

Spring 2022

Course Title: Introduction to Geography

This is a General Education Course in Social Sciences (and the Multi-Cultural)

Course Number: GEO 100

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Mueller

Course Section: 1

Course Credits: 3

Course Prerequisite: None

Location: Duda 103

Date and Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30pm to 1:45pm

Office and Office Hours: Eberly 240 (724-938 – 4255) – **If you lose your internet and may miss a deadline then you need to call me before the deadline.**

(Zoom links available on D2L)

Wednesday: 9am – 11:00am

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00am to 10:30am

Other times available by appointment.

Email: mueller@calu.edu

Rules for email:

- 1) In the subject line – please put GEO 100
- 2) Please supply a phone number
- 3) Please capitalize your I's

I will be checking my email twice a day Monday – Friday 8am to 7pm eastern and once a day Saturday and Sunday 8am to 4pm eastern unless otherwise noted.

Masks are required in class

From the University President

Disposable surgical masks or higher-grade masks (KN95 or KF94) must be worn at all times while inside university facilities.

Cloth masks, face shields, bandanas, neck gaiters, and masks with valves **are no longer permitted.**

From the University Provost

- If the student refuses to wear a face covering, the faculty member can refuse entry to the class until such time that the student wears a face covering; these may count as

unexcused absences. If the student will not leave, the faculty member may dismiss the class. In this case, the faculty member should report the incident to the Office of Student Conduct (724-938-4439; pflugh@calu.edu), which will address the problem directly with the student. If the student becomes argumentative, the faculty member should leave the class without engaging with the student. If at any time the faculty member or other students feel threatened, the University Police may be summoned at 724-938-4299.

Course Description Introduces students to regional differences throughout the world in terms of landforms, climates, soils and vegetation as well as population characteristics and economic activities. Representative areas such as Europe, Russia, Japan and Latin America are developed.

Objectives of the Course:

After completing the course the student should be able to:

- a) Differentiate among the various basic concepts of regions and understand the nature of regional concepts.
- b) Identify the valuable general aspects of the natural environment and its evolution over the past few million years. Explain broad, world-scale patterns of terrain, water distribution, climate, with some emphasis on the interrelationship of these environmental systems.
- c) Understand the nature of culture and how it is expressed to form human landscapes in time and space.
- d) Relate the importance of political and economic forces within the context of economic development within our “global village.”

Course Content *Please attend class and check D2L in case of changes to the Schedule:*

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Course Content:

Week of:

January 18: Lecture Notes: Introduction to Geography

January 25: Read Chapter 2 - Europe

[Quiz: Chapter 2 Readings](#)

February 1: Read Chapter 7 – Sub Sahara Africa

[Quiz: Chapter 7 Readings](#)

ACLED Exercise and Discussion

February 8: Read Chapter 3 – Russia / Near Neighbors

[Quiz: Chapter 3 Readings](#)

Ukraine Language Exercise and Discussion

Review

February 15: Test 1

Sustainability Matrix Information

February 22: Read Chapter 9 – South Asia

[Nuclear Learning Readings](#)

[South Asia Discussion](#)

March 1: Read Chapter 8 – Middle East and North Africa

[Quiz: Chapter 8 Readings](#)

Sustainability Matrix is due

March 8: SPRING BREAK

March 15: ***Group Project***

March 22: Review and Test 2

March 29: Read Chapter 5 and 6 – Latin America

Group Project

April 5: Read Chapter 10 – East Asia

[Quiz: Chapter 10 Readings](#)

Group Project

April 12: ***Group Project***

April 19: Review and Test 3

April 26: Submit ***Group Project***

Finals – Optional Cumulative Exam

Text:

Introduction to World Regional Geography

Adam Dastrup

<https://worldgeography.pressbooks.com/>

Evaluation:

Discussion Question = 5 points

Textbook Quizzes = 50 points

Project 1 = 15 points

Project 2 = 40 points

Geography Ex with Discussion = 20 points

Tests = 90 points (30 points each)

Teaching Methodology and Format: The teaching methodology will be three hours of lecture and discussion.

Lecture Format:

All announcements (scheduled exam dates, exam review questions, additions or

corrections to previous lectures, etc.) will be given immediately at the beginning of the lecture period. I predominantly write important concepts and theories on the board. Please note that these concepts, alone, are not enough to do well on the exams. Therefore, you will also need to take notes on my discussion of the concepts and read the textbook. I will remain after class to answer any questions you might have. If you should happen to miss a lecture period, please borrow a classmate's lecture notes and after having done this, if you have specific questions I will answer them for you after or outside of regular class time.

Your grade will be determined by performance on several assessments types. All tests could be structured in a variety of manners (i.e., - true/false, and/or multiple choice).

The points you earn on each exam and other assignments will be added together and divided by the total possible points for the semester. This percentage of earned vs. possible points will determine your letter grade

A = 100% – 93%
A - = 92% – 90%
B+ = 89% – 87%
B = 86% – 83%
B - = 82% – 80%
C+ = 79% – 77%
C = 76% – 73%
C - = 72% – 70%
D = 69% – 60%
F = 59% – 0%

Attendance/Absences: Students are expected and STRONGLY encouraged to attend all of the classes. Material presented in class is essential to successfully completing the class.

Attendance will be taken during discussion classes. There are NO unexcused make up exams, discussion sessions, or projects. If you are unable to attend class when an exam is scheduled, and your reason is **justifiable**, then you will receive a makeup exam, quiz or in class assignment. **However, you must contact the professor (with a phone number) BEFORE the missed exam, lab assignments or projects. (Including the loss of the internet)**

Course Guidelines:

1. Besides the required texts book listed above, there will also be “handouts” requiring your reading. You may be tested on the material presented in these handouts.
2. The prepared outlines used in lectures, alone, are not enough to do well on the exams. Therefore, you will also need to take notes on my discussion of the concepts and read the textbook.
3. There is a strong relationship between grade performance and lecture attendance. Students are expected to attend all lectures, recitations, and laboratories regularly. Neither absence nor notification of absence relieves the student of meeting all course requirements.
4. There will be NO EXTRA CREDIT of any kind on an individual basis in this course!
You cannot retake an exam.

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to behave in a professional way. A student will be asked to leave the classroom if he/she causes a disturbance. **If you are asked to leave the class, 10% will be deducted from your final grade.**

ALL CELL PHONES must be turned off in class. If a cell phone disturbs the class, the student will be asked to leave the classroom and 10% will be deducted from their final grade.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated. If a student is observed cheating or plagiarizing, their work will receive an F.

Written Work: the instructor will keep written work

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Very Important Information Regarding your Privacy.

Please copy and paste this link into a new browser window. Then please read.

<http://www.calu.edu/current-students/records/ferpa/index.htm>

OSD

Revised June 2019

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students reserve the right to decide when to self-identify and when to request accommodations. Students requesting approval for reasonable accommodations should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students are expected to adhere to OSD procedures for self-identifying, providing documentation and requesting accommodations in a timely manner. Students will present the OSD Accommodation Approval Notice to faculty when requesting accommodations that involve the faculty.

Contact Information:

- Location: Carter Hall - G-35
- Phone: (724) 938-5781
- Fax: (724) 938-4599
- Email: osdmail@calu.edu
- Web Site: <http://www.calu.edu/osd>
- Director: Dr. John D. Massella
- Secretary: Debbie Custer

California University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to comply with the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the University's commitment to offering supportive measures in accordance with the new regulations issued under Title IX, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator; Amy E. Salsgiver salsgiver@calu.edu. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. **Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a**

child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred to the person designated in the University protection of minors policy. Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is available at the is available at the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in 114 Old Main, Ms. Sheleta Camarda-Webb at camardawebb@calu.edu or on the website at <https://www.calu.edu/inside/titleix.aspx>.