

**World Regional Geography**  
**GEO317: Spring 2007, Section 201 (CRN 2545) and 202 (CRN 2546)**  
**International Studies course**  
**No prerequisites, 3 credit hours**

Instructor: James Leonard, Ph.D.	Time: 11:00-11:50am MWF (Section 201) 1:00-1:50pm MWF (Section 202)
Phone: (304) 696-4626	Place: Harris Hall 235
Office (Harris Hall 208): MWF 9:30-11:00am; T 2:00-4:00pm; or by appointment	email: <a href="mailto:leonard@marshall.edu">leonard@marshall.edu</a>

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 always learn something new each semester from the course material and from students. I hope you will enjoy learning in this course. GEO317 starts on Jan. 8 and ends May 4.

Course objectives:

**This course meets General Education Core requirement: International Studies (3 credit hours).**

- Recognize how regional geography synthesizes human and physical geography concepts.
- Recall the locations of and some attributes of regions, countries, important cities, and important physical features in the world.
- Learn how geographers approach world issues and gain an appreciation of the spatial perspective.
- Employ reading, listening, and map analysis skills for exam preparation.
- Complete exercises using traditional (listening, maps, and reading) tools and the latest technology in geography.

Required textbook:

Pulsipher, L.M. and A. Pulsipher. 2006. *World Regional Geography, Without Subregions*, 3rd ed., WH Freeman. **Bring the text to every class. We will often refer to maps and figures and will use the text for exercises.**

Organization of Class Time:

Class time will consist of one or more of the following: 1) presentations of relevant topics of regional geography, generally following the textbook; 2) short videos demonstrating geography in action around

the world; 3) written, map, or computer exercises.

Time 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 two hours outside class for each class hour** in order to achieve a grade of C for this class.

Structure of the course:

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

- Class attendance and participation
- Textbook readings completed outside class time
- In-class lectures and exercises
- Map exercises completed outside class time
- An exam

**There will be a comprehensive Final Exam.** You will be given the questions and answers for the comprehensive Final Exam from the beginning of the course.

Grading:

Your grade will consist of:

- class participation grades for 200 points
  - Syllabus and Policies quiz for 10 points
  - two office meetings with the professor for 10 points each (20 points total)
  - attendance taken on random class days for 5 points each (90 points total)
  - in class exercises (totaling 80 points)
- ten map exercises completed outside class time (5-15 points each) for 100 points
- four unit exams completed during class time (100 points each) for 400 points, and
- a comprehensive final exam completed during the final exam time for 100 points

A total of 800 points will be possible. Your final grade will be calculated using the following scale, based on the total number of points you have accumulated out of the 800 points possible:

- A = 800 - 720 points (100-90%)
- B = 719 - 640 (89-80%)
- C = 639 - 560 (79-70%)
- D = 559 - 480 (69-60%)
- F = 479 and below (less than 60%)

The deadline dates for the completion of course elements are posted on the schedule in WebCT/VISTA (<http://vista.marshall.edu>). Grades for map exercise and exams will be available immediately upon completion in WebCT/VISTA. Because you will accrue points for participation throughout the semester, only final grades for these will be posted on WebCT/VISTA. You may check with your professor at any time to find out your grades for participation during the semester. 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, map exercises, and exams, because **no grades will be scaled or curved and there is no extra credit possible.**

Map quizzes have instructions available on WebCT/VISTA. They are completed on your own time. You will identify a list of features for each world region using blank paper maps to study, then complete a timed exercise using WebCT/VISTA (<http://vista.marshall.edu>). The timed exercises are available about one month in advance of their due dates. Thus, you will have NO excuse for missing one of them. Please work ahead!

Unit exams are 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. You **MUST** come to class for exams. Exams will be completed using the WebCT/VISTA e-learning system (<http://vista.marshall.edu>). You will be given the questions and answers for the comprehensive Final Exam from the beginning of the course.

#### Technical support:

I will not know the answers to many technical questions. For simple questions, you might ask a schoolmate. For detailed help on using any of the course tools, see Marshall University's [VISTA support page](http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/) (<http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/>), email [helpdesk@marshall.edu](mailto:helpdesk@marshall.edu), [webct@marshall.edu](mailto:webct@marshall.edu), call 304.696.3200 or toll free 877.689.8638.

#### Attendance Policy:

Absences threaten your chance of success in this class. You must attend every class. Class attendance and participation will count for part of your grade. You are solely responsible for your attendance and participation. You must come to class for exams.

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 the class WebCT/VISTA website.**

#### 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. **You will receive a final grade of F for academic dishonesty. Please read more about my policies on the class WebCT/VISTA website.**

*Withdrawal Policy:*

A drop slip signed by me or the chairman of the Geography Dept. must be submitted to the Registrar to receive a W during the period set by the university. Please check the official university calendar (<http://www.marshall.edu/calendar/academic/>) for the last day to drop the course. Any withdrawals after this date must be complete university withdrawals. **Failure to follow these university procedures will result in a final grade of F.**