

# GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD REGIONS

Geography 272  
Section 001  
Fall 2011  
MWF 8:30-9:20  
Jorgensen 110

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## Course Description

This course is a region-by-region survey of the human and physical geography of the earth. Primary emphasis focuses on cultural landscape patterns, which include population, settlement, landuse, economy, language, religion and politics. Physical landscape patterns which set the backdrop for human occupancy of the earth's surface, such as climate and landforms, also receive attention. The distinctive combinations of cultural and physical landscape patterns which are associated with each major geographic realm are studied at spatial scales which range from the micro community scale, through the meso national scale, to the macro world scale. Maps, slides, and other visual materials are used to reinforce understanding of the geographical patterns examined.

Geography 272 "Geography of World Regions" can be used to satisfy general education Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Outcome 9, which involves "global awareness of human diversity through analysis of an issue." Alternatively, this course can be used to satisfy general Essential Studies requirement C, which involves "Human Behavior, Culture and Social Organizations." This course also can be used to satisfy requirements for the major or minor in Geography, endorsements in Elementary or Secondary Education, the major or minor in International Studies, as well as similar requirements in several other fields of study.

During the semester, student achievement will be cultivated through many written map location exercises which will require the geographical identification of the locations of important cultural, social, and environmental features which contribute to developing an understanding of the regional geography of each of the major world realms investigated. In addition to directed readings focused on each major world realm in the text and atlas, students will be expected to prepare and submit written summaries of current news articles dealing with human or physical geographical issues involving each of the major world realms. Tests will include multiple choice questions on human and physical geographical patterns, map location questions, and short-answer essay questions on major issues and concepts.

## Texts

H. J. de Blij and Peter O. Muller, *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts 14<sup>th</sup> ed.* (New York: Wiley; 2010).

National Geographic Society, *College Atlas of the World 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society; 2010)

## Course Requirements and Grades

Grades will be based upon three examinations, about ten map location exercises, a current events journal, quizzes and attendance checks. Examinations will be multiple choice, identification, matching, map location and short essay in format. Examinations will cover materials from lectures, text readings, atlas study, exercises and current events. No electronic devices (e.g. laptop computers, cell phones, Ipods, etc.) may be used during examinations. Cheating or plagiarism will be penalized by a one-half or 50% reduction in

credit for any written work involved. In the case of excused absence from an exam for illness, family emergency or other cause, an essay and map location make-up examination will be substituted for the missed examination. Approximately one-third of the final examination will be comprehensive; the other two-thirds of the final examination will focus on material following the second examination. The current events journal will be graded at three different times during the semester. Quizzes will be short, and intended as a way of occasionally taking roll and checking whether students are keeping up with reading assignments. Final grades will be based upon total points earned from examinations, exercises, current events journal, quizzes and attendance checks. Examinations and final overall total points earned during the course as a whole will be assessed according to a grade-scale of approximately "A" (90-100%), "B" (80-89%), "C" (70-79%), "D" (60-69%) and "F" (0-59%), with "+" or "-" indications toward the top or bottom of these percent ranges. The grade components will be weighted as follows in evaluating student achievement for the course as a whole:

	Component	Weight	Date
Exercises, Journal,			
Quizzes & Attendance	24%	Various	
Exam I	24%	About September 23	
Exam II	24%	About October 28	
Final Exam	28%	December 14, 7:30 a.m.	

### Current Events Journal

The final current events journal will contain about eleven one-page summaries and reactions to current newspaper articles involving the geographic realms studied. Journal entries are to be submitted in folders, and will be checked three times during the semester. Journal scores will be based on whether journals have been submitted on time, whether directions have been followed, and the form and content of the written summaries and reactions. Copies of the original newspaper articles are not to be included, only the one-page summaries and reactions. Newspaper articles may be chosen from four US newspapers which are accessible via the Internet and which cover international topics. Stories more than two months old will not be considered "current." The four acceptable publications are:

**Chicago Tribune** (<http://www.chicagotribune.com>)

**Los Angeles Times** (<http://www.latimes.com>)

**New York Times** (<http://www.nytimes.com>)

**The Washington Post** (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>)

Articles chosen for summary must be by-lined, which means that the author(s) must be identified by name as a person (or persons). Anonymous wire service stories will not be accepted. Each article should receive one page in the journal, using the format shown below. The half-page summary should briefly describe the main points of the article. The half-page reaction should address what you learned about the geography of the region, and how it relates to other material you have learned about the region from the text, atlas, or class discussions. Typing is not required for the journal, but entries must be legible. The format for each entry is:

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Title:	"Title of the Story"	Your Name:
Author:	Name(s) of author(s)	Journal entry date:
Publication:	<b>Name of the Publication</b> (e.g. New York Times)	

Date:	Publication date
Summary:	Half page summary of article
Reaction:	Half page reaction to article in relation to readings & class materials

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Tentative due dates for journal checks are:

- Sept. 21: 1 article on Europe, and 1 on Russia  
 Oct. 21: 1 article on Middle America, 1 on South America, 1 on Subsaharan Africa, and 1 on North Africa or Southwest Asia  
 Dec. 2: 1 article on South Asia, 1 on East Asia, 1 on Southeast Asia, 1 on Australia or Pacific, and 1 on North America, plus all earlier entries in completed journal.

### Schedule of Topics and Readings

Chapter references are to de Blij & Muller, Geography: Realms, Regions & Concepts. Students also should study corresponding sections of the College Atlas of the World.

<b>Week Dates</b>	<b>Topic and Reading Assignment</b>
1 8/22-8/26	Regions and Cultures Readings: "Introduction" pp. 1-8 & 16-36; Appendix B "Using the Maps" (Appendix B at: <a href="http://www.wiley.com/college/deblij">www.wiley.com/college/deblij</a> ) <u>College Atlas of the World</u> , "Introduction" pp. 10-17
2 8/29-9/2	Natural Stage and Regional Framework Readings: "Introduction" pp. 8-16 <u>College Atlas of the World</u> , "The World" pp. 18-69
3 9/7-9/9	European Realm Reading: Ch. 1 pp. 48-70
<b>Monday September 5 is Labor Day Holiday</b>	
4 9/12-9/16	European Regions Reading: Ch. 1 pp. 71-105 and Ch. 8 pp. 414-415
5 9/19-9/23	Russia Reading: Ch. 2
<b>Journal Check 1</b>	
<b>Exam 1</b>	
6 9/26-9/30	Middle American Realm Reading: Ch. 4, pp. 204-216
7 10/3-10/7	Middle American Regions and South American Realm Readings: Ch. 4, pp. 217-241 and Ch. 5, pp. 242-255
8 10/10-10/14	South American Regions Reading: Ch. 5, pp. 255-287
9 10/19-10/21	Subsaharan Africa Reading: Ch. 6
<b>Journal Check 2</b>	
<b>Monday October 17 is Fall Semester Break Holiday</b>	
10 10/24-10/28	North Africa/Southwest Asia Reading: Ch. 7
<b>Exam 2</b>	
11 10/31-11/4	South Asia

- 12 11/7-11/11 Reading: Ch. 8  
East Asia
- 13 11/14-11/18 Reading: Ch. 9  
Southeast Asia  
Reading: Ch. 10
- 14 11/21 Australia and Pacific  
Reading: Chs. 11 and 12.  
**Wednesday Nov 23 to Friday Nov 25 is Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 15 11/28-12/2 North America I  
Reading: Ch. 3  
**Journal Check 3**
- 16 12/5-12/9 North America II  
Reading: Ch. 3
- 17 12/14 **Final Exam**, Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 a.m.