

World Regional Geography Syllabus  
GEOG 102 Spring 2009

Instructor Information

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Course Description

GEOG 102 is a survey of world regions identifying geographical features and area and their significance. The course fulfills the Global Awareness (II.D) Category of the General Education Requirements.

The course entails lots of different levels of learning. At the lowest level, you will learn place location. While such memorization is not required for geographic understanding, it makes it easier for us to discuss ideas with one another. We can skip the where and move to the why. Moving up levels, you will learn basic concepts of physical and human geography. Moving up further, you will synthesize basic statistical and geographic information about countries to account for the economic development of countries and regions. The ultimate goal of this exercise is for students to be able to analyze and understand the news.

The Department of Geography and Environmental Planning has identified eighteen learning objectives for the department's curriculum. World Regional Geography is designed so that students will learn:

- How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
- How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on earth's surface.
- The physical and human characteristics of places.
- That people create regions to interpret earth's complexity.
- The physical processes that shape the patterns of earth's surface.
- The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on earth's surface.
- The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human population on earth's surface.
- The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of earth's cultural mosaics.
- The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on earth's surface.
- The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement.
- How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of earth's surface.
- How physical systems affect human systems.
- The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.

Texts & Other Materials

Veregin, Howard, ed. 2005. *Goode's World Atlas*, 21<sup>st</sup> Edition. Chicago, IL: Rand McNally & Company. ISBN: 0-528-65000-9.

Kapit, Wynn, *The Geography Coloring Book*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Publisher: Pearson Education. ISBN: 0131014722. Note: If you can get the second edition cheaper, that would be fine.

*Various reference materials will be linked to the course calendar.*

Assessment

10%	Map Quizzes	50%	Four Exams
40%	Daily Quizzes	10%	Extra Credit Country Analysis Project

Grade Allocation

A	90% and above	B+	87.5-89.4%	C+	77.5-79.4%	D+	69.9-67.5%
A-	89.5-89.9%	B	80.0-87.4%	C	70.0-77.4%	D	60.0-67.4%
		B-	79.5-79.9%				

Map Quizzes

Although students routinely complain about rote memorization, map quizzes are often a favored form of assessment. They're so simple. There are six map quizzes. I understand that you will forget most of the countries shortly after you take the quiz; but with a little incentive (10% of your grade), you might take the opportunity to begin to see where things are. Then, when we talk about the countries in class, you will be able to find them on a map and understand their relative positions on the map. Consult the on-line map packet for the exact content of up-coming quizzes.

You may retake map quizzes until you get a perfect score. I average the lowest and the highest map quiz grades. If you miss a map quiz because of an unexcused absence, you will receive a zero, but you can retake it and improve your grade.

### Daily Assignments and Quizzes

There is assigned reading for each class. To encourage students to keep up with this work, there will be daily quizzes over these assignments and the previous lecture unless there is a map quiz or an exam. There are no makeups for missed daily quizzes. Rather, I drop the two lowest quiz grades. If you know that you will miss a lot of classes, it would be best to drop this class and add a different section.

### Exams

There will be four exams. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions. If you have two or fewer unexcused absences, your lowest exam grade will count only 5% of your grade while the other exams will be worth 15% each. If you have more than two unexcused absence, all exams scores will have equal weight.

### Country Analysis Projects

These are optional. You can complete one or two Country Analysis Projects (CAP). Each CAP is worth up to 5 percentage points. Information on how to complete your country analysis is on the course website. Due dates for these projects will be strictly enforced. No late projects will be accepted. If you miss a lot of classes, be sure to do both CAPs.

### Makeups

There are no makeups for daily quizzes. Instead, I drop the two lowest quiz grades.

Makeups for exams are allowed only in extenuating circumstances and only if the student follows these rules: 1) Except in the case of extreme emergency, notify me *before* missing an exam or map quiz, either by leaving a message with the department secretary (410-704-2973) or by e-mail. 2) Provide documentation of the emergency. 3) Make arrangements to take the test at the earliest possible time. The single best time would be while the rest of the class is discussing the test. (Students will not be allowed to make up the exam if they sit through the discussion of the test.) Note: *Makeup exams are not necessarily the same test as that given to the rest of the class.*

Makeups are not allowed for absences that are planned such as a meeting or out-of-town trip. This includes, but is not limited to, sporting events. If such an event conflicts with a scheduled exam, you must take the exam early.

### Class Policies

*Student Academic Integrity.* Academic honesty is essential to the survival of the university learning community. Therefore, cheating and plagiarism will be treated seriously in this class. Towson University defines cheating as “using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercises. This includes unauthorized communication of information during an exercise”<sup>1</sup>; plagiarism is “presenting the work, products, ideas, words or data of another as one’s own.”<sup>1</sup>

Once academic dishonesty comes to light, the entire body of a student’s work becomes suspect. Therefore, students discovered cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F for this course – regardless of the quality of the previous work. Further, the incident will be reported to the Chair of the Department of Geography and to the Office of Judicial Affairs. If you choose to appeal, you should first contact the Chair of the Department of Geography.

*Class Attendance.* Students are expected to come to class. If you miss a class, you’ll miss a quiz. If you miss lots of quizzes, your grade will suffer. Sometimes you can’t help being late, please be respectful of the rest of the class by coming in the rear door and making as little noise as possible.

*Cell Phones and Personal Conversations.* Please turn off all cell phones during class. If it is necessary that you keep the phone on, please set it to vibrate. This will ensure the class is not disrupted. Do not carry on personal conversation or indulge in other behaviors that are distracting.

*Calculators.* In this class, you will need to perform some very simple math problems. If you absolutely insist on using a calculator for these simple problems, then you have to bring a simple calculator to class. You may not use a cell phone for this purpose or a programmable calculator.

*Students with Disabilities* This course is in compliance with Towson University policies for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services (DSS) 7720 York Road, Suite 232, 410/704-2638 (Voice or TDD) Students who suspect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact DSS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from DSS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be made by the DSS.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Judicial Affairs, *Student Academic Integrity Policy*, Date Unknown, <http://www.towson.edu/studentlife/judicialaffairs/academicintegrity.html>. (Accessed 19 December 2003), Towson University.