Joella Robinson  
University of St. Thomas  
World Regional Geography  
Fall 2016

Course Syllabus

International Studies

Geography

Geography 2332 A
Office Hours: 2:00- 3:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays, anytime by appointment.
Phone: 281-580-6182 (Home office phone.)
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Use Blackboard mail for all assignments.

Books


Books can be purchased at the St. Thomas bookstore and online via the links below.
Course Content

World Regional Geography - A description and analysis of the different culture areas of the world. Human use of the physical environment in shaping cultural heritage.

Objectives / Student Learning Outcomes – The listed objectives which are centered on “Student Learning Outcomes” (SLOs). These reflect what students will know, be able to do, or be able to demonstrate once they have taken a course. The objectives for this course are guided by the measurable core competency and student learning outcome paradigms. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and explain the geographic concept of “region.”
- Locate significant geographic features of regions of the world and describe their cultural, economic, political, and physical characteristics.
- Demonstrate knowledge of each region’s role in a globalizing world.
- Apply geographic concepts to understanding current events, conflicts, and issues in a regional context.
- Utilize maps to understand locations of places, the connections between places, and spatial patterns and trends of cultural and physical phenomena on earth.
- Describe area and population patterns, important historical background, features that create regional unity or division, economic, urban and agricultural patterns, and geopolitical issues that help define each of the world’s regions.
Core Competencies

Assignments as they relate to each of the core competencies

Critical Thinking Skills - Examples may include, but are not limited to: research, reports, writings, use of Scientific Method, technology-based compilations or presentations which include analysis, analysis/solutions of problems/case studies, analysis of spatial data and patterns, justification of results, and explanation of reasoning.

Communication Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to: Assignments which present a grammatically correct essay or speech, effectively organized with a thesis statement, introduction, body, conclusion, supportive reasoning, and appropriately documented evidence. If the assignment is an oral presentation, the assignment should also require effective verbal and nonverbal delivery. Visual design elements should be incorporated into any communication assignment. Visual elements may include graphs, tables, charts, slides, or streaming video as examples.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to: case studies, atlas exercises, reports, creating or analyzing tables and graphs related to statistical data, projects that utilize applied mathematics.

Social Responsibility Skills – Examples may include, but are not limited to group discussion exercises, group assignments, and analysis within map exercises, written reports or essays, debate/point of view exercises, embedded essays on quizzes, spatial analysis through remote sensing or GIS techniques.

Course Structure

Course Withdrawal Policy
To help you avoid having to withdraw from any class, contact your professor regarding your academic performance. You may also want to contact a counselor to learn about additional St. Thomas resources.

If a student decides to withdraw from a class upon careful review of other options, the student can withdraw online prior to the deadline. St. Thomas professors may withdraw students for excessive absences without notification (see Class Attendance below).

**Students should check St Thomas’s Academic Calendar by Term for withdrawal dates and deadlines. The last day for student withdrawals is November 4th.**

**CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. It is a student’s responsibility to attend class, and obtain any missed material due to absence. The last day for student withdrawals is November 4th. After the withdrawal deadline has passed, you will receive the grade that you would have earned. Zeros averaged in for required coursework not submitted will lower your semester average significantly, most likely resulting in a failing grade of an "F". It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the class; however, your professor reserves the right to withdraw you without your request due to excessive absences.

**Evaluation/Exams**

There will be three tests and a final this semester. The tests will include multiple choice, and a map. Each test will cover assigned readings, lectures, discussions, and other activities covered in that particular unit of the course. Your
lowest exam grade, (excluding the final), will be dropped at the end of the semester. If you miss one of the first three exams, you will receive a zero, and that will be the lowest grade dropped during grade tabulation. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. These exams will count for 75% of your grade. In the event that all exams are taken and your lowest exam grade is the final, all exams are averaged together for 75% of your grade. The final exam is mandatory. **Failure to take the final will likely result in a failing grade for the course.**

**Disability Services**

More information is available at [www.stthom.edu/counseling](http://www.stthom.edu/counseling). For an appointment or additional information, contact Counseling and Disability Services at 713–525–2169 or 713–525–6953.

**Classroom and Virtual Classroom Conduct**

**Class Conduct**

On-campus classes and all students in online courses are required to follow all St. Thomas guidelines when interacting and communicating in a virtual classroom with your professor and fellow students. Students who violate these policies and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action that could include denial of access to course-related email, discussion groups, and chat rooms or even removal from the class.

**Your Class Grade**

The standard college policy is followed for all grades: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (below 60).

Please note that cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will result in a failing grade for the course. This policy will be enforced for all examinations, discussions, and
assignments. (See the college catalog for further details on St. Thomas policy.)

Final Grade Breakdown

Tests 75%

Current Event Quizzes 20%

Discussion Participation 5%

Please use the above formula to average your class average and do not rely on the class average displayed online.

Current Events Quizzes

To improve your knowledge base of the world and keep up with international current events, you will be expected to read assigned articles and take quizzes based on the provided readings. You will be provided with instructions and a breakdown of articles to be read. The articles can be found under current event articles and they will correspond with the topics and/or regions you will cover in class. All quizzes will be taken through the Blackboard quiz feature. Due dates can be found on the course calendar. The quizzes will constitute 20% of your final grade. Acceptance of late work and penalization for late work is subject to the instructor's discretion.

Discussion Participation

You will have at least 5 required discussion topics which will be announced over the course of the semester. After the announcement has posted you will have 7 days to post a well written reply. The topics are likely to be controversial so please adhere to proper netiquette guidelines when writing your
post. Netiquette defined by Dictionary.com
http://www.dictionary.com/browse/netiquette . The
instructor reserves the right to moderate and remove
posts when appropriate deemed by the instructor.

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Class Guidelines

Log In Information

Many class activities are in Blackboard.

https://blackboard.stthom.edu/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab_tab_group_id=_1_1

The recommended browser for Blackboard currently is Chrome.

If you do not have this program you can download it for free.

Chrome

https://www.google.com/chrome/

For more information on

You will also need the following free programs.

Download Adobe Acrobat Reader

Syllabus

You viewed a copy of the above class syllabus, yet the class will always have it posted for you.
You can access under course resources heading on the
home page. The syllabus tells you how your class grade will be derived and general class
policies.

Current Event Quizzes

You will find your assigned quizzes assigned by the week, but with two overall due dates.
Quizzes 1-5 will be due mid semester, and 6-10 near the end of the semester.
Due dates will appear on your course calendar. After the due date has passed the quizzes will no
longer be available to take for class credit. Quiz close out times are set very specifically and they
will close at the exact time listed, regardless of whether the quiz is in progress, or completed.
Quizzes are to be taken through the Blackboard quiz feature. You have two opportunities to take
the quiz and the highest grade will be taken for the grade book. Answers for quizzes do not
appear until all quizzes are completed for security reasons.
Important Dates at a Glance

The course calendar feature presents you with your course due dates. “Important Dates at a Glance”, can be found on your Course Resources Page.

I hope these notes help you with the class, e-mail or call me if you have additional questions!

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