

**The University of Texas at San Antonio**  
**Department of Political Science and Geography**  
**Fall 2013**

**World Regional Geography**

GRG 1023, Course #20330  
Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00-9:50  
Room: MH 2.01.24

**\*\*\*The most current version of this document will be available on Blackboard\*\*\***

**Lecturer**

Sharon Wilcox

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Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 and by appointment

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic concepts of regional geography, to assist you in recognizing the value of diversity, and to raise your awareness of the world around you. Regions are complex units that combine both human and physical processes. We will examine the ways in which physical, ecological, demographic, economic, social, cultural, political, and historical factors influence the production, practice, process, and function of the world's regions.

You will be exposed to a variety of perspectives and ways of looking at the world in this class. Some of these ideas you may agree with, others you may not. It is not my role to tell you what to think, but instead to offer you guidance on how to approach and examine complex issues. Learning to think critically will require some effort on your part, including conscientious attendance, careful reading of the texts, and constructive participation in class. Consistent attendance is absolutely essential for success in this class. If you are having any problems with the material, please do not hesitate to meet with me during office hours.

This course fills the "World Society and Issues" component of the UTSA Core Curriculum. (Please verify this with your academic advisor.)

**Student Learning Objectives**

Critical thinking skills (creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis): Students are expected to read textbook assignments and Blackboard supplements prior to class; to analyze, synthesize, and contextualize this material in class discussions, tests, and take home assignments, including relating course material to current events.

Communication skills (development and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication): Students are expected to articulate their ideas in writing. They should be able to answer questions verbally in class and to participate in open discussion of topics. Upon forming presentation groups, students must offer their respective observations and conclusions in a presentation that emphasizes verbal, visual, and organizational skills.

Social responsibility (the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making): Intercultural understanding and applying geographic knowledge to regional and international problems is a fundamental goal of the course. The student should be able to frame the popular (media) treatment of a given foreign country within more comprehensive political and social contexts and demonstrate an appreciation of the legitimate orientations of others. This objective will be gauged by means of student responses to ethical questions embedded in tests and assignments.

Personal responsibility (intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities): By providing broad and historical contexts for major geographic regions, this course compels the student to reexamine his/her own value structure and intended engagement with issues of international scope. This objective will be gauged by means of student responses to questions dealing with personal goals and intentions.

### **Textbooks and Materials**

- *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts. 16<sup>th</sup> Edition.* H.J. De Blij & P.O. Muller. Publisher: Wiley & Sons, Inc.

### **Course Expectations**

This course will include both lecture and discussion, and students are expected to be on time and to participate fully. This includes completing all readings, participating in in-class activities and quizzes, and regular attendance. Missing class will have a negative impact on your grade.

Each student is required to have a UTSA e-mail account in order to receive messages from the instructor and to access the course Blackboard Site.

### **Grading**

Participation (Attendance, Unannounced Reading Comprehension Quizzes, In-class activities )	100
Projects	150
Exam 1	250
Exam 2	250
Exam 3	250
Exam 4	250* <i>Lowest test score will drop</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

*This course will not use the plus/minus grading scale for assignments—only on the final grade as demonstrated in the following table. There will be no curves on the final grade—your final point value is the grade you will earn, no exceptions. Remember that one test grade will drop when calculating your final grade.*

**The following scale will be used to determine your final letter grade:**

A+	960-1000	(Unusual Excellence)
A	900-959	(Outstanding)
B+	890-899	(Distinctly Above Average)
B	800-889	(Above Average)
C+	790-799	(Average)
C	700-789	(Average)
D+	690-699	(Below Average But Passing)
D	600-689	(Below Average But Passing)
F	599 and below	
Credit/No Credit	600 and above Pass	

*Mid-term Grades: 70% or below will receive warning. Mid-term grades will be reported per UTSA policy and at the request of specific academic and athletic programs.*

**Assignments**

1. **Class Attendance and Participation** - Regular class attendance is a course requirement. Attendance, in-class activities, and quizzes combined will count for 10% of the grade.
2. **Projects**: Three projects will be assigned over the course of the semester. The projects combined will count for 15% of the final grade.
3. **Exams**: Four exams are scheduled during the semester based on both lectures and assigned readings. **The lowest test grade will be dropped.** Each exam will count for 25% of the final grade. Exams may include multiple choice, map identification, matching, true/false questions, short answer and essay questions. Exams (including the final) are not comprehensive. Students **must** take the tests in class on the days designated on the syllabus calendar. Because one exam grade will be dropped for the semester, in most cases this will take the place of the exam that needs to be made up.

**Students with Disabilities**

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations (including extended test times, note takers, alternative print formats, etc.) should contact Disability Services at MS 2.03.18, 458-4157 as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. Qualified students must make an appointment to meet with me outside of class time to discuss these accommodations, so that I can do all I can to help. This appointment must be made no later than the first week of the semester. The responsibility of obtaining necessary documentation and informing the instructor through the proper channels rests entirely with the student. Please refer to <http://www.utsa.edu/disability/students.htm> for more information.

**Academic Integrity**

**Academic Honesty**: All students are expected and encouraged to contribute to an atmosphere of high ethical standards, observing all accepted principles of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Specific information

concerning procedures and penalties for scholastic dishonesty may be found in the UTSA Information Bulletin. In all cases, the UTSA Handbook of Operating Procedures and the Student Code of Conduct are the final word in academic policy and procedures for students and faculty.

*The University of Texas at San Antonio Academic Honor Code:*

A. Preamble: The University of Texas at San Antonio community of past, present and future students, faculty, staff, and administrators share a commitment to integrity and the ethical pursuit of knowledge. We honor the traditions of our university by conducting ourselves with a steadfast duty to honor, courage, and virtue in all matters both public and private. By choosing integrity and responsibility, we promote personal growth, success, and lifelong learning for the advancement of ourselves, our university, and our community.

B. Honor Pledge: In support of the ideals of integrity, the students of the University of Texas at San Antonio pledge: “As a UTSA Roadrunner I live with honor and integrity.”

C. Shared responsibility: The University of Texas at San Antonio community shares the responsibility and commitment to integrity and the ethical pursuit of knowledge and adheres to the UTSA Honor Code.

*The Roadrunner Creed:* The University of Texas at San Antonio is a community of scholars, where integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, and innovation are fostered. As a Roadrunner, I will:

- Uphold the highest standards of academic and personal integrity by practicing and expecting fair and ethical conduct;
- Respect and accept individual differences, recognizing the inherent dignity of each person;
- Contribute to campus life and the larger community through my active engagement; and
- Support the fearless exploration of dreams and ideas in the advancement of ingenuity, creativity, and discovery.

Guided by these principles now and forever, I am a Roadrunner!

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, and gender/gender variance.

**Please SILENCE your electronic devices before the start of class.** If you are talking on your phone, texting, listening to music, surfing the web, Facebooking, Tweeting, etc. during class you will not receive credit for attendance that day and you may be asked to leave.

### **Contacting the Instructor**

The best way to reach me is by email. Please give me 24 hours to respond to your emails and 48 hours over the weekend. My office is a shared office, and dialing (458-7570) will ring to the office, but instead of voicemail, it will forward to the front desk in the Department. This is not a good way to reach me except during office hours. Please remember to sign your emails, first and last name, and reference which course you are enrolled in (this will help avoid confusion on my part!)

**Tomás Rivera Center**

The Tomás Rivera Center provides academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. These services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services, please visit the TRC web site at [www.utsa.edu/trcss](http://www.utsa.edu/trcss).

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1: Introduction World Regional Geography**

January 13-17: Intro: World Regional Geography: Global Perspectives

### **Week 2:**

January 20-24: Intro: World Regional Geography: Global Perspectives

**Project #1: Mental Maps Assigned**

### **Week 3:**

January 27-31: Chapter 1: Europe

### **Week 4:**

February 3-7: Chapter 2: Russia

**February 7: Project 1 Due; Project #2 Assigned**

### **Week 5:**

**February 10: Exam #1: Intro-Chapter 2**

February 12-14: Project #2 Activities

### **Week 6:**

February 17-21: Chapter 3: North America

### **Week 7:**

February 24-28: Chapter 4: Middle America

**February 28: Project 2 Due**

### **Week 8:**

March 3-5: Chapter 5: South America

March 7: **Exam #2: Chapters 3-5**

### **Week 9:**

March 10-14: Spring Break

### **Week 10:**

March 17-21: Chapter 6: Sub-Saharan Africa

**March 17: Project 3 Assigned**

**Week 11:**

March 24-28: Chapter 7: North African/Southwest Asia

**Week 12:**

March 31- April 4: Chapter 8: South Asia

**Week 13:**

April 7: **Exam #3: Chapters 6-8**

April 9-11: Chapter 9: East Asia

**Week 14:**

April 14-18: Chapter 10: Southeast Asia

**Week 15:**

April 21-25: Chapter 11: The Austral Realm

**Week 16:**

April 28-30: Final Project Presentations

**Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 am: Exam #4: Chapters 9-11**