GEOGRAPHY OF THE NON-WESTERN WORLD

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Poultry market, Vietnam

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Course description

This course examines the major non-Western culture areas of the world—Southwest Asia and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia—and the unique integration of human and physical phenomena that produces the distinctive character of these areas. In addition, the course serves as an introduction to the discipline of geography, with its unique spatial perspective. A companion course, the Regional Geography of the Western World (401), is also offered.

University requirements

This course fulfills the following university requirements:

- GEN ED Foreign Culture (GRP 5)
- DISCOVERY World Cultures

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Use an atlas confidently and efficiently, understanding key map properties like scale, projection, and cartographic representation
- Be conversant with the five key themes of geography: place, location, movement, region, and human-environment interactions
- Have a firm understanding of the Non-Western world’s physical geography, the impact of European colonialism on the evolution of the political map, the spatial distributions of languages and religions, economic development trajectories, and demographic processes
- Be able to identify the unique geographic characteristics of the major Non-Western realms and regions

Office hours and assistance:

My office hours in Murkland 110 are by appointment. Unless I have something else on my calendar, I will generally be in my office between 8:00 and 4:30, Monday-Friday, and available to meet with you.

I am available at all times by phone and e-mail, so please don’t hesitate to call me or e-mail at the above address if you have a question or would like to discuss something. If you email me, please mention GEOG 402 in the header so your message doesn’t end up in a spam folder.

UNH’s Center for Academic Resources in Wolff House also provides numerous resources to help you meet your academic goals, including drop-in tutoring and help with time management, note taking, studying, and test taking.
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services for Students at 862-2607 in room 118 of the Memorial Union Building to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Academic misconduct**

Please note that the University has no tolerance for students who break the University Academic Honesty Policy. Please see the 2013-14 Students Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities Handbook for a full description:


All students are expected to abide by these rules.

Plagiarism, misrepresentation, and cheating are academic crimes. Never:

- Turn in an assignment that you did not write or complete yourself
- Turn in an assignment for this class that you previously turned in for another class
- Cheat on an exam.

If you do so, any of these actions may result in a failing grade for the class, and further ramifications at the University level. Please ask me if you have any questions about what constitutes academic honesty and cheating.

**Texts and materials:**

- Student companion website for textbook. This can be accessed here: [http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1118673956&bcsId=8514](http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=1118673956&bcsId=8514)

- Completed biographical assignment. This can be accessed on the Blackboard course site. Please return the form by February 3rd.
Atlas and map assignments

Materials needed:

- Five map assignments, one for each region, with outline maps, on Blackboard.
- Six atlas assignments, an introduction and one for each major region, on Blackboard

Purpose:

Maps and atlases are useful only if you have the skills necessary to use and understand them, and building your map literacy and ability to analyze spatial information is a key objective of all of these exercises.

The map exercises are not simply about rote learning of place locations (although knowing where places are is a foundation of geographic literacy).

Locating a place is the first step toward understanding that place and a prerequisite to analyzing its relationships with other places. These exercises require you to process and analyze spatial data and encourage you to think about spatial relationships and the importance of location.

A. Map assignments:

These consist of a list of names of cities, countries, rivers etc that you have to locate on one of the outline maps and then learn. You do not have to submit completed maps but will be examined on this material in the tests in a multiple choice format. On the test, you will get a map with numbers on it, corresponding to cities, countries, rivers etc and you will have to identify them from four possible answers provided.

B. Atlas assignments:

These require you to find information in the atlas and to answer questions, which are keyed to specific pages of the 22nd edition of the atlas. The assignments:

- Help you to learn by doing and exploring rather than by listening and memorizing
- Provide a guided tour of sorts through the atlas, fostering map literacy in the process
- Reinforce lecture material and help you understand the regions we will be covering

The assignments will all be completed online, graded automatically, and entered into your online grade book. You can take as long as you want to do these, but must complete them before the deadlines. Please note that you are only permitted one attempt, so take your time and think carefully before you answer each question. If you are required to enter information from the atlas, use the exact words or numbers or you may be marked incorrect.

**The atlas assignments will count for 25% of your final grade.** Please note that the later atlas assignments are much shorter and less time consuming than the first two.
Due dates for the completed atlas assignments are as follows, all by 11:59 pm:

- Introduction to the atlas: Monday, February 3rd
- Southwest Asia/North Africa: Monday, February 10th
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Friday, February 28th
- South Asia: Friday, March 21st
- Southeast Asia: Friday, April 4th
- East Asia: Monday, April 21st

**Classroom etiquette**

The rules for appropriate behavior in a large class, such as this one, are exactly the same as they are in a small class. These rules are designed to create an environment in which those who want to learn can do so. Please remember to be courteous at all times to those around you.

- Talking makes it harder for those nearby to hear the lecture and is distracting to me and other students.
- Please remember to turn off your cell phone.
- If you must use a laptop to take notes, please resist the temptation to use it for other purposes during the lecture because that will distract those seated around you.
- Walking out in the middle of a lecture is especially disruptive and rude. If you have an appointment it is better that you not attend class that day or sit in the front row, inform me in advance that you have to leave, and slip out the front door.
- Rude behavior of any sort will not be tolerated and will result in your ejection from the room.

**Exams**

The remaining 75% grade will be based on five, equally weighted (15%), non-cumulative tests. All tests except the final will be held in this room during regular class period. The tentative test dates are as follows:

- Wednesday February 19th: Southwest Asia and North Africa
- Wednesday March 5th: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Wednesday March 26th: South Asia
- Wednesday April 9th: Southeast Asia
- Monday May 12th, 09:00-10:00: East Asia
Please bring a photo ID with you to the test. You will need this to submit your test. The tests are scanned, so be sure to bring a #2 pencil and eraser with you. Please note that it may be necessary to postpone a test date if we fall behind schedule or if weather or illness result in class cancellations. I will always give you advance notice of any change of a test date. However, please remember that it is always your responsibility to know when the test dates are.

Make-up tests can only be given for extraordinary reasons (for example, documented illness) and only if that has been agreed before the test. UNH policy entitles you to have the middle of three tests scheduled on the same day rescheduled.

Please note that you are expected to attend class and your grade is contingent upon regular attendance.

Outline and reading

- North Africa/Southwest Asia
  - Reading: de Blij, Muller, and Nijman, Introduction, Chapter 7

- Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Reading: de Blij, Muller, and Nijman, Chapter 6

- South Asia
  - Reading: de Blij, Muller, and Nijman, Chapter 8

- Southeast Asia
  - Reading: de Blij, Muller, and Nijman, Chapter 10

- East Asia
  - Reading: de Blij, Muller, and Nijman, Chapter 9