pages' total with map "page," 12-point

font, Times New Roman or Arial, and double-spaced. You must include a “works cited” page in APA format, appendix section and use in-text citation referring to any image, table, graph, or chart.

Article Assignments: One-page news article (see following website links for some online sources or use hard copy newspapers or magazines) along with a description (type one paragraph, 4-8 sentences) of what the article says and how the article relates to that week’s physical geography discussion. You must include geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) of article’s location in either Degrees, Minutes, Seconds (DMS) or Decimal Degrees (DD) format(s), as is needed for any physical location (will have geographic coordinates discussion in class (<http://myasadata.larc.nasa.gov/latitude/longitude-finder/>). (https://www.sciencedaily.com/news/earth_climate/geography/) (<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/>) Natural disaster article examples: Hurricanes, Tornados, Flooding, Hail Storms, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes (must include severity and/or measurement scale/table (s).

Other assignments. Your “article assignments/quizzes” grade will primarily consist of weekly assignments related to the course material. You must complete the assignments and submit via **Hard Copy** and **Canvas-Eagle Online** within the time frame that it is due. You will not be allowed to submit assignments or quizzes in late.

Additional important notes:

- **Course Outline notes:** You will be able to access a general outline of the weekly notes by logging onto our Canvas-Eagle Online Course Page. You will need to have PDF reader (which is free to download) 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 - please do not ask for the notes to be posted before they appear online or after they’ve been “retired”.
- **Laptops in class:** Laptops can be a great resource, but they can also be a big distraction (for you and for me)! I allow for you to bring your laptops to class, but only for note-taking. Surfing the web or instant messaging during class will not be tolerated – if you are caught doing this, you will no longer be allowed to use your laptop within our class.
- **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 Houston Community College, 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 Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

Academic Calendar - Fall Semester 2018:

Date	Time	Event	Location
08.27		Fall 2018 Reg 16 WK: Classes Begin	
09.03		Labor Day (No Classes)	
09.10		Fall 2018 Reg 16 WK: Official Day of Record	
09.12		Fall 2018 Reg 16 WK: Last Day for 70% refund	
09.18		Fall 2018 Reg 16 WK: Last Day for 25% refund	
10.02	10am	Northeast College Fall Hire An Eagle Career & Job Fair	HCC - Northline Campus
10.18	1pm	Central College Fall Consumer Arts & Sciences COE Career Fair	HCC - Central Campus
11.02		Fall 2018 Reg 16 WK: Last day to withdraw	
11.07	1pm	Northwest College "Stars & Stripes" Veteran Career Fair & Expo	HCC - Alief Hayes Campus
11.14	10am	Northeast College Fall Public Safety COE Career & Job Fair	HCC - Northeast Campus
11.22-11.25		Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)	
12.11		Final exam (GEOG 1303) 11:00AM.- 1:00PM	
12.13		Final exam (GEOG 1301) 12:00PM.- 2:00PM	
12.16		Fall 2018 Regular 16 Week Semester Ends	

Course Outline: (Please print this outline and keep handy)

Please note that the content for specific dates given are “best estimates;” they may be adjusted from time to time. **Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:50PM in Northline Building Room 236 (Northline Campus)**

All Assignments and Exams are Always Due or Taken on Thursdays Only. (all assignments are submitted online through Canvas and all Exams are on Scantron)

*******EXEPTION: Research Paper Due 11.17.18, SATURDAY, 11:59PM*******

Please note: Lowest of first two exam grades will be dropped **

Week 01:

08.28 Introductions, Syllabus, and Earth’s Dimensions
Nightline Movie “Before the Flood””

Week 02:

09.04 Chapter 1- Introduction to the World
(Geospatial Information Science and Geographic Information Systems Discussion)

Week 03:

09.11 Chapter 2-Europe
09.13 Due Thursday: Article Assignment-1 (Any topic chapters 1-4)

Week 04:

09.18 Chapter 3-Russia
PBS Movie “Putin”
Exam 1 Review/Siberia Discussion

Week 05:

09.25 Chapter 4-North America
09.27 Exam 1 Chapters 1-4**

Week 06:

10.02 Chapter 5-Middle America/Cyclones Discussion
PBS Movie “MS-13”
Cenote Discussion and Mexico “Dos Ojos” Video

Week 07:

10.09 Chapter 6-South America (Madrid Fault Line Discussion)
(Mount Saint Helens & Yellowstone Super Volcano Discussion)
10.11 Due Thursday: Article Assignment-2 (Any topic chapters 5-8)

Week 08:

10.16 Chapter 7-Subsaharan Africa (Rift Valley/Saharan Dust Discussion)
(Flood Inundation Mapping Discussion)

Week 09:

10.23 Chapter 8-North Africa and Southwest Asia
(Sunni vs Shia Discussion)
Exam 2 Review
10.25 Due Thursday: Article Assignment-3 (Any topic chapters 9-12)

Week 10:

10.30 Chapter 9- South Asia (Earthquakes, Tsunami, and Sea Level Rise Discussion)
11.01 Exam 2 Chapters 5-8 **

Week 11:

11.06 Chapter 10- East Asia
11.08 Due Thursday: Article Assignment-4 (Any topic chapters 13-16)

Week 12:

11.13 Chapter 11- Southeast Asia
11.15 MEET IN LIBRARY--Library Day to work on Research Paper
11.17 Due SATURDAY, 11:59PM: Research Paper

Week 13:

11.20 Map Assignment (to be discussed)

11.22 Thanksgiving No Classes

Week 14:

11.27 Chapter 12-Australia and New Zealand
Hurricanes Discussion

Week 15:

12.04 Chapter 13-The Pacific and Antarctica (Greenland and Antarctica Videos/Discussion)
Final Exam Review

Week 16:

12.11 **Final Exam Chapters 9-13, Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 11-1PM**

(Located in same classroom, Northline Campus, Room 236)