



GR 1123 - World Geography: Spring 2008 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR INFO

Name: Christa Haney

WebCT Email: Click on 'email' and browse for me at the top of the list. Sometimes, my name is replaced by a series of numbers but I am at the top of the list of names.

NOTE: WebCT is the **ONLY** mode of communication for this class. Send **ALL** class questions etc. through WebCT. Please do **NOT** phone me, nor email me to my MSU account as I do not check these as frequently.

LECTURES:

There are DVD lectures for this class. If you have been added late or have not yet received your DVDs, please contact Joy to request a set of DVD lectures. Be sure to give her your full mailing address when you email her at Jbailey@aoce.msstate.edu

COURSE GRADES:

Each of the two exams is 30% of the final grade (total of 60% of your final grade).

Each of the four sets of homework tests is worth 7.5% of the final grade (total 30% of your final grade).

Each of the twelve weekly quizzes is worth 0.9% of the final grade (total of 10% of your total final grade). I'll drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester so only your top 11 quiz grades will be used to calculate your final quiz grade.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale unless grades need to be curved: A (90%+), B (80%-89%), C (70-79%), D (60%-69%), F (less than 60)

****** NOTE: There will be NO extensions on assignments so please follow the due dates under Assignments very carefully. Please do not ask for exceptions to this policy. If there are extenuating circumstances (hospitalization, military deployment, court subpoena etc.), documentation on official letterhead will be required.**

TEXTBOOKS:

1] Textbook: Geography: Realms, Regions and Concepts (13th Edition) by H.J. DeBlij and Peter O. Muller. ISBN: 978-0-470-12905-0

**2] Map packet for your homework: Rand McNally Map Packet (MSU bookstore)
This packet contains 14 maps (# 920044431)**

NOTE: the older 12th edition is acceptable but you'll have to realize that myself, and the rest of the class are using the current edition so you may be at a disadvantage. If you use the older edition, you must accept responsibility for not having the most up-to-date information on world issues etc. However, I will upload Table G-1 and other significant figures under 'Additional Resources' to help you along.

Also, I've uploaded blank maps into WebCT under the link 'Additional Resources'. You may use these in place of the map packet if you wish to save money. However, the WebCT maps are much smaller than those in the map packet and you will have less space to write. You may have to print off several copies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of this class is to give the student an understanding of the different geographic realms around the world - and the countries that define those regions. Each country will be studied with respect to: physical geography [climate, mountain chains, river systems, major cities, natural resources]; and human or cultural geographical concepts [political system, language, economy, urbanization, population characteristics etc.]. This class is intended to give the student a broad education in World Geography and will serve as a foundation for further [regional] study in the field of Geography.

ASSIGNMENTS:

NOTE: NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO ASSIGNMENTS. If you have official documentation of a medical problem, court date etc., the assignment must be retaken within a week of the original due date.

I recommend working ahead on all assignments just in case something comes up (work or family emergency, computer problems, sick child etc.)

Below is a description of each assignment you are required to submit online.

*** Homework Exercises and Homework Tests**

This semester is divided into four quarters. There are 3 units, roughly corresponding to weeks, in each quarter. Thus the 1st Quarter Homework Exercises support the first three weeks of work and assigned readings, 2nd Quarter Homework Exercises consist of material supporting weeks and readings 4, 5, and 6, etc. You may use any resources, including the instructor, to assist you in understanding and completing your homework.

You may access and print the homework exercises numerous times. Once you have completed the homework exercises for the quarter, you will take a TIMED TEST on these exact same problems by clicking the "TIMED TEST on 1stQTR Homework Exercises" link. Each test is a random selection of multiple choice questions that will ask for your answer to questions that you have already answered in your homework exercises. Basically, we're grading a subset of your homework exercises.

However, it is extremely important to understand that there is a strict 60-minute time limit on the homework tests. Keep an eye on the timer in the top right corner of your test screen. Do NOT log into the timed homework TEST until you are ready to take it. If you log into a timed quarterly homework TEST and do not submit it within one hour of logging in, you will receive a zero for that test. You must have the homework tests submitted by their due dates listed under 'Assignments'. NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN. In the event that you miss a homework deadline, you may be asked to fax/mail your homework THAT DAY for hand-grading by the instructor. Be sure to have ALL of your homework completed. A list of page numbers where info can be located when you have logged into your test is NOT acceptable – and will not ensure success in this course. You must have homework completed by the deadline to obtain credit.

*** Quizzes**

Each quarter is divided into three weeks. Each week you will have a reading and a quiz. These quizzes can be opened as many times as you would like. Quizzes are not timed. You can print them. You may also use your books for answers. You may do anything

you want with the quizzes PROVIDED they are submitted online by the deadlines listed under 'Assignments'. No extensions will be given.

*** Midterm and Final Exams**

You will have a mid-term exam and a final exam. The exam dates are listed under 'Assignments'. You can only open an exam one time and will have 60 minutes from that moment to complete the exam. These exams will be available only during the time period noted in WebCT under 'Assignments'. No extensions will be given!

NOTE: if you did not have documented tech problems during your timed assignment, any question answered after the deadline will have points removed whether you answered the question correctly or not. Answering questions AFTER the time runs out is considered cheating.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS:

In the event of technical issues, exit WebCT and IMMEDIATELY re-enter WebCT to finish your assignment. In the event that your problems occur during a TIMED assignment (Quarter TEST or exam), you MUST log out of WebCT immediately and re-enter to finish your test. If you were out of WebCT for 4 minutes, you are allowed to exceed the time limit by those 4 minutes without penalty. However, you are ONLY allowed to exceed the time limit by the time you were logged out of WebCT. If you were logged out for 4 minutes, you are only allowed those 4 minutes. You cannot go over the time limit by 15 minutes! Keep an eye on the clock and monitor your time very carefully because we will be monitoring your time as well. We deduct points for all questions answered after the time deadline has passed.

If you had tech problems of ANY kind, you must contact our technology coordinator and document your problem IMMEDIATELY. Our technology coordinator is Tracy Craven and you should be as specific as possible when reporting your technical difficulties. Don't just say "my computer was slow". If you got knocked offline, explain when and how long it took you to get back in WebCT to finish your assignment. Be sure to make note of any error messages that you are given as we will need this info to diagnose your computer problem. Tracy's email is Tcraven@aoce.msstate.edu. Her phone is 662-325-8374. ONLY CALL HER IF YOUR COMPUTER IS OUT OF ORDER. Email is the best way to reach Tracy and to document your tech problems.

NOTE: if you have not documented computer problems by the time all assignments are graded, we assume you either did not have problems, or that it was not a serious problem that impaired your ability to complete the assignment. We do NOT resolve computer problems after the due date and the assignment has been submitted. Any

documentation of problems should be provided within a day of the assignment's deadline. You are responsible for resolving ongoing computer issues – with the help of Tracy Craven, MSU ITS etc. Do NOT wait until you've seen your final grade in the class to document past problems! This is unacceptable.

If you should have severe computer problems, you may need to find an alternate computer to finish any timed assignments by the deadline. Students have used computers at work, public library, friend's house etc. in order to meet deadlines and not fall behind.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic honesty: Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. Any attempt at cheating will result in a grade of zero on that assignment. Further attempts will result in additional penalties (an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion). I will strictly adhere to MSU's policy on punishment for academic misconduct. Please familiarize yourself with guidelines and policies for academic dishonesty (AOP 12.07): http://www.msstate.edu/web/student_policies.html

MSU Honor Code: *“As an MSU student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”* If you find a student cheating in this class, please approach me with any evidence that you have. For more information on MSU's student honor code, visit: <http://students.msstate.edu/pdf/honor-code.pdf>

Acceptable practices in this course are as follows:

QUIZZES & HOMEWORK EXERCISES - open book. Use any and all available resources to complete the homework. You may work together if you like, but the answers & essays to homework questions must be in your own words.

HOMEWORK TESTS - refer only to your completed homework. The timed homework test is a subset of questions from your homework, which means that you must refer to your homework to answer the questions.

EXAMS (Midterm and Final) - open book. Use any and all available resources to complete the examination questions in this course. However, remember that since these are timed exams, time spent looking for the material can potentially take significant time away from answering the questions. Therefore, it is more important to understand the material and concepts than simply having the resource materials available. Furthermore, in this and in other classes, we will have many application questions so that an

understanding of the material will be adequately tested.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

You are required to check the Bulletin Board a minimum of once a week for messages from the Instructor.

You are also encouraged to contact the course instructor with your questions about current and upcoming course content. Please remember that the time to ask questions about content is before a quiz or quarterly exercise test is due, not after the deadline. That being said, I want you to email me after the fact if you do not understand a quiz/test answer so that you thoroughly understand all course material.

Bulletin Board: This is your classroom, and as such it is the proper venue for questions that are of interest and/or benefit to the class as a whole. When you're feeling time-challenged, you may read only the messages posted by the instructor under the section 'Required Reading'.

E-Mail: Think of an e-mail message as a private conversation with the instructor during office hours. This is where to ask questions primarily applicable to you personally, or which you prefer not to ask in open class. E-mail is also the proper venue for complaints, questions about yesterday's quiz or last week's exam, and correspondence about topics that are generally related to the course but venture far beyond the level at which the class is studying.

HOW DO I BEGIN?

All assignments for this class (and their due dates) are listed under "Assignments" in WebCT. The first assignment is quiz 1. I would print off a paper copy of this quiz and keep it handy while I read the Intro chapter and viewed lecture 1. Be sure to submit all answers on this quiz by the deadline given under 'Assignments'.

After all quiz questions are answered on paper, you will submit your answers online. To do this, click on quiz 1, then click 'preview'. Your quiz will pop up in a separate window so you'll need to **make sure you don't have a pop-up blocker**. For each question, click the circle next to the answer you wish to save & click "save answer" beneath each question. After all 10 questions have been answered in WebCT, hit 'finish' and Quiz 1 is ready for grading. I will grade your quiz along with the rest of the class on the due date. Do NOT miss an assignment deadline as you will receive a zero on this assignment.

I look forward to working with you this semester and sharing this exciting material,
Christa Haney

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