INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

PROFESSOR A. GOLDMAN

M,W,F 4th period (10:40 – 11:30 AM) Psychology Building 151
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Office #2: 3125 Turlington (Tel: 392-0494) {Note most days I will use my office in Grinter Hall}
Office hrs: Mon & Wed 3:00- 4:00 PM (or by appt)

General Education requirements: International Studies (N); Social Sciences (S)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces some of the main themes of human 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, change, and migration; integrating multiple ethnicities into national politics; changing gender roles and tensions; the role of religion in political and social affairs; and adapting to climate change as a global environmental challenge.

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.

TEXTBOOK & READINGS


Additional readings (see reading list) will be available through Canvas and/or the UF Library electronic reserve system “Ares” (https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/), as will be announced in class.
**Other readings & web assignments:** Further related readings may be assigned or recommended during the term as they appear, particularly at the New York Times website (www.nytimes.com). Assignments will be announced in class. Other materials, including study guides, will be posted at the course website(s) (see below).

**REQUIREMENTS**

You need to both attend lectures and do the assigned readings if you expect to do well in the course. The lectures do not necessarily repeat the material from the readings, and the exams include material from both the lectures and the textbook.

There will be **three examinations**, tentatively scheduled for Wed., Oct 1; Wed., Nov. 5; and Wed., Dec. 10 (regular class periods). Each exam covers material from that section of the course. The last exam does not include questions from earlier parts of the course. The exams include multiple choice and other questions as well as several map identifications. Exam and course grades are curved based on class performance.

**NOTES:**  
(1) **No makeup exams** are given, and there will be **no incomplete grades**.

(2) A student must have a **legitimate documented reason** for not taking an exam; otherwise he or she will receive a score of zero for the missed exam. If excused from one of the exams, the student's grade will be based on the two exams taken.

(3) Students may be asked to provide proof of identification at the exam.

(4) **No extra credit assignments** are available to individual students.

**WEBSITES:** The syllabus, reading list, study guides, and other course information will be posted at one or both of the **course websites:** (1) the Geography Department website (http://www.geog.ufl.edu/), under “Courses and syllabi” for this course and semester; (2) UF’s E-learning system (Canvas): https://lss.at.ufl.edu/. Most course material, including the study guides for each exam will be available only at the website(s), not in paper handouts. Additional readings will be available at UF library’s electronic reserve system (Ares) (https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/) and/or the course website. A guide to using Ares is available at the library website.

The textbook **publisher**, John Wiley, also has a **website** for this textbook that includes some useful study material (not required, unless specified in class): www.wiley.com/college/deblj

**University’s honesty policy:** Cheating is a serious offense. The University of Florida has a policy of academic honesty to which all students are expected to abide. You can view this policy at: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/  

The Honor Pledge 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 by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

A first case of academic dishonesty in this class will receive a grade of zero for the exam. A second offense will result in a report to the appropriate student body.
**Special Accommodations for students:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Center will provide the student with appropriate documentation. The student must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Class behavior:** As a courtesy to fellow students as well as the instructor, please follow these guidelines:

1. **Turn off your cell phones** before class;
2. Please **do not talk** excessively during class;
3. Please **wait until the end of class** before packing up your things and leaving;
4. Please **do not read websites, newspapers** or other materials during class.

**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](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 will be available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results).

**Important Dates** *(Note: Exam dates are subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and on the course website)*

- **Exam 1:** Wednesday, October 1 *(normal class time and location)*
- **Exam 2:** Wednesday, November 5 *(normal class time and location)*
- **Exam 3:** Wednesday, December 10 *(normal class time and location)*

**NO CLASS**
- Labor Day: September 1
- Homecoming: October 17
- Thanksgiving: November 26 - 28
**COURSE OUTLINE (GEO 2420, Fall 2014)**

**Approximate dates**

1. **Introduction: Some Course Themes**  
   8/25 – 9/5/14
   - A. World regions & realms; types of regions
   - B. Demographic changes of the 20th & 21st centuries & their implications
   - C. Political changes of the 20th & 21st c; new nations, ethnic groups & regions
   - D. Cultural change & clashes: religion & society; gender roles
   - E. Climate change & its challenges

2. **The Ukraine, Russia, & the Former Soviet Union**  
   9/5 – 9/12/14
   - A. Historic highlights
   - B. Main regions and variations
   - C. Demographic, economic, cultural, & environmental change
   - D. Current changes & challenges

3. **Sub-Saharan Africa**  
   9/12 – 9/29/14
   - A. Environmental conditions & challenges
   - B. Historic highlights
   - C. Main regions and variations
   - D. Demographic, economic, cultural, & environmental change
   - E. Areas & countries of current change & challenge

**Exam #1: Wed. 10/1/14 [date subject to change]**

4. **The Middle East & North Africa**  
   10/3 – 10/15/14
   - A. Environmental conditions & challenges
   - B. Historic highlights
   - C. Main regions and variations
   - D. Demographic, economic, cultural, & environmental change
   - E. Areas & countries of current change & challenge

5. **Central & South Asia**  
   10/20 – 11/3/14
   - A. Environmental conditions & challenges
   - B. Historic highlights
   - C. Main regions and variations
   - D. Demographic, economic, cultural, & environmental change
   - E. Areas & countries of current change & challenge

**Exam #2: Wed. 11/5/14 [date subject to change]**

6. **Southeast Asia**  
   11/7 – 11/19/14

7. **East Asia**  
   11/21 – 12/8/14

**Exam #3: Wed., 12/10/14 (Regular class time)**