

Course Syllabus
GEOG 2356-01 (CRN 80047)
World Regional Geography: Latin America, Africa & South Asia
3 credit hours
Fall 2017

Classroom: LDB 207
Class time: MWF 11:00-11:50am

Instructor: Dr. Velvet Nelson
Office: LDB 334
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Office hours: MWF 8:30-10:30am and 1:30-3:30pm
By appointment

Catalog Course Description: This is an introductory course giving a general overview of the land and people. The topics discussed will include the physical environment, cultural characteristics, and the various ways people live and make their living. Attention will be focused on the relationships that exist between the location, the physical environment, and human activity. Examples of countries covered include Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Republic of South Africa, Israel, Iran and India.

Objectives: This course is part of the Core IV component area: Language, Philosophy, and Culture. Students completing this course will be able to 1) understand and apply geographic concepts to explain the ways in which the ideas, values, beliefs, and condition of people across cultures shape, and are shaped by, their environment, 2) demonstrate an increase in geographic literacy for the emerging regions of the world, including Middle and South America, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southwest Asia, 3) critically evaluate the human condition across cultures based on current issues and events in these regions, 4) explore ideas, weigh alternatives, and create intellectual solutions to the problems currently faced by people in these regions, and 5) understand the spatial dynamics of the human condition and express ideas about the human experience in other parts of the world through writing.

Methods of Instruction: This course is structured as a combination of lectures, guest lectures, videos, and assignments to achieve the objectives stated above.

Textbook: Students will use the link on Blackboard to register with Pearson Mastering to access the free eText *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*, 7th edition by Les Rowntree, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff (ISBN 978-0-13-453942-3).

Attendance: Attendance is required. Students will be permitted up to 6 absences – excused or unexcused – without penalty. Each absence in excess of six will result in a 1% reduction of the final grade. Students are expected to arrive at the classroom on time and stay until class is finished. Failure to do so will result in a tardy. Three tardies will be counted as one absence. Students are responsible for signing in each class; failure to do so will result in an absence. Students are responsible for all lecture notes, assignments, schedule changes, and any other information covered in class.

Grade Information: Final grades will be based on a total of 320 points (200 points from 4 tests, 84 points from assignments, and 36 points from participation in in-class discussions and activities). Final letter grades will be assigned on the following scale: A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%, F = less than 60%.

Completion of Work: Assignments will be submitted electronically via Blackboard by the beginning of class. Students are strongly encouraged to submit assignments in advance of the deadline in case any technical issues arise. No late work will be accepted.

All tests must be taken on the scheduled date. Tests will be comprised of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, map, and essay questions. Students must be prepared at the start of each test with a Scantron 882-E form and a pencil. Students who arrive late to a test (i.e. after the first student has left the classroom) and students who miss a test due to extreme and unavoidable circumstances will be permitted to make up the test. If more than one test is missed, the student will only be permitted to make up the first missed test. All confirmed make-up tests will be given at the end of the semester. Please be aware that the make-up test will cover the same material, but it will not be the same test given to the rest of the class. No make-up tests will be given for a late or missed final exam.

Note: If unusual circumstances arise during the semester that affect your class performance, please discuss this with me as soon as possible and provide the appropriate documentation. Under these conditions, I will do my best to accommodate your situation. However, there is nothing I can do if you wait until after the fact, at the end of the semester, to let me know that you were experiencing adverse circumstances.

Classroom Policies: Students will be expected to maintain a respectful classroom environment at all times. Due to copyright and privacy issues, photo, audio, and/or video recordings in class will not be permitted. Phones should be on vibrate and put away during class. Laptops will be permitted so long as they are used for classroom purposes. If your laptop use becomes a distraction to others, you will be asked to put it away as well.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students turning in work that has been copied or plagiarized from any other source, or cheating in any form on an exam, will receive a zero for that assignment/exam and may be referred to a University committee for further review. All electronic devices must be completely turned off and put away while students are taking and reviewing exams. Any electronic device use during this time will result in automatic failure of the exam.

University Policies: 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. Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. 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 policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Please refer to www.shsu.edu/syllabus to view additional University's policies.

Tentative Course Outline: (schedule may be subject to change)

- Unit 1 - Introduction
 - Chapter 1: Concepts of World Geography
 - Chapter 2: Physical Geography and the Environment
 - Test 1 (September 15)
- Unit 2 – Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Chapter 4: Latin America
 - Chapter 5: The Caribbean
 - Test 2 (October 6)
- Unit 3 – Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa/Southwest Asia
 - Chapter 6: Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Chapter 7: Southwest Asia and North Africa
 - Test 3 (November 6)
- Unit 4 – South Asia
 - Chapter 12: South Asia
 - Test 4 (December 6 at 12pm – final exam schedule)