

World Regional Geography

GEO317: Spring 2012, Sections 201 (CRN 3609) and 202 (CRN 3610)

Instructor: James Leonard, Ph.D.	Times: 11:00-11:50am Mon., Wed., Fri. (section 201); 12:00-12:50pm Mon., Wed., Fri. (section 202)
Phone: (304) 696-4626	Classroom: Harris Hall 236
Office hours (Harris Hall 208): Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:30-11:00am; Mon. 2:00-3:30pm; or by appointment	email: leonard@marshall.edu

Hello, and welcome to our tour of the world. I hope that GEO317 - World Regional Geography will surprise, entertain, and enlighten you while you learn about the people and places of earth. I hope you will learn to appreciate the United States of America, too. I always learn something new each semester from the course material and from you, the students. GEO317 starts on 9 January and ends on 4 May. Please check the university academic calendar for course drop dates.

Description from University Catalog:

World regions examined using a synthesis of physical and human geographical themes including environment, culture, landscape, climate, landforms, globalization, population patterns, urbanization, economies, and political geography. No prerequisites, 3 credit hours.

Course objectives:

This course meets General Education Core requirement: International Studies (3 credit hours). As you complete the course material, you will be asked to:

- Recall basic information about the human and physical geography of each world region.
- Identify the locations of countries, cities, and physical features in each world region.
- Explain in your own words world geographical issues by summarizing from a variety of written and online sources.
- Use traditional (listening, maps, and reading) tools and geographic technology to interpret physical and human geography.

Required textbook:

Johnson et al., 2010, World Regional Geography, 10th ed., Prentice Hall. You will be expected to read and learn all textbook material. Please bring the text to every class.

Time inside and outside of class:

You must attend every class meeting! This class, though, consists of more than class attendance. If you are an average student, expect to spend a minimum of six hours outside class each week for this class. Class time will consist of one or more of the following: 1) presentations of major concepts relevant to each world region, generally following the textbook order; 2) short videos demonstrating geography in action around the world; 3) written, map, or computer exercises; 4) discussion.

Structure of the course:

This course is divided into three Units. Each Unit consists of:

- Class attendance, exercises, short assignments, and participation
- Textbook readings completed outside class time
- Textbook chapter quizzes completed outside class time
- Map quizzes completed outside class time
- An exam taken during class time

Grading:

Your grade will consist of:

- Nine textbook chapter quizzes completed on MUOnline outside class time (30-50 points each) for 300 points. Chapter quizzes are based entirely on textbook readings. The quizzes are available from the beginning of the course. Thus, you will have no excuse for missing one of them. Please work ahead! You can take each textbook quiz two times before the deadline and your average score will count. If you score well the first time, you needn't take it a second time.
- Eight map quizzes completed on MUOnline outside class time (15-30 points each) for 180 points. The quizzes are available from the beginning of the course. Thus, you will have no excuse for missing one of them. Please work ahead!
- Three unit exams completed during class time (worth 60 points each) for 180 points. Unit exams are one-half multiple choice and true/false questions from classroom material and one-half essay with material coming from the textbook and classroom. There are no map quiz questions.
- Class participation and short assignments for 140 points, comprised of attendance, written assignments, and class exercises. You may enjoy reading and discussing articles, having classroom debates, and completing computer or written exercises as part of this class element.

Your final grade will be calculated using the following scale, based on the total number of points you have accumulated:

- A = 800 - 736 points (100-92%)
- B = 735 - 664 (91-83%)
- C = 663 - 592 (82-74%)
- D = 591 - 520 (70-65%)
- F = 519 and below (less than 65%)

Grades for MUOnline quizzes and multiple choice exams will be available immediately upon completion in MUOnline. Please give me a week to grade class participation assignments and exam essays. You may check with me at any time to find out your grades for participation which are not posted to MUOnline. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades in this class and rectify any problems immediately. Make the best use of class participation, quizzes, and exams, because no grades will be scaled or curved and there is no extra credit possible.

Schedule:

Each Unit of the course has deadlines for finishing the material. You will have items to complete each week. Please consult the *Schedule* on a regular basis to check the deadlines for all material. No work may be submitted after the deadlines. All quiz deadlines are 11:59pm Eastern USA time on the date listed. All quizzes must be finished in one sitting. You cannot save a quiz to finish later. Each quiz has a time limit during which all questions must be answered.

Exams occur during class time. Class participation and short assignments are not listed below. Deadlines for them will be

given in class.

Assignment	Weeks	Deadlines
<i>Unit 1</i>	1-7	
Read textbook Chapter 1	1-2	
Chapter 1 textbook quiz	3	Wed., 25 Jan.
Read textbook Chapter 3	4	
Latin America and the Caribbean textbook quiz and map quiz	4	Fri., 3 Feb.
Read textbook Chapter 4	5	
Europe textbook quiz and map quiz	5	Fri., 10 Feb.
Exam 1	7	Mon., 20 Feb.
<i>Unit 2</i>	7-12	
Read textbook Chapters 5&6	7	
Northern Eurasia and Central Asia/Afghanistan textbook quiz and map quiz	7	Wed., 22 Feb.
Read textbook Chapter 7	8	
Middle East and North Africa textbook quiz and map quiz	8	Fri., 2 Mar.
Read textbook Chapter 8	9	
Africa South of the Sahara textbook quiz and map quiz	10	Mon., 12 Mar.
Exam 2	12	Wed., 28 Mar.
<i>Unit 3</i>	12-17	
Read textbook Chapter 9	12	
South Asia textbook quiz and map quiz	13	Mon., 2 Apr.
Read textbook Chapter 10	14	
East Asia textbook quiz and map quiz	14	Wed., 11 Apr.
Read textbook Chapters 11&12	15	
Southeast Asia, Australia/New Zealand/Pacific Islands textbook quiz and map quiz	15	Fri., 20 Apr.

Exam 3	17	Section 201 - Tues., 1 May 10:15am- 12:15pm; Section 202 - Fri., 4 May 10:15am- 12:15pm;.
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Attendance Policy:

I expect you will attend every class. Class attendance and participation will count for part of your grade. You are solely responsible for your attendance and participation. I do not accept unexcused absences. I follow University policy for excused absences. You must provide adequate documentation for any excused absence. Missing 6 days or more (excused or unexcused) probably means failure in this class. You will be held to the highest standards in regard to attendance, participation, and punctuality when completing assignments. Please read more about my policies on MUOnline.

Academic Honesty:

University policy states that any act of a dishonorable nature which gives the student engaged in it an unfair advantage over others engaged in the same or similar course of study is prohibited. Academic dishonesty is usually manifested in cheating and/or plagiarism. You must do your own work inside and outside of this class. Cheating in or out of this class is prohibited. Plagiarism is the use of another's thoughts, ideas, sentences, illustrations, usw., without giving credit to the originator. You will be held to the highest standards of academic honesty. Please check out: <http://www.marshall.edu/plagiarism>. Please read more about my policies on MUOnline. Jesus said: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." By that quote I mean that in my class, for any cheating or plagiarism, however minor, you will earn a severe penalty ranging from a one letter grade reduction for cheating on a quiz or assignment to a final grade of F for cheating on an exam. University sanctions for academic dishonesty include a permanent record of your dishonesty, suspension from the institution for one year for the second offense, and dismissal from the institution for the third offense.

University policies:

University policies concerning equal opportunity/affirmative action, students with disabilities, inclement weather, withdrawal and refunds, academic honesty, acceptable computer usage, grade appeals, sexual harrassment, and much more are available online at <http://www.marshall.edu>.