

GEOGRAPHY 2305 Fundamentals of Geography

Spring, 2012

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Office: 001B Academic Building
Office Hours: M-F: 8:00-9:30am, by appointment, **or anytime my office door is open you are welcome**

Textbook

Geographica: World Atlas and Encyclopedia, h.f. Ullmann, Publisher, 2010.

ISBN: 9783833151583- 2008

ISBN: 9780841607880- 2009

ISBN: 9783833159459- 2010

Geography Course Packet (optional- posted on Blackboard)

Optional readings (not required): Goode's World Atlas, 21st Edition, Veregin (Editor). Teaching Geography, Gersmehl ISBN: 9781593857158 (paperback), Geography for Life, Geography Education Standards Project, ISBN: 0792227751.

Course Purpose

This course is now a Core Curriculum course in the Teacher Education Program. There is no prerequisite. The course has been designed to help meet the needs of students planning to teach geography, from K-12. This course is a "hybrid" course—it is meant to introduce each student to a combination of physical geography, human geography, and world regional geography. This course is intended to give students a broad, general background in geography so you will be able to relate geography to your life and the lives of your future students. Ways to teach geography may be discussed in class, but that is not the primary purpose of this course. This is a course on geography, not a course on teaching methods.

Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, each student should be able to:

1. Explain the five basic themes of geography (location, place, relationships within places, movement and regions), define basic geographical terms and demonstrate an understanding of basic and fundamental geographic concepts.
2. Develop a mental map of major human and physical features around the world, know where things are and why they are there by acquiring, analyzing, and using geographic information.
3. Identify and describe geographic patterns on the earth's surface that result from various environmental processes. In geography, place and spatial distribution are important.
4. Explain the human-environment interaction that results from cultural traits of a particular group of people and how those groups modify the environment they live in.

These outcomes will be assessed with four exams and four homework assignments, Muddiest Point Classroom Assessment Techniques, Non-Graded Quizzes.

Pop Quizzes

Five pop quizzes will be randomly given throughout the semester. The maximum score on each quiz is 5 points. This is the only extra credit that will be offered for this course.

Course Grading

The grade you earn in the course is based on 4 exams and 4 homework assignments. Each exam is worth 100 points. **The final is not comprehensive, as it will cover only the material that follows the 3rd exam.** Each section will have a homework assignment that is to be turned in a week prior to the exam,

due dates are listed below and on the assignment sheet posted on Blackboard. The homework assignments are worth 25 points each (a possible 100 points total). You should use the Geographica textbook to answer the homework questions. **Please be aware of the due dates, as no late homework will be accepted.** A total of 500 points are possible in the course.

Letter and numerical grades for the course grade are as follows:

A = 100%- 90% D = 69%-60%
 B = 89%-80% F = 59% and below
 C = 79%-70%

Make-up exams will only be permitted for verifiable and significant reasons that are described in the Student Handbook. On exam day, students arriving after the first exam has been turned back in will have to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams will consist of three essay questions selected by the instructor. **There will be no extra credit for this course.**

Map Locations

Map locations will be included on each exam, and will also be posted on Blackboard for each exam section. Use the text Geographica for the map locations. You do not have to bring the text to class, but it will be used at home for map locations, homework, readings and studying for exams. Your job of completing the map locations will be easier if you have purchased the Goode's World Atlas. It would also be an excellent addition to your classroom bookshelf. Another quick method to locate the map location entries- use Google.

Course Outline

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Reading-Geographica</u>
Section One		
Jan 17 - Feb 14	Earth's Physical Systems Natural Hazards	pp. 2-51 pp. 474-480
Homework due Feb9	Region- Europe & Russian Federation	pp. 228-309
Exam Thursday Feb 16		
Section Two		
Feb 21 - Mar 6	Human Interaction Human Systems	pp. 34-51, 54-59 pp. 62-63
Homework due Mar 1	Region- Africa & Oceania	pp. 312-373, 108-141
Exam Tuesday Mar 8		
Section Three		
Mar 20 – Apr 5	Culture/Religion Human Movement/Language	pp. 60-61, 66-79
Homework due Apr 3	Region- Asia & Middle East	pp. 144-225
Exam Tuesday Apr 10		
Section Four		
Apr 12 – May 3	Geographic Tools Political Population/Agriculture	pp. 48-49 pp. 64-66 pp. 78-85
Homework due May 1	Region- The Americas	pp. 376-461
Exam Thursday May 10		

Final Exam- It will cover only the material in Section Four

Final- Section 010 (9:30am) Thursday, May 10th from 8:00am to 10:00am

Final- Section 020 (12:30 pm) Thursday, May 10th from 10:30 to 12:30 pm

Class Attendance

I expect you to come to class. Class attendance will be taken each class during this semester. Students with an excessive amount of absences will most likely not do exceedingly well on exams and your final semester grade will suffer. At the end of the semester and at my discretion, I will take into consideration the number of absences you have for the semester if your final grade is “borderline.”

Course Packet

The course readings packet is on Blackboard. It has class handouts, several grade level TEKS, NCGE Eighteen National Geography Standards, etc. My suggestion is to save it to your computer, no need to print it off.

Classroom Etiquette

Sorry, but no laptops or any electronic devices allowed. Please turn off cell phones and no text messaging during class. Because the classroom is small, it is especially important that an effort be made by everyone to be courteous to their fellow students and the instructor. This includes keeping quiet during class (except to ask a question of the instructor), arriving to class before lecture begins and staying until it is completed, not sleeping in class, not reading newspapers or other material irrelevant to the lecture, and not doing your homework for your next class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave. If you must leave prior to the end of class or are expecting an important call, it is common courtesy to inform the instructor before class starts.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the *Student Handbook*. Cheating and plagiarism, as outlined in the *ASU Student Handbook* section on Academic Integrity, will not be tolerated in this course. Allowing another student to use your exam or written material to cheat or plagiarize is dishonest and will be treated in the same fashion as cheating and plagiarism. Academic misconduct will result in a score of zero on that assignment or exam and/or the course and both the Dean of the student’s college and the Judicial Affairs Office will be notified.