

Course Syllabus  
GEOG 2356-02 (20287)  
**World Regional Geography: Latin America, Africa & South Asia**  
3 credit hours  
Spring 2018

**Instructor:** Dr. Velvet Nelson  
**Phone:** (936) 294-4065  
**Email:** [vnelson@shsu.edu](mailto:vnelson@shsu.edu)  
**Office:** LDB 334  
**Office Hours:** MWF 8:30-9:30am and 12:30-2:30pm  
By appointment and via email

**\*Note:** I will try to answer any content-based course questions via email within 24 hours. All technical questions should be addressed to the SHSU Online Technical Team. (see the Technical Support button at the top of the left-hand pane on Blackboard for contact information).

**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 is a distance-learning course administered through SHSU Online (<http://distance.shsu.edu/>) via Blackboard. This course is structured as a combination of independent readings in the book, exercises, and tests to achieve the objectives stated above.

**Textbook:** The required textbook for this course is *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition by Les Rowntree, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, and William Wyckoff. Students will be responsible for information, terms, and maps in the text.

Students can purchase 6-month access to the eText via the SHSU bookstore or online via the link on Blackboard; students can also purchase or rent a hard copy of the text (ISBN 978-0-13-453942-3).

**Grade Information:** Final grades will be based on a total of 396 points from tests (200 points) and exercises (196 points). Final letter grades will be assigned on the following scale: A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%, F = less than 60%. No extra credit will be given.

Tests: There will be four tests over the course of the semester. Tests must be completed no later than the end of the day (i.e. 11:59pm CT) on the due date. These tests will be made up of randomly generated multiple choice and true/false questions, so no two exams will be the same. Each test has an estimated duration of 30-55 minutes. A maximum 60 minutes will be given to complete the test. You will not have time to “search” for the answer to every question. You must be familiar with the content associated with each unit prior to beginning the test.

You are responsible for ensuring that all of the course’s technical requirements are met. If you encounter technical difficulties during the test, you must contact the SHSU Online Technical Team **immediately**. If you are unable to complete the test due to technical difficulties, and you have not sought help from the SHSU Online Technical Team, no additional opportunities to complete the test will be given. As such, it is strongly recommended that you take the test during the SHSU Online Technical Team hours of operation.

To preserve the integrity of the test bank in this online course format, you will not have access to the correct answers until after the test’s due date.

Exercises: Exercises will be completed on Blackboard in each unit. These exercises must be completed no later than the end of the day (i.e. 11:59pm CT) on the given due date. Please follow the instructions and schedule given in each unit.

**Completion of Work:** You are responsible for reviewing all materials and completing all tests and exercises independently according to the schedule provided. All course content will be made available to you at the beginning of the semester and must be completed before intermittent due dates. All work must be completed by 11:59pm on the due date.

You are responsible for identifying all due dates and allowing the appropriate amount of time to complete the work in advance of those deadlines. I will not provide you with any reminders about these deadlines, and **no late work will be accepted**. Any test or exercise not completed by 11:59pm on the due date will result in a 0 grade for that evaluation. You are strongly encouraged to complete all exercises in advance of the due date and all tests well before 11:59pm on the due date in case any technical issues arise. Please be advised that, under no circumstances, will I accept any excuses – from technical issues to personal problems – for failure to complete any exercises or tests by that time.

**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. 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](mailto: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 policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Please refer to [www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus) to view additional university policies.

**Communication:** All of my communications with you regarding this course will be conducted through Blackboard and your SHSU email account. You are responsible for checking this email on a regular basis for any announcements and updates.

I expect all of your communications with me to be conducted in a professional manner. In order to allow me to effectively address your questions and/or issues, you must provide me with relevant information regarding ***the course, the assignment in question, and your name.***