

GEOG 3003: GEOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD

Spring 2025 Course Syllabus

Class Location: Online Asynchronously

Instructor Information

Name: Miranda J.C. Davenport, BA, MS

Email: Miranda.Davenport@msutexas.edu

Office hours: email for appointment

Course Description:

This course considers how the key concepts of place and space can be used to understand the special character and interactions of history, culture, economics, and the environment in major regions of the world including North America, Europe, Russia, Pacific Rim countries, South Asia, Southwest Asia and North Africa, and Latin America.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

Upon completing this class students will be able to:

- Practice the methods of regional geography by describing the human and physical geography of nine world regions, promoting competence.
- Analyze aspects of relative geographical position, physical geographic characteristics such as landforms, climate and weather, resources of world regions through class presentations, individual research, and discussions. Employ creative thinking, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Interpret human geographic characteristics such as demographics, political organizations, economic conditions, language and religion through class presentations, individual research and discussions thus learning to effectively develop, interpret and express ideas via different forms of communication.

Required Textbook:

Nijman, Jan, Shin, Michael, & Muller, Peter D. *The World Today*, 8th Edition. 978-1119577676

Attendance:

This course is designed to be online and asynchronous. There will be no set class times and it's your responsibility to watch and/or read the provided materials and complete assignments. Attendance will be determined through D2L course access and completed assignments. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns. A meeting in person or video can be scheduled.

Course Materials:

Materials are provided for your personal use during this course. **Do not share, distribute, or post materials anywhere!** This includes all videos, handouts, assignments, quizzes, exams, or anything else provided. If another student asks for materials then refer them to me. Students must maintain secure passwords to access materials and follow MSU policies.

Course Requirements:

Students will be assessed on a combination of discussions, chapter quizzes, and exams. All of these will be given via D2L unless accommodations are required.

Reading Discussions (25%) will consist of weekly short answer/small essays taken from the readings assigned that week. Remember to use proper citations using the APA writing style if necessary. Students should also pay attention to spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and other language mechanics in addition to geographic analysis and application as these will be considered in the evaluation. Please take advantage of the resources available on campus to assist in these areas if needed.

Map Quizzes (15%) will involve identifying major geographical landmarks such as oceans, seas, mountain ranges, and countries as labeled in your textbook maps. They are **closed book** so no textbook, online access, or other help!

Exams (60%) will be accessible for a week and are due until midnight of the last day. Each exam, also **closed book**, will consist of the color-coded chapters in your course schedule. The final exam will be comprehensive and cover all chapters.

Class Structure:

Think about this class as consisting of 4 sections. Each section requires that you complete a weekly discussion, a weekly map quiz, and take an exam. The last section's exam will be your comprehensive final exam covering all chapters.

Grading:

Grading Scale: A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60, F = 59 and below

Grades: Reading Discussions = 25% | Map Quizzes = 15% | Exams = 60%

Course and Instructor Policies:

Make-up exams are offered ONLY to those who have made previous arrangements with me. Should a life circumstance occur at exam time, you need to contact your me by email to let me know you will miss the exam and need a make-up exam. This communication should come **as soon as possible but no later than before the end of the due date**. You will have **1 week after exam grades are released** to address any concerns related to your score. After this time your grade will not be changed.

Assignments handed in late (i.e. after the D2L due date) will be marked down 25% each day. Assignments will not be accepted if more than 3 days or 72 hours after the deadline (resulting in a grade of zero) without prior approval. All late assignments should be submitted to D2L.

Attendance will be noted by D2L access and submitted assignments as this is an asynchronous course. It is your responsibility to check weekly for class announcements, read your textbook, watch any class videos, and complete assignments. Failure to maintain your course progress as dictated by the syllabus and due dates will 1) impact your grade negatively due to the content and discussion missed and 2) indicate a lack of interest and concern with the course material.

Class Recordings may not be published, reproduced, shared, or uploaded to other online environments. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless an accommodation includes permission to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course.

Technical Support:

If you experience technical problems using the site, contact the D2L Help Desk for assistance. They are available from 8 am – 5 pm. Please click the Report a Problem link in D2L.

Academic Dishonesty & Generative AI:

“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.” Academic misconduct—cheating, collusion, plagiarism, etc. – will not be tolerated and will receive an F. Plagiarism is taking other people’s work and presenting it as one’s own. **Anyone who plagiarizes an assignment or parts thereof will receive 0 points.** For example, “cutting and pasting” from any internet source or poorly paraphrasing (i.e. changing a few words with the synonym function) without citing that source is plagiarism. Additionally, not citing your sources correctly according to the writing style is plagiarism. Do not take the chance of placing yourself in this situation unintentionally! Refer any questions or concerns regarding proper use of sources to me.

Any use of AI is prohibited will be considered academic dishonesty. It will also result in a grade of 0 points. For example, generating text via AI and citing it as your own is academic misconduct. When writing, open Microsoft Word and do not use any external aid. It offers spelling and grammar check so there is no valid reason for other software/app use in this class. If needed, MSU offers 360 with the online version of Word for students. Once again, do not take the chance of placing yourself in this situation unintentionally! Refer any questions or concerns regarding software/app use to me.

- *Why can't I use Generative AI to write my papers? - Learning happens as we read, think, organize, summarize, respond, and engage. We don't want machines to do that for us.*

Accommodations:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. Students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

Computer Requirements:

This class uses D2L. You will find readings, take reading quizzes, and submit papers through D2L. It is your responsibility to have access to a working computer in this class. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings.

Tutoring & Academic Support Program

TASP offers tutoring assistance. Please contact the TASP, (940) 397-4684, or visit the TASP homepage for more information.

E-mail Responses:

I will make every attempt to respond to e-mails sent during the week within one business day. That said, on weekends and evenings, please be patient if I do not respond immediately. If you e-mail me over the weekend, I might not respond until Monday.

Drop Date:

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W" is April 30th. You will have the majority of your grade by that point, so you will be able to assess your standing in the class. It is the student's responsibility to visit with their academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a class.

NOTICE: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Look on D2L for any relevant announcements.

GEOG 2303 Course Schedule*

WEEK	REALM	ASSIGNMENTS			
		READING	QUIZ	DISCUSSION	DUE
1/21	Introduction	Chapter 1	Fig 1-5	Language	1/25
1/26	North America	Chapter 2	Fig 2-1	Jim Crow	1/25
2/02	Middle America	Chapter 3	Fig 3-1	Panama Canal	2/01
2/09	EXAM 1				2/15
2/16	South America	Chapter 4	Fig 4-1	Ethnic Groups	2/22
2/23	Europe	Chapter 5	Fig 5-1	NATO	3/01
3/02	Russia/Central Asia	Chapter 6	Fig 6-1	Permafrost	3/08
3/09	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>				
3/16	EXAM 2				3/22
3/16	North Africa/Southwest Asia	Chapter 7	Fig 7-1	Arab Spring	3/22
3/23	Subsaharan Africa	Chapter 8	Fig 8-1	Colonization	3/29
3/30	South Asia	Chapter 9	Fig 9-1	Religion	4/05
4/06	EXAM 3				4/05
4/13	East Asia	Chapter 10	Fig 10-1	Great Leap Forward	4/12
4/20	Southeast Asia	Chapter 11	Fig 11-1	Rohingyas	4/19
4/27	Austral	Chapter 12	Fig 12-1	Biodiversity	4/26
5/04	Pacific & Polar Regions	Chapter 13	Fig 13-1	Continental Shelves	5/03
5/11	<i>COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM</i>				<i>TBA</i>

*The course schedule is subject to change.