

1a. COURSE SYLLABUS

1b. GEOG 2355-01 CRN 80043

1c. World Regional Geography-Europe, Asia, Australia

1d. 3 Credit Hours

1e. Fall 2017

2. Class Meeting Room: LDB 207

3. Class Time: MWF 10:00AM to 10:50AM

4. Instructor Name: Donald Albert

5. Office Location 326 LDB

6. Instructor Contact Information

Phone: 936-294-1453

E-mail: geo_dpa@shsu.edu

7. Office Hours

MWF 11:00 to 11:30 and 1-2; other times by appointment

8. Course Description

This is an introductory level course giving a general overview of the land and people. Topics discussed will include the physical environment, cultural characteristics and the various ways people live and make their living. Attention will be focused upon the relationships which exist between location, the physical environment and human activity. Examples of countries covered are the former Soviet Union, Germany, France, China, Japan, and United Kingdom. No prerequisites; lecture method of instruction supplemented with videos, current events, short activities, four exams; and textbook readings.

9. Course Objectives

- Explore the regional geography of Europe, Asia, and Australia
- Learn basic regional geographic concepts
- Use geographic models to assess the demographic and economic status of countries
- Locate significant place names pertaining to Europe, Asia, and Australia
- Explore various environmental issues pertaining to Europe, Asia, and Australia
- Appreciate the influence of supranational and international organizations on economics, defense, culture, and environmental regulation and policies
- Examine production and consumption patterns for selected agricultural products
- Visualize places and regions through the use of short films and slide presentations
- Interpret current events from the standpoint of a geographic perspective

10. Optional Textbook(s) and/or References:

Campus & Local Book Stores

World Regional Geography, Joseph J. Hobbs, 2009, 6th ed., Thomson: Brooks/Cole-CENGAGE Learning.

ISBN-13 9781111803841 or 978-1-285-90922-6

ISBN-10 0495389501 or 1-285-90922-4

Online Vendors (check amazon.com and others.)

Joseph Hobbs. 2009. World Regional Geography, 6th ed. Thomson: Brooks/Cole-CENGAGE Learning.

(Option exists to purchase individual chapters from publisher). This would reduce the price substantially.

11. Other Materials: Test scores, slide presentation, articles, and other course materials may be posted on Blackboard see <http://blackboard.shsu.edu/>

12. Attendance Policy – This course abides by University Policy and Regulations (APS 800401). Accordingly, “regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.” For each absence in excess of SIX, for whatever reason, 10 points will be deducted from the course grade. Attendance is necessary to do well in the course and is REQUIRED. Each tardy in

excess of THREE will result in 10 points being deducted from your total grade. Coming into class more than 10 minutes late will be counted as an absence. If you leave early or classroom, without having cleared this with the instructor, you will be counted absent. Also students that sleep, read the newspaper or other nonrelated material, and that are otherwise inattentive, disruptive (i.e., talking during lectures) in class will be counted as absent or may be asked to leave class. Only under extreme circumstances and with appropriate documentation will the instructor consider excusing an absence.

13. Exams – Four *examinations* will be given with each counting 25% towards the final course grade. Make-up exams are strongly discouraged. Make every attempt to take exams on the scheduled dates. All make-up exams will be given sometime towards the end of the semester at a time set by the instructor. Be prepared to provide documentation supporting your absence if asked for by the instructor. Appropriate and official (acceptable to the instructor) documentation **WILL** be required before a student is allowed to take a make-up.

14. Grading Plan – The grading scale is as follows:

<59.9%=F; 60-69.9%=D; 70-79.9%=C; 80-89.9%=B; 90-100%=A.

Test scores will be posted on Blackboard.

15. Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on examinations or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

16. Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Turn off cell phones, I-Pods, pagers, etc. and put away earphones before class. Inform me of emergency exceptions. If there is a special reason to use a laptop, please let me know in advance so that we can discuss this. Otherwise, leave them at home or place them closed under your desk when you come in. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Students who are consistently late or absent, performing poorly, or disruptive also may be reported to SHSU's First Alert http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/firstalert.html and or to the Dean of Students http://www.shsu.edu/~slo_www/staff.html for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. For information on the Code of Student Conduct go to this site <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>.

- 1) Come to class on time—there is no reason to be late to class on a frequent basis. Habitual tardiness **is unacceptable.**
- 2) Remain in class until it finished. **Leaving early will count as an absence unless you have cleared it with me or unless it is an emergency.**
- 3) Again, do not bring food or drink into the class
- 4) **You cannot leave the class during an exam** unless there is a medical emergency. If you think you will need a Kleenex during the test then bring some to class.
- 5) Hats must be removed and put away during exams.
- 6) During tests, cell phones and any other equipment capable of receiving, recording and/or transmitting information, must be put away in a book bag or purse.

17. Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

18. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university services for students with disabilities see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/>

19. Religious Holidays: Students that are absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day are allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within reasonable time after the absence. The period of time during which assignments and exams will be excused includes travel time associated with the observance of the religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she will be absent from class for religious reasons with a written statement concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments. In such cases, the student will be required to take the test or submit the assignment early—unless there are good reasons for not being able to do so and the instructor has agreed to those reasons.

20. USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES

Telephones and similar devices have become increasingly a part of everyday life. In the academic classroom, however, during class these devices can be a serious distraction and during tests they can be a serious problem. The technology is constantly changing and evolving. So, the present policy does not specify particular devices or device types. Rather, the policy applies to any device that performs the function of a telephone or text messenger.

1.0 Each course syllabus must contain a policy statement as to the disposition of telephones and text messengers (1) in the classroom, (2) during testing periods, and (3) for emergency considerations.

2.0 The use by students of electronic devices that perform the function of a telephone or text messenger during class-time may be prohibited if deemed disruptive by the instructor to the conduct of the class. Arrangements for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to comply with the instructor's policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or with multiple offenses, failure of the course.

3.0 Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty (see student code of conduct <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>).

20. Course Outline. (Other readings may be assigned.)

CH 1: Objectives and Tools of World Regional Geography

CH 2: Physical Processes That Shape World Regions

Examination # 1

CH 3: Human Processes That Shape World Regions

CH 4: A Geographic Profile of Europe

CH 5: A Geographic Profile of Russia and the Near Abroad

Examination # 2

CH 7: A Geographic Profile of Monsoon Asia

Module 7.2: Southeast Asia

Module 7.3: China

Examination # 3

Module 7.4: Japan and the Koreas

Chapter 8: Oceania - Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia

Module 8.1: Australia and New Zealand

Examination # 4 (Final)

The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the syllabus to accommodate unforeseen and unusual circumstances. 8-17-2017