

Bowling Green State University GEOG 121 V: World Regional: Eurasia-Africa (Fall 2005) Class Meets: T TH 2:30-3:45 PM in Hanna Hall 205			Dr. K. Otiso Office: 308A Hanna Hall Email <kmotiso@bgnet.bgsu.edu> Tel: (419)-372-9352 Office Hrs: T 1:15-2:15 PM or by Appointment
COURSE OUTLINE			
WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	REFERENCE (B&M = de Blij & Muller)
1	T 8/23	Course mechanics; What is geography?	B&M: Intro & Glossary, Atlas vi
	TH 8/25	Basic geographic concepts	B&M pg. 2 – 8
2	T 8/30	Basic geographic concepts	
	TH 9/1	Map Reading: Symbolization	B&M: Appendix A, Atlas: vi-1
3	T 9/6	Map Reading: Projections and Scale	B&M: pg. 7, Atlas: vii-1
	TH 9/8	Physical, cultural, population, & economic Geography	B&M: 8-29, Atlas 2-65 (Own reading)
4	T 9/13	E X A M # 1	
	TH 9/15	EUROPE: Background	B&M Ch.1, Atlas: 145 -174
5	T 9/20	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
	TH 9/22	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
6	T 9/27	Regional Overview: Western, Nordic, Eastern & Mediterranean Europe	
	TH 9/29	RUSSIA: Background	B&M Ch. 2, Atlas: 176-188
7	T 10/4	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
	TH 10/6	Challenges & Future Prospects	
8	T 10/11		Fall Break: Oct 10-11
	TH 10/13	NORTH AFRICA & SOUTHWEST ASIA	B&M Ch. 7, Atlas: 195-201
9	T 10/18	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
	TH 10/20	The Arab-Israel Conflict & Peace Process	
10	T 10/25	E X A M # 2	
	TH 10/27	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: Background	B&M Ch. 6, Atlas: 225-238
11	T 11/1	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
	TH 11/3	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
12	T 11/8	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
	TH 11/10	Regional overview	Veterans Day - Friday, Nov 11, 2005
13	T 11/15	SOUTH ASIA: Escaping Poverty?	B&M Ch. 8, Atlas: 189-196, 202-203
	TH 11/17	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
14	T 11/22	Challenges & Future Prospects	
	TH 11/24	EAST ASIA: Physical, political & socioeconomic themes, Atlas: 189	B&M Ch. 9, Atlas: 189-196, 204-211
15	T 11/29	Physical, political & socioeconomic themes	
	TH 12/1	Challenges & Future Prospects	
16	T 12/6	SOUTHEAST ASIA: Main themes	B&M Ch. 10, Atlas: 189-196, 212-213
	TH 12/8	Challenges & Future Prospects	
	W 12/14	FINAL EXAM, 3:30 - 5:30 PM - Hanna 205	NO EARLY FINALS ALLOWED

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course, which can be used to fulfill General Education and International Perspectives requirements, seeks to introduce you to the basic principles of geography as well as their application to the study of world *regions* especially Europe, Africa, and Asia. The course places emphasis on the

- Physical and human characteristics that make each region (i.e., Europe, Africa, and Asia) distinctive. Nevertheless, qualities that are comparable/similar to those of North America are also highlighted. Physical characteristics include landforms, climate, soils etc. Human characteristics include language, religion, population characteristics, economic development etc.
- Human-environment relations, dominant socioeconomic processes, and challenges in each region, as well as the interconnections between these regions and the U.S.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: The course seeks to enable you to:

- Acquire an understanding of basic geographic concepts and their application to the identification, analysis, and understanding of local and global issues and processes;
- Obtain basic knowledge of the geographic regions under study – their location, national units/countries, distinctive physical and human characteristics, role in the global context etc;
- Appreciate the dynamic physical and human factors that are shaping the regions under study; and
- Appreciate the interrelationships between Europe, Africa, Asia and the U.S.
- Acquire an understanding of the values that are central to the cultures of the regions' under study and how these compare to those of the US.
- Appreciate the role of our personal and cultural values in shaping our understanding of the peoples, cultures, and regions under study

Additionally, since this course can be used to fulfill the International Perspectives requirement, the course should enable you to:

- Explore the significance of diverse cultures and their modes of thought and values;
- Describe world issues and international connections and to develop some of the analytic and conceptual tools essential to problem solving and the resolution of critical issues; and
- Recognize the existence of global systems and to inquire into the problems and possibilities of their interdependence in the context of cultural, political, and economic diversity.

REQUIRED TEXTS: (1) de Blij, H.J. and Muller, P. O. (2004). *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, 11th Ed. New York: Wiley & Sons. (2) Rand McNally.2002. *Goode's World Atlas, 21th Edition*

Please bring either your textbook or atlas to every class meeting for reference. Complete all assigned readings before class to facilitate understanding of lectures, class participation, completion of in-class activities and preparation for exams. Assigned readings are not less important than lecture material. All assigned readings are potential test material.

CURRENT EVENTS: Keeping informed of the current events in the regions we're studying is highly recommended. You can do this by reading the world/foreign affairs section of newspapers such as the New York Times, Toledo Blade, The BG News, or by monitoring international news on the World Wide Web, radio (e.g., National Public Radio, BBC), and TV (e.g., CNN). You can start from the following websites: <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/index.html>, <http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/>, http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/subjects/geography_index.html, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml>

ATTENDANCE: It is your responsibility to attend and participate in all scheduled classes. Regular class attendance is essential to good performance in this class. I will take attendance at my discretion and use it to compute part of your overall grade. If you decide to miss class, then make arrangements to obtain class notes, announcements and/or assignments from a friend. I do not give out my notes to students who miss class for whatever reason.

CLASS CONDUCT: Mutual respect is the basis of a good learning environment and success in this course. Seemingly minor discourtesies such as reading newspapers & chatting when I'm lecturing, arriving late in class, and ignoring course guidelines are violations of that ethos. *Persistent disruptive class behavior will cause your grade to be lowered by one full letter grade, and could lead to your ejection from class.*

CLASS FORMAT: We will utilize a mixture of discussions, videos, class activities, pop quizzes, assignments, and lectures. Some in-class exercises, though primarily meant for instruction, count toward your final grade. Since such exercises mainly serve an instructional purpose, they should not be considered to be assignments that you can make up later on. Make-up opportunities for exams, pop quizzes, and any take-home assignments cease when assignments are either handed back or results are discussed in class. If you have a problem with course content or pace of instruction, bring these to my attention promptly so that we can resolve them.

GRADING: Your grade will be based on 3 objective exams worth 220 points total (56% of your grade), miscellaneous exercises & quizzes worth a total of 150 points (38% of your grade), and 25 attendance & participation points (6% of your grade) for a grand total of 395 points. Please note that I do not give grades, I merely assign them based on your performance. To earn an "S" grade, a student must have enough points to receive a "C" grade. Deadlines for dropping a class or getting a "WP" are published in the official schedule of classes.

Grade & point distribution system:

A – 90% (356 points & over) B – 80 - 89% (316 - 352 points) C – 70 - 79% (277 - 312 points)
D – 60 - 69% (237 - 273 points) F – 59% (233 points & less)

Exams are held in our regular classroom. Please bring a no. 2 pencil to class on each exam day. If you have a tendency to forget your P00# bring your student ID to the exam room. Putting a wrong P00# on your answer sheet could jeopardize your grade. Plan to take all exams when given in class. Any instances of cheating on an exam/assignment will result in an automatic "F" and/or referral to university authorities for disciplinary action. In fairness to other students, **MAKE-UP EXAMS ARE DISALLOWED** except in cases of university-authorized absences, with sufficient written notice provided to me prior to any absence. Any other cases of absence for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness or family deaths) must be documented before exam make-ups can be granted – PS: it is not possible for your grandma to die more than once in the same semester, especially around exam time! Schedule conflicts between work and class do not warrant exam make-ups. Make-up exams may be essay style, different, or more difficult from the regularly scheduled exams.

Exam Tips: Questions will emphasize concepts, definitions, and applications rather than memorization of facts. Dates, names of people, and specific data would not be in the test unless noted in class. Tests will focus on the following:

- Ideas and concepts discussed in class
- Ideas and concepts in assigned readings especially those listed at beginning of each chapter, that are in *italics*, **boldface**, light-brown or blue boxes, the definitions in the glossary at the back of your textbook,
- Countries and capital cities in the regions we're studying

Sample exam questions

1. Which statement reflects the textbook authors' discussion of geographic realms?

- a. realms coincide with what are popularly called continents
- b. sharp and specific boundaries divide the world into realms
- c. realms are subdivisions of regions and tend to be constant over time
- d. realms are the largest spatial units into which the world is divided
- e. all of the above

2. Which of the following maps would be the best example of a large-scale map?

- A. map of Toledo B. map of the world C. floor plan of Hanna Hall
- D. D. A and B E. None of the above

Exams will also include a number of simple *map* identification items, especially comprising of the countries in each region, their capital cities, and major physical features e.g., prominent rivers, lakes etc.