Geography for a Changing World, Fall 2013

Instructor: Johanna Engström  
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Lectures: MWF, period 6 (12:50-1:40 pm), CSE E121  
Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 pm, Wednesdays 10-11 am and by appointment

Course Description:
The course seeks to give students a regional perspective on issues pertaining to important urban, economic, environmental and climatic issues in the world. The causes of problems associated with these issues and the possible solutions will be discussed. Students will be expected to use map interpretation skills to analyze data and draw inferences and conclusions about world phenomena.  
**This course meets the general education requirements for the international and social science credits**

Course Objectives:
- To gain a basic understanding of some of the contemporary challenges of the different world regions.  
- Learn a geographer’s approach to understanding processes such as “climate” and “globalization”.

Topics covered/course outline:
- What’s Geography?  
- Population Change  
- Urbanization  
- Globalization  
- Exam 1  
- Deforestation  
- Desertification  
- Fresh water resources  
- Exam 2  
- Climate Change  
- Energy resources & Petroleum issues  
- GIS & Remote Sensing  
- Exam 3

Course structure:
This course consists of
- Lectures  
- Videos/DVDs  
- Assignments  
- Exams

Text: There is no text required for this class, but buying the course pack (available at Target Copy) is recommended. Extra readings may be assigned throughout the semester.

For class materials and grades, please visit E-Learning (Sakai) at http://lss.at.ufl.edu/. If you experience problems trying to log in, contact the UF Computing Help Desk: The Hub, 392-HELP for assistance.

Tentative exam dates
- Exam 1: September 18th  
- Exam 2: October 16th  
- Exam 3: December 4th
Course evaluation:
Exam 1: 25%
Exam 2: 25%
Exam 3: 25%
Assignments: 25%

Grading scheme:
A: 94-100%  A-: 90-93%
B+: 87-89%  B: 83-86%  B-: 80-82%
C+: 77-79%  C: 73-76%  C-: 70-72%
D+: 67-69%  D: 63-66%  D-: 60-62%
E: <60%

Rules:
- No attendance will be taken unless required by the university or some other authority. If a conflict arises where you know you will be absent, make arrangements with the instructor, or a classmate, ahead of time. If you are unexpectedly forced to miss class, on a case by case basis with proper documentation assistance may be available.

- There will be NO makeup exams given. However, if an unavoidable event arises and causes you to miss, or anticipate missing an exam, please come and see the instructor. Bring any formal documentation that supports the absence. You must have some written form validating your absence, for example a doctor’s receipt. At that time it will be totally up to the instructor’s discretion to decide if any credit can be gained for the missed exam.

- Do not be late for exams. You will have only the normal class time for your exams.

- Cheating will not be tolerated according to the University rules. The University of Florida Honor Code states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." As such, cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. The first case of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero for the assignment or exam. A second offense will result in a report to the appropriate student body.

- Three things NEVER to do in class:
  1. Talk or text on your phone. Put your phone on silent mode. If it rings, you may be asked to leave. Laptops are okay, but they should only be used for taking notes. Students using their laptops for other things may be asked to close it and take notes with paper.
  2. Read a newspaper.
  3. Talking out of turn.

Special Accommodation
Students with a disability are requested to notify the instructor during the first two weeks of class to implement appropriate learning accommodations. Documentation for learning accommodations recommended by the University of Florida’s Office for Disability Services is requested. The office is located on the first floor of Reid Hall and the phone number is 392-8565.

Course evaluation
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results

***The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time for any reason***