

GRAYSON COUNTY COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

GEOG 1303 World Regional Geography.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dusty Girard Phone: 903-415-2595 Office: Science Building, S121

Email: Canvas Mail or girardd@grayson.edu Dept. Phone: 903-463-8702

Office Hours/Campus: By appointment.

Feel free to email me at any time with any questions or concerns. I check my email daily and will respond as soon as possible. If you send an email on Friday afternoon you may not receive a response until Monday. Do not wait until something is due to let me know you are having problems, as this may result in a loss in grades. If you are having technical difficulties, you may want to make note of an outside email in case you are unable to contact me through the Canvas mail system, girardd@grayson.edu. Please specify your NAME, COURSE and school in the email.

No Course Pre-requisites.

COURSECATALOG DESCRIPTION:

GEOG 1303 World Regional Geography (3-0-3) This course is an introduction to the world's major regions seen through their defining physical, social, cultural, political, and economic features. These regions are examined in terms of their physical and human characteristics and their interactions. The course emphasizes relations among regions on issues such as trade, economic development, conflict, and the role of regions in the globalization process. (R)

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

REQUIRED TEXT:

No textbook purchase required. There will be online content and an open source book will be used for preparing for exams. Information will be provided in Canvas for accessing course materials.

Book available at <https://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/>.

IMPORTANT DATES:

***Note you must successfully complete Assignment 1 on or before the Census Date to be counted as attending on the official roll. By completing Assignment 1 you are acknowledging that you have read the entire syllabus.**

First Class Day

Certification Date

Final Drop/Withdrawal Deadline

Final Exams

SCHEDULE OF INSTRUCTION:

Unit I – Understanding the global implications of geography in regards to people, geography basics and the identification of basic geographic concepts. Covers regions of Europe and Russia.

Chapters 1, 2 and 3
Quiz & Exam I

Unit II – Study of the people, politics and cultures of the Americas. Recognize the difference between North, Middle and South American regions.

Chapters 4, 5, and 6
Quiz & Exam II

Unit III – Cultures of Africa and South Asia. Recognize the difference between North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Southwest and South Asia by studying the people and cultures of the regions.

Chapters 7, 8 and 9
Quiz & Exam III

Unit IV – East, Southeast Asia, Australia and the Pacific, looking at the geographic roles of the regions. Includes New Zealand and Antarctica.

Chapters 10, 11, 12 and 13
Quiz & Exam IV

Comprehensive Final

Assignments (all due by 11pm on specified date):

Assignment 1 Discussion

Assignment 1 Reply

Assignment 2 Discussion

Assignment 3 Discussion

Assignment 4 Discussion
Research Paper
Extra Credit I
Assignment 5 Discussion
Assignment 6 Discussion
Research Paper
Extra Credit II

Note: Sequence of topics presented may vary, as well as chapters and material covered.

*** All Exams and Assignments must be submitted by 11pm on the due date.**

Additional topics may be presented to supplement the material presented. Therefore, continued attendance (or "checking in") will be required to successfully complete all aspects of this course and to develop a better understanding of world regional geography.

EVALUATION METHODS: Four major examinations will be given at scheduled times throughout the semester, one for each Unit, and a comprehensive final. Dates of the examinations will be announced on the calendar. There will be no make-ups taken after the time allotted for the exam has expired. Students not taking the exam will receive a "0". Exams may be taken early, but must be completed by the due date. Exams may consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false questions.

Quizzes will be given for each unit, may be taken up to 3 times with the highest submission counting as the grade for that unit. Meaning, if you obtain a score of 80 on the first, 94 on the second and 90 on the third, the grade recorded will be the highest submission of 94. Quizzes are instrumental in preparing for exams and should be used for increased success on exams. Assignments will consist of discussion board postings and written research papers.

Quizzes and Exams have time limits and exceeding the time limit will result in a penalty. Once opened it must be submitted for a grade.

Exams = ONE attempt for a grade (unless there are technical problems).

Quizzes = THREE attempts with the highest attempt being the grade recorded.

There will be opportunities for extra credit worth a total of 30 possible points located under the Assignments tab on the course menu.

A comprehensive final will be scheduled for the end of the semester, but may be completed early.

All work is available and may be completed early, but not after a due date has passed unless prior arrangements are made and at the discretion of the instructor.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: This is an internet class. You will need to have a working computer and be able to complete and submit all work on or before the due dates. It is the student's responsibility to submit items by the due date and have access to a computer with the internet. There are several options both public and private, therefore, internet connection problems are not an excuse to miss a due date. No late work will be accepted. All due dates are posted at the beginning of the course and any items not submitted by the due date will receive a grade of zero. You will need to complete the related internet assignments and return them for a grade. All research papers will include a works cited section and if you are not clear on how to write a research paper, there are resources in the Orientation section. You may study and work together, however, assignments are graded and therefore should be original works (copied or plagiarized work will receive a zero). All

research papers should be written in **MLA or APA** format and there are writing resources located in the class Orientation. **All assignments are read for content and it will be evident if the same or similar papers are turned in.**

Four major examinations will be given at scheduled times throughout the semester, one for each Unit, and a comprehensive final. Dates of the examinations will be announced on the calendar. There will be no make-ups taken after the time allotted for the exam has expired unless prior arrangements are made and at the discretion of the instructor. Students not taking the exam will receive a "0". Exams may be taken early, but must be completed by the due date. Exams may consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false questions.

Quizzes will be given for each unit, may be taken up to 3 times with the highest submission counting as the grade for that unit. Quizzes should be used to help prepare for exams. Assignments will consist of discussion board postings and written research papers. For full credit on Discussion Postings, they should be checked for proper grammar and spelling, written in paragraph form and meet the specified length requirements.

A comprehensive final will be scheduled for the end of the semester.

GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Research Papers 2 @ 100 points each	200 pts
Discussions 6 @ 50 points each	300 pts
Quizzes 4 @ 50 points each	200 pts
Unit Exams 4 @ 100 points each	400 pts
<u>Final Exam 1 @ 300 points</u>	<u>300 pts</u>
Total points possible	1400pts

To calculate your grade take your points divided by the total points then multiply by 100:

Your points/1400*100.

Grades will be rounded up or down. For example, an 89.5 will be rounded up to a 90 and 89.4 will be rounded down to an 89.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

100 - 89.5 =A

89.4 - 79.5 =B

79.4 - 69.5 =C

69.4 - 59.5 =D

Below 59.4 =F

Grades are available through Canvas and the Grayson Student Academics Portal.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance of classes is essential for optimum achievement, in this case being an internet class this means the student must check in regularly for new assignments and news posted on the message board. Therefore, regular attendance is required in this course. (See college policy, GCC catalog <http://www.grayson.edu/programs-classes/catalog.aspx>). For internet classes, corresponding with the professor during the first week of the semester and completing the assignments and tests on or before the due dates constitutes attendance. A student is responsible for all work missed for whatever reason.

Students will communicate with the Instructor and Classmates through Blackboard by utilizing Blackboard mail, discussion boards and chat options.

Online participation will be monitored by the student completing assignments by the specified due dates posted.

Students will maintain proper 'Netiquette' and outside sources of how to communicate effectively online may be found in the course Orientation.

There are several public options for students to access in the event of technical issues such as libraries, schools, internet cafes, etc. It is the student's responsibility to have a working computer with the required software to submit work on time, the instructor is not responsible for any internet connection or computer related problems.

Information on technological requirements may be found through the Help Desk and Blackboard Help. Students should contact the student services department for further help or information on technology assistance.

In the event of technical problems or problems logging into Blackboard, students should feel free to email the instructor at any time with any questions or concerns at an outside email (girardd@grayson.edu). I check my email daily and will respond as soon as possible. If you send an email on Friday afternoon you may not receive a response until Monday. Do not wait until something is due to let me know you are having problems, as this may result in a loss in grades. **Please specify your name, school and course in the email.**

Class Attendance

Academic success is closely associated with regular classroom attendance and course participation. All successful students, whether on campus or online, are expected to be highly self-motivated. All students are required to participate in courses regularly and are obliged to participate in class activities and complete and submit assignments following their professors' instructions. Students taking courses during compressed semester time frames such as mini-mester, summer sessions, and mid-semester should plan to spend significantly more time per week on the course. Responsibility for work missed because of illness or school business is placed upon the student. In accordance with the College's Developmental Education Plan, students withdrawn from their only developmental course may be withdrawn from all academic courses. In addition, students' eligibility to receive financial aid or live in a College dormitory can be affected by withdrawal from

courses. When administrative withdrawal occurs, any tuition refund would be made in accordance with state regulations.

Student Conduct & Discipline

Regular attendance of classes is essential for optimum achievement, in this case being an internet class this means the student must check in regularly for new assignments and news posted in the announcements. Proper 'Netiquette' should be maintained at all times when communicating online and all discussion board postings will be monitored for content.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the college's policy on plagiarism (see GC Student Handbook for details). Grayson College subscribes to turnitin.com, which allows faculty to search the web and identify plagiarized material. Any assignment deemed as plagiarized will receive a zero and possible further action with student services. This includes 'self-plagiarism'. Students are prohibited, too, from engaging in self-plagiarism. Self-plagiarism is the act of using work created for another course and submitting that work for credit in this course. This includes work submitted previously for one of this instructor's courses. There are limited circumstances under which the instructor will permit self-plagiarism, and special permission must be received in order to do so. Those who engage in acts of self-plagiarism (without the necessary permission) will be subject to the penalties listed in this syllabus for all other acts of plagiarism.

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. For everyone's convenience, I have put together a Power Point Presentation on what constitutes plagiarism. This should not be considered to be an all-inclusive guide, but it does highlight some of the most common mistakes students make. Though I am providing this tool, it is still the student's responsibility to make sure they understand what constitutes plagiarism. Any student who is found to have plagiarized on ANY assignment will be subject to the consequences listed in this section. Excuses of "I didn't know" or "I didn't understand" will not be accepted. Once again, if you do not understand what plagiarism is, please ask. The campus Writing Center (located in the library) is a useful tool for help with all your writing concerns.

Students who are caught submitting plagiarized material or who have engaged in collusion on any course assignment or exam will receive a zero on the first assignment and an "F" in the course for any additional acts of academic dishonesty. Students who are caught cheating on any course assignment or exam will receive an "F" in the course and possibly subject to further action.

*Any content copied and redistributed to other students or posted to an online forum/website will be punishable under academic integrity, plagiarism and copyright laws.

COMMUNICATION and TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

I try to review all newly posted material at least once a day. While quizzes and exams should grade automatically, research papers are read for content and grades will be posted after an assignment is due. Also, you can expect me to respond to your e-mails normally within 24-48 hours during the week. Emails sent on Friday may not receive a response until Monday. Be aware that while this is my general and intended practice, it is subject to the change sand chances of life.

Technical Requirements and Support

- Geog 1303 online requires access to a computer, the Internet and e-mail. You will also need a word processing program such as MS Word (or similar) for writing and submitting research papers.
- If you should have any technical difficulties, send an e-mail to helpdesk@grayson.edu or call 903-415-2591 or 903-463-8788. Also alert the instructor concerning any technical problems.
- The Help Desk can be found online at <http://grayson.edu/college-info/help-desk.aspx>

Grayson County College is not responsible for illness/injury that occurs during the normal course of classroom/lab/clinical experiences.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.