***Geo 101--World Geography Syllabus – Fall 2020***

* Prof. Judy Okun - jokun@wcupa.edu
* Format: **Live on Zoom Mondays and Wednesdays at regular class time**
* Office Hours: Fridays-9:30-12:30 am by Zoom appointment or Chat
* Online content: D2L

 **Required Textbook:**

* White, Dymond, Chacko, Bradshaw, *Essentials of World Regional Geography Concepts*, 3rd Edition, McGraw Hall Freeman. You’ll need the book for discussion boards and exams.

**DTL Help:** If you encounter any problems with accessing course materials on D2L or require any other technical assistance, you may contact the Student Help Desk via phone (610-436-3350) or submit a ticket at [http://www.wcupa.edu/infoservices/clientServices/d2lServices/forms/problem/.](http://www.wcupa.edu/infoservices/clientServices/d2lServices/forms/problem/)

You can also click on the Student Support link in D2L which provides additional resources on using D2L.

**Covid-19 Statement:** Part of West Chester University’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic was to switch the vast majority of instruction to remote. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution to protect the health of all members of the WCU community. Faculty have been asked to make every effort to adapt their courses to this novel situation while still meeting the critical learning outcomes of the course. Students are asked to discuss any problems with the new course format and schedule directly with their instructors. Patience and flexibility on everyone’s behalf are critical to our community’s navigation of this public health crisis.

**Evaluation & Grading:** A letter grade will be assigned based on performance in the course according to the following scale:

Grade Quality Points Percentage Equivalents Interpretation

A 4.00 93-100 Excellent

A- 3.67 90-92

B+ 3.33 87-89 Superior

B 3.00 83-86

B- 2.67 80-82

C+ 2.33 77-79 Average

C 2.00 73-76

C- 1.67 70-72

D+ 1.33 67-69 Below Average

D 1.00 63-66

D- 0.67 60-62

F 0 < 60% Failure

Refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for description of NG (No Grade), W, Z, and other grades.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:** GEO101 is an introductory course in Geography; students do not need to have completed any previous coursework in geography. After successfully completing this course, you will understand the basic principles of geography and be able to apply those principles to the study of world regions. We will especially emphasize the environmental and human characteristics that make regions distinctive.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

* Locate and identify the major regions of the world and countries within each region.
* Understand the human and physical geography of the world's regions.
* Demonstrate a familiarity with the basic vocabulary of geographic thought.
* Apply the concepts of geographic analysis to the world’s regions.
* Read, interpret, and compare regional maps.
* Analyze and evaluate current events in the context of the geographic factors in a region.

**Class Schedule:** We will follow the topics as indicated on the class schedule. The schedule is subject to change to accommodate the pace of the class. I will make you aware of any significant changes to the schedule and, if necessary, will post updated information and an updated syllabus on D2L’s home page. We will be meeting live on Mondays and Wednesdays via zoom at your regularly scheduled class time. Friday will be reserved for office hours and two optional study sessions.

**Participation/Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and active participation is essential to your overall success in the course. You are expected to attend class, be on time, and participate in class discussions. Roll will be taken for each class and you will be penalized for poor attendance. If you are absent for more than 3 meetings you will **lose two points** for each additional absence towards your final average. Conversely, perfect attendance will **earn two points** towards your final average.

**Zoom Info:**

* Sessions will be held during class time on **Mondays and Wednesdays during your scheduled time.**
* **A link to our session will be emailed up to 15 minutes before session begins.**
* Zoom meetings are central to exams. You can't do well on the exams without attending the zoom meetings.
* Zoom meetings are not recorded, so there are no make ups if you miss a meeting.
* Please be prompt. We’ll start on time.
* It is very much appreciated to have your camera on during Zoom sessions!
* Keep microphone muted unless you are asking or answering a question.
* Use ‘raise hand’ to ask a question.
* Use your first and last name for your Zoom profile to get credit for attendance.
* Attendance will be taken during each Zoom session.
* Treat our zoom meetings as your work meetings--professionalism is expected.
* Extra points will be added to participation grade for excellent Zoom participation.

**E-Mail policy:** It is expected that students activate and maintain regular access to DTL and University provided e-mail accounts. Official university communications, including those from your instructor, will be sent through your university e-mail account. You are responsible for accessing that mail to be sure to obtain official University communications. Failure to access will not exempt individuals from the responsibilities associated with this course. You should check your WCU email **at least daily** to keep on top of class news, updates, etc. **Please include your name and course section or time when emailing me at jokun@wcupa.edu.**

**Assignments 1 and 2: Country Report:** You will be collecting and assessing 12 news articles this semester, based on a country of your choice. This is an ongoing project, which will be connected to the six discussion boards and the two assignments, as well as additional work. More details will be posted on DTL. Assignments will be posted and submitted via DTL. Plan ahead — no late work accepted. Turnitin, a plagiarism checker, will be used for all submitted writing.

**Discussion Board Forums:** There will be a discussion board forum due every other week with a total of six. A minimum of four posts are required for each. See the Discussions in ‘Communications’ on DTL for details.

**Study Guide:** To help you review for class and exams, a study guide for each region will be posted on D2L. You will find each lecture’s PowerPoint posted on DTL as well. Go to ‘Content’ on DTL.

**Readings:**There will be assigned readings for each chapter that will tie into the discussion forums and will be preparation for exams. See schedule in ‘Content’ on DTL.

**Exams**: There will be two non-cumulative exams this semester which will be available on DTL. These will be multiple choice. Make-up exams will require documentation of medical issue, jury duty, sanctioned WCU club-team event.

**Original Work:** Your work will be submitted to a plagiarism-checker called Turnitin, which will check the text against a databank of sources for copied material. You must put all ideas in your own words, use citations properly for referencing the ideas of others. We will use MLA style in this class**. Turnitin matches must be 10 percent or lower or work won’t be accepted or will receive grade reduction.**

**Final Grade Evaluation:**

1. Assignment 1……………………………………….……...10%
2. Assignment 2……………………………………….………15%
3. Exams (2)…….……….……………..………………….…...30%
4. Discussion Board Forums (6)………………………...40%
5. Participation (baseline 80%)………………………......5%
6. Perfect attendance: 2 points added to cumulative average
7. Over 3 absences: 2 points deducted for each absence to cumulative average

**In case of absence:** Please notify me at jokun@wcupa.edu of absences and make arrangements with a classmate to obtain missed lecture notes. Check the study guide/announcements on D2L to see what you missed.

**Office Hours**: Friday mornings**, 9:30 to 12:30 to office hours.** These can be done by zoom or chat via DTL. Email me at jokun@wcupa.edu by 9pm the night before to set up an appointment. You are also welcome to attend with your study group when preparing for exams.

**Study Groups**: In lieu of face-to-face interaction and the desire to give you a more personal, small group setting, I am establishing study groups. The people in your group will be your contact group for studying, questions, or other class communication. Groups will be established after the first few weeks of class, once the roster is settled. Requests will be honored if you would like to be in the same group with a friend. **It is completely optional to be in contact with the group**, but this can be a helpful way to connect and study with classmates.

**Exam Preparation:** It is essential that you attend Zoom sessions and take careful notes in order to do well on exams. The textbook will provide a very helpful reference for exam prep., but the short of it—don’t miss class and be involved in lectures/discussions to be comfortable with course material. You will also be responsible for all assigned readings and discussion board graphics on the exams. These will be from the textbook, from articles images, or videos. There is no substitute for being actively involved in class. *Learning is not a spectator sport!*

**Letter Grades by Percentage**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A = 93%-100%** | **B- = 80%-82.9%** | **D+ = 67%-69.9%** |
| **A- = 90%-92.9%** | **C+ = 77%-79.9%** | **D = 63%-66.9%** |
| **B+ = 87%-89.9%** | **C = 73%-76.9%** | **D- = 60%-62.9%** |
| **B = 83%-86.9%** | **C- = 70%-72.9%** | **F = Below 60%** |

**Academic Dishonesty**: Academic Dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. According to WCU policy, students committing any act of academic dishonesty may fail the course, be suspended from the university, or both. In order to avoid plagiarism, students should provide appropriate documentation whenever quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, or otherwise using the language or ideas of others. It is the responsibility of each student to adhere to the university’s standards for academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity include any act that violates the rights of another student in academic work, that involves misrepresentation of your own work, or that disrupts the instruction of the course. Other violations include (but are not limited to): cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means copying any part of another’s work and/or using ideas of another and presenting them as one’s own without giving proper credit to the source; selling, purchasing, or exchanging of term papers; falsifying of information; and using your own work from one class to fulfill the assignment for another class without significant modification. Proof of academic misconduct can result in the automatic failure and removal from this course. For questions regarding Academic Integrity, the No-Grade Policy, Sexual Harassment, or the Student Code of Conduct, students are encouraged to refer to the Department Undergraduate Handbook, the Undergraduate Catalog, the Ram’s Eye View, and the University website at www.wcupa.edu.

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a disability that requires accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please present your letter of accommodations and meet with me as soon as possible so that I can support your success in an informed manner. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively. If you would like to know more about West Chester University’s Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD), their phone number is 610-436- 2564, their fax number is 610-436- 2600, their email address is ossd@wcupa.edu, and their website is at www.wcupa.edu/ussss/ossd.

**Excused absence policy:** Students are advised to carefully read and comply with the excused absences policy for university-sanctioned events contained in the WCU Undergraduate Catalog. Please note that the “responsibility for meeting academic requirements rests with the student,” that this policy does not excuse students from completing required academic work, and that professors can require a “fair alternative” to attendance on those days that students must be absent from class in order to participate in a University-Sanctioned Event.

I. Students participating in University-sanctioned events such as, but not limited to, the Marching Band and NCAA athletic events, will be granted an excused absence(s) by the respective faculty members for class periods missed. Students will be granted the privilege of taking, at an alternative time to be determined by the professor, scheduled examinations or quizzes that will be missed. The professor will designate such times prior to the event and the make-up should be as soon as possible following the missed class. Professors can provide a fair alternative to taking the examination or quiz that will be missed. Students must recognize that some activities cannot be directly made up (e.g., a laboratory, group presentation, off-campus experience), and faculty will arrange a fair alternative to the missed work. Students must submit original documentation on University letterhead signed by the activity director, coach, or advisor detailing the specifics of the event in advance. Specific requirements include the following:

1. Responsibility for meeting academic requirements rests with the student.
2. Students are expected to notify their professors as soon as they know they will be missing class due to a University-sanctioned event.
3. Students are expected to complete the work requirement for each class and turn in assignments due on days of the event prior to their due dates unless other arrangements are made with the professor.
4. If a scheduled event is postponed or canceled, the student is expected to go to class.
5. Students are not excused from classes for practice on nonevent days.

The following are specifics for the student athlete:

1. The student athlete is expected, where possible, to schedule classes on days and at hours that do not conflict with athletic schedules.
2. Athletes are not excused from classes for practice or training-room treatment on nongame days.

II. West Chester University recognizes required (non-voluntary) service in the United States military including the Pennsylvania National Guard as a legitimate reason to miss up to the equivalent of 2 weeks during a 15-week semester. Service members must submit a copy of their orders to the Registrar's Office. The Registrar's Office will communicate with respective faculty members and the student will be granted an excused absence(s) for the class periods missed. All points covered in part I of this policy including make-up work and specific requirements 1-4 also apply. Service members required to miss more than the equivalent of 2 weeks during a 15-week semester can withdraw from the term in a non-punitive manner in accordance with Pennsylvania state law. Students are expected to work closely with faculty and the Registrar’s Office to ensure their academic success. Students in programs with external accrediting bodies must also be aware that there may be attendance requirements that cannot be made up.

III. In the event of a student's unplanned medical emergency, including serious health conditions as outlined in the Family and Medical Leave Act, or the death of a student's immediate family member, faculty members are expected to provide, within reason, an opportunity for students to make up work. Students are responsible for providing proper documentation and will work with respective faculty members to make up course work as described in part I of this policy. Students are encouraged to contact the Assistant Dean of Students and refer to the website on [Student Assistance](http://www.wcupa.edu/_services/stu.sai/) for additional information.

IV. Consistent with guidelines set forth by the Family and Medical Leave Act, students who become parents of new children or have children with serious health conditions that require the student-parent to miss up to the equivalent of 2 weeks during a 15-week semester shall be given an excused absence for the courses that are missed. Students will work with respective faculty members to make up course work as described in part I of this policy. Students required to miss more than the equivalent of 2 weeks during a 15-week semester can withdraw from the term up until the term-withdraw deadline. Students required to miss more than one semester should also refer to Admissions policy on consecutive non-enrollment. Students are encouraged to contact the Assistant Dean of Students and refer to the website on [Student Assistance](http://www.wcupa.edu/_services/stu.sai/) for additional information.

V. West Chester University recognizes excused absences in accordance with federal and state legal statutes including but limited to compliance with jury duty, subpoenas, and notices of deposition. Such excused absences will be dealt with as described in part I of this policy.

**Reporting incidents involving sexual violence:** West Chester University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Lynn Klingensmith. The only exceptions to the faculty member’s reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred to the person designated in the University protection of minors policy. Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at the webpage for the Office of Social Equity at http://www.wcupa.edu/\_admin/social.equity/.

**Emergency preparedness:** All students are encouraged to sign up for the University’s WCU ALERT service, which delivers official WCU emergency text messages directly to your cell phone. For more information, visit www.wcupa.edu/wcualert. To report an emergency, call the Department of Public Safety at 610-436- 3311.

Geography & Planning Program goals**:** This course also contributes to the BS in Geography program goals for the Department of Geography & Planning, specifically, basic knowledge of the discipline of Geography in which students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts of place, space, scale, and location *[evaluated through quizzes, map challenges assignment, geographic literacy project, final exam]*.

General Education Goals: As a course that fulfills the General Education Behavioral and Social Science Distributive Requirement, this class will contribute to the following General Education learning goals: (1) communicate effectively, (2) think critically and analytically, and (6) understand varied historical, cultural, and philosophical traditions*.* The following are examples of substantive ways by which the course meets these three University General Education goals:

General Education Goal 1: Communicate Effectively (Student Learning Outcome D Assessed in Quizzes and Geographic Literacy Project Assignment): Communication skills are emphasized throughout the course, with specific attention paid to Student Learning Outcome D: *demonstrate comprehension of and ability to explain information and ideas accessed through reading* and listening.

General Education Goal 2: Think Critically and Analytically (Student Learning Outcome C Assessed in Quizzes and Final Exam): Students will be required to employ spatial tools and concepts to analyze, evaluate, and problem solve on quizzes and the final exam. In particular, this will address Student Learning Outcome C: *reach sound conclusions based on a logical analysis of evidence*. To reinforce spatial frameworks, students will utilize maps extensively throughout the course and will learn to read and interpret information presented on a map. Students will analyze current trends and issues in development using various datasets. Furthermore, using maps and datasets, students will construct arguments and creatively approach how to explain the challenges and obstacles to sustainable development in world regions through the geographic literacy project assignment.

General Education Goal 6: Understand Varied Historical, Cultural, and Philosophical Traditions (Student Learning Outcomes C & D Assessed in Quizzes and Final Exam): The course focuses on describing and analyzing the ways cultural and environmental geography vary from one place to another. Student Learning Outcomes C and D will both be assessed in the course: *demonstrate the ability to understand human activity in cultural and/or social context* and *demonstrate an understanding of varied historical, cultural, and/or philosophical traditions.* Students will learn to describe spatial patterns in cultural geography and identify the underlying factors that create and reinforce patterns. Students learn how differences in governance, history, religion, and socioeconomic context influence the cultural geography and development of a region, and how regions connect across time and space.

***Course Calendar - World Geography Spring 2020***

*\*\*All discussion boards and assignments are due on Sundays, 11:55pm\*\**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic/Assignment** |
| 1. | 8/24 | Welcome/Intro |
|  | 8/26 | Europe |
| 2. | Sun., 8/30 | **Discussion Board 1-due 11:55pm** |
|  | 8/31 | Europe |
|  | 9/2 | Europe |
| 3. | 9/7 | **Labor Day Holiday** |
|  | 9/9 | Europe |
| 4. | Sun., 9/13 | **Discussion Board 2-due-11:55pm** |
|  | 9/14 | Russia |
|  | 9/16 | Russia |
| 5. | 9/21 | Russia |
|  | 9/23 | East Asia |
| 6. | Sun., 9/27 | **Discussion Board 3-due 11:55pm** |
|  | 9/28 | East Asia |
| 7. | Sun., 10/4 | **Assignment One Due-11:55pm** |
|  | 10/5 | East Asia |
|  | 10/7 | Southeast Asia |
|  | Fri., 10/9 | **Optional Zoom Exam review session** |
| 8. | Sun., 10/11 | **Discussion Board 4-due 11:55pm** |
|  | 10/12 | **Exam 1 on DTL** |
|  | 10/14 | Southeast Asia |
| 9. | 10/19 | Pacific/Antarctica/Australia |
|  | 10/21 | Pacific/Antarctica/Australia  |
| 10. | Sun., 10/25 | **Discussion Board 5-due 11:55pm** |
|  | 10/26 | South Asia |
|  | 10/28 | South Asia |
| 11. | 11/2 | South Asia |
|  | 11/4 | Southwest Asia/Northern Africa—Middle East |
| 12. | Sun., 11/8 | **Discussion Board 6-due 11:55pm** |
|  | 11/9 | Southwest Asia/Northern Africa |
|  | 11/11 | Southwest Asia/Northern Africa |
| 13. | Sun., 11/15 | **Assignment 2 Due 11:55pm** |
|  | 11/16 | Sub-Saharan Africa |
|  | 11/18 | Sub-Saharan Africa |
| 14. | 11/23 | **Thanksgiving Break** |
|  | 11/25 | **Thanksgiving Break** |
| 15. | 11/30 | Sub-Saharan Africa |
|  | 12/2 | The Americas |
|  | Fri., 12/4 | **Optional Zoom Exam Review** |
| 16. | 12/7 | **Final Exam on DTL** |