Social Geography
Syllabus

GEO2410 - Section 4G94
Summer B, 2013
Room: Turlington Hall L011
Time: MTWRF, Period 5
       (12:30-1:45pm)
Course Website:
       Sakai https://lss.at.ufl.edu

Instructor: Tyler Rundel
Office: Turlington 3120
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday,
       Period 4 (11:00am-12:15 pm)
       or by appointment
Email: rundel@ufl.edu

Textbook and Readings:
• There is no assigned textbook for the course
• Optional textbook: H.J. DeBlij & Peter Muller, Geography: Realms, Regions, and
       Concepts. 14th or 15th Editions
• Required readings will be assigned throughout the semester and posted on the
       course website.

Course Description:
This course introduces some of the main themes of social geography in the
context of change and variation among major world regions, particularly across the non-
Western world. The course focuses on historic and contemporary issues of human
adaptation to varying environments, population growth, resource use, and major features
of economic growth, globalization, and cultural change. The importance of
understanding the world outside the U.S., especially the non-Western world, is
increasingly evident as we become more interconnected and globalized. This course will
give students a better understanding of some of the main forces and directions of change
in major regions of the world, as well as relevant aspects of the geographic and historic
backgrounds that are the basis of diversity among world regions.

The course begins with an overview of general themes that have affected global
and regional change in the 20th and 21st centuries, including population growth and
change; economic and political development and globalization; cultural change, including
changing gender roles and ethnic interactions; and human adaptation to and impacts on
the natural world. The main portion of the course is organized geographically by world
region and major countries within each region. In addition to a general overview of the
geographic, historic, and contemporary features that characterize each region, countries
and areas that are experiencing intense change or impacts of change will receive special
focus. The non-Western world is emphasized in most of the course, and comparisons and
contrasts between developing and industrialized countries are explored. Recent research
and viewpoints are stressed, and current events relevant to course themes will be
examined throughout the course. By the end of the course, students will have learned
about many key features, trends, and challenges in a large part of today’s world.
Course Requirements:
You need to attend lectures and do the assigned readings if you expect to do well in the course. Lectures do not always repeat material from the readings. Exams include material from lectures and other assigned readings.

Course Evaluation:
Grades are based on two, equally weighted, non-cumulative exams and a research paper:

- Exam 1 (45%) July 19th
- Exam 2 (45%) August 7th
- Paper (10%) August 9th 11:59pm (Midnight)

Grades:

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For more info on UF grading policies see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Rules:
- You are responsible to come to class. If you miss class without a proper excuse, do not ask me for missed materials. If a known conflict preventing you from coming to class, make arrangements with me ahead of time.
- **No extra credit will be given.** Therefore, it is important to begin the semester with the knowledge that exams will constitute your entire grade.
- There will be **NO make-up exams** except in exception and unavoidable circumstances. In such situations, documentation must be provided. At that time it will be totally up to my discretion to decide if you can make up the exam **OR** have the exam not count towards your final grade. Make up exams will not necessarily have the same questions as the missed exam.
- **Do not be late for exams!** You will have only the normal class time for your exams. No exceptions.
- Because of the short nature of the course, if you have any qu...
- **Cheating will not be tolerated** according to the University rules.
- Turn cell phones off.
- No talking in class or any other disruptive behavior.
- Pay attention in class. Do not read the paper, browse the web, or see what your friends are up to on facebook while in class.
- Check the syllabus before email me questions such as ‘when is the exam?’
**Students with Disabilities:**
Official documentation from the university is necessary in order to receive accommodations. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Instructors are required to follow all accommodations listed in the paperwork. Even at a student’s request, I cannot provide only some of the listed accommodations.

Disability Resource Center  
Room 001 Reid Hall  
(352) 392-8565  
accessuf@dso.ufl.edu

**The Commercial Notes Warning:**
In the eventuality of a discussion over grading I will recognize my notes and the textbook as being an authoritative source. However, I will not recognize any commercially reproduced course notes.

**University of Florida Policy on Academic Honesty:**
As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

**UF Counseling Services:**
Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing or academic performance are strongly encouraged to take talk to the instructor or take advantage of the university’s counseling resources, available at no cost for currently enrolled students.

- Teaching Center and Reading and Writing Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills, tutoring, help brainstorming, formatting and writing papers: [http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/) and [http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter/index.html](http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter/index.html).
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career assistance and counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling
- University Counseling Center & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd., 392-1575; Personal and career counseling, as well as therapy for anxiety, stress and mental health issues: [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)
Research paper

Topic
- Choose one country from region we discussed in class
- Choose one current event impacting that country
- Examples:
  - The Syrian Civil War
  - Deforestation in Brazil
  - HIV/AIDS in Botswana

Guidelines
- Overview of the country (related to the topic)
- Over the current event
- Who is involved?
- Why is it occurring?
- What geographic characteristics contribute to the situation?
- What are the implications?
- What does the future hold?

Length
- 3 pages
- Double spaced
- Standard font (e.g. Times New Roman – 12; Calibri - 11) and page margins
- Include: Your Name, Date, GEO2421, and the Title on the first page of text
  - Not on a separate title page

References
- 6 references
- Include in-text citations and a “References” section at the end of the paper.
  References should be in American Psychological Association (APA) style. For help see this useful guide:
  - [http://image.mail.bfwpub.com/lib/feed1c737d6c03/m/1/BSM_APA_update_2009-Pt1.pdf](http://image.mail.bfwpub.com/lib/feed1c737d6c03/m/1/BSM_APA_update_2009-Pt1.pdf)
- Use only scholar sources
  - Books, Journal articles, Newspaper articles
  - Sources: [http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/)
  - Do NOT use Wikipedia or blogs

Plagiarism
- Do NOT plagiarize!
- Write your own material and use proper citations.
- This is the digital age. It is easy for me to check if you are copying and pasting from other people work! So do not do it, it is not worth it.
Tentative Course Outline:
Please note periodic updates / changes to the course outline during the semester! Exam dates are NOT absolute; they are tentative. Final decisions about exam dates will be announced in class. It is the responsibility of the student to stay informed of any of these changes.

Section 1
- Introduction
- Themes in Human Geography
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Exam 1 July 19th

Section 2
- North Africa and the Middle East
- Central Asia
- South Asia
- The Pacific
- The Polar Regions
- Exam 2 August 7th

Research Paper August 9th 11:59pm (Midnight)

- - Drop/Add - - | Holiday

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