



**UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHWESTERN**
ST. PAUL

OFFICE OF DUAL ENROLLMENT

GEO1017

Principles of World Geography

SPRING 2022

SYLLABUS

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University of Northwestern – St. Paul
Office of Dual Enrollment
3003 Snelling Avenue North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55113
de@unwsp.edu

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GEO1017 Principles of World Geography

University of Northwestern – St. Paul

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An analysis of the global perspective of peoples and places in a political and economic geographical context. Topics include the study of the various geographical regions of the world with attention paid to the particular aspects of each region's peoples, cultures, and economic development. May be taken to satisfy the Social Science requirement in the core curriculum.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: none

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Please see "Contacting the Instructor" on the course site.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, a successful student will be able to

- CO-1. Identify human and physical components of regional geography.
- CO-2. Analyze the physical setting of the earth through exploring the composition, size, and shape of the earth and the constructs of the continents, landforms, climate, vegetation, and soils.
- CO-3. Describe the physical, human, and economic geographical makeup of the various regions of the world.
- CO-4. Identify place locations.
- CO-5. Interpret data relevant to geography.
- CO-6. Analyze visual geographical data.

MATERIALS

Required Textbooks and Materials

This course uses the following open textbook at no cost to students. A link to a digital copy of the open textbook is provided on the course site.

Finlayson, Caitlin. *World Regional Geography*. Publisher: Caitlyn Finlayson, 2016.

Provided by Student

For this course, students will need access to Microsoft Office (available at no cost to students through the University of Northwestern-St. Paul), a PDF reader, and a standard internet browser. Please refer to the Tech Requirements found in the Technology Help section at the top of the course site for the full requirements.

GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Course Grade Explanation

Assignments	Grade Weight
Discussion Forums (8)	20
Essays (7)	35
Quizzes (10)	25
Identifying Quality Websites (1)	5
World Religions Presentations	15
Presentation #1 (5%)	
Presentation #2 (5%)	
Practice Presentation/Viewing and Responding (5%)	
Total	100

Grading Scale Percentages

A	≥ 93	B	≥ 83	C	≥ 73	D	≥ 63
A-	≥ 90	B-	≥ 80	C-	≥ 70	D-	≥ 60
B+	≥ 87	C+	≥ 77	D+	≥ 67	F	< 60

Late Work

All assignments are due as described in the course syllabus and the course site. Students are responsible for meeting assignment deadlines. Late assignments will be automatically deducted one letter grade. The assignments will drop an additional grade per day it is late, up to a 50% deduction in grade; late assignments will not be accepted for a grade beyond one week past the original deadline. Forum discussion activities must be completed on time to earn points. Late forum posts will earn zero points. Students should contact the instructor via e-mail if an extenuating circumstance exists.

Feedback Expectations

Students should expect feedback for their submitted assignments within 5 days of the assignment due date or the time of their submission, whichever is later.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SERVICES

Guidelines and Information

Students are responsible for all content of the DE Student Handbook. The most recent version of the DE Student Handbook is located on confluence.unwsp.edu and includes the following policies and procedures:

- Deadlines for Dropping or Withdrawing
- Student/instructor Communication
- Appeals, Exceptions, Disciplinary Process, & Grievances
- Assignments (late work and plagiarism)
- Examinations
- Grading System

Instructors may have course-related expectations that further detail the policies and procedures outlined in the DE Student Handbook. Any such expectations must be provided to students in writing (e.g., handout, course site posting) prior to or at the beginning of the class.

Traditional undergraduate students enrolled in DE courses are subject to the traditional undergraduate student handbook for all non-course-specific policies and procedures.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is theft—steal of someone else’s words or ideas. It is claiming another’s work as one’s own. This would also include the following:

- Using the words or work of a former or current student in this class
- Recycling previously submitted assignments from a previous course attempt
- Using outside literature support sites such as, but not limited to, SparkNotes, Enotes or Schmoop that provide literary analysis of the texts we read throughout the semester

Students found plagiarizing are subject to discipline. The standard response ranges from loss of credit for the plagiarized assignment to earning an immediate “F” for the course to being placed on disciplinary probation. We should be committed to conducting ourselves with integrity in all things. Please refer to the DE Student Handbook for more detailed information about UNW’s honesty and integrity policies.

In every course, students are required to view the Understanding Plagiarism video and complete the Understanding Plagiarism Quiz prior to completing any of the course content. These items are part of the course orientation.

Academic Achievement

UNW students requesting academic accommodations in association with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are directed to notify [Disability Services](#) to begin the application process. Academic Achievement also provides the following: [Writing and Subject Tutoring](#), advocating, transitional skill building, [Academic Coaching](#) (organization, time management, test taking, etc.).

Contact Academic Achievement for more information: AcademicAchievement@unwsp.edu • 651-628-3316 • N4012 (Revised 06/20)

Support Services

Links to support services are available found in the Student Services section at the top of the course site.

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Email and Announcements

Students are responsible to regularly check their Northwestern student email and the announcements in the course site in order to receive updates and information.

Attendance

Students are expected to participate in all course activities. Students must contact the faculty member in advance or as soon as possible if unable to participate in all or part of the course activities for a given week because of a medical (which includes having to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 exposure or confirmed illness), family, or work-related emergency. Students should refer to their course syllabus

and/or faculty member for specific requirements. Students who do not participate in course activities and fail to withdraw from the course will receive a failing “F” grade.

Submission Standards

All written assignments should adhere to the following DE guidelines. Documents should be in the following format **unless directed differently by the syllabus or course instructor**:

- Submitted on the course site in Microsoft Word document format (.doc or .docx)
- Set in a traditional typeface 12-point font
- Double-spaced (unless the syllabus instructs otherwise)
- Set with one-inch margins
- Formatted in APA style for in-text citations and reference page (LIT1100 may ask for MLA documentation style)
- Labeled and submitted with the following information (APA papers require this information on a cover sheet, as detailed in A Pocket Style Manual): Student Name, Course Code and Title, Instructor Name, and Date.

Critical Response to Alternate Viewpoints

When students are reading or viewing course materials, they may encounter viewpoints, words, or images that their instructors would not use or endorse. Students should know that materials are chosen for their value in learning to read, write, and view critically, not because the materials are necessarily Christian.

ASSIGNMENTS

See the course site for complete details on the assignments.

Discussion Forums (CO-1,2,3,5,6)

Discussion Forums are utilized throughout this course as a collaborative way to engage with content related to regions throughout the world. Synergy is interaction with others that produces a greater combined result than individuals achieve alone. These Discussions are valuable ways to become acquainted with your classmates and their thoughts on issues that will produce a broader understanding than we might have without considering their input.

Initial posts should be 100-200-words in length and are due by Wednesday at 11:59 pm of the week assigned. The post should present clear, well-developed reasoning that answers the questions provided in the forum and supports one’s viewpoint. Then, read and respond to at least two other students’ initial posts by Friday at 11:59 pm of the same week.

All resources, whether provided or found through research should be cited. For further grading information, see the Discussion Forum Rubric on the course site.

Essays (CO-1,2,3,5,6)

Essay topics are selected for their focus on major world importance. As we study world geography and history, we discover patterns and trends. We learn from what happened in the past to more effectively deal with what may occur in the future. Our studies equip us to make wise decisions regarding future events on our shared planet. A goal is that upon completion of the course, students are equipped to make a difference and contribute significantly to our world.

Essays contain two parts and are described below.

Part 1:

Scenarios and specific questions will shape your response based on the region. Your response may require outside research. In your response, you are expected to cite all major research sources accurately using APA format. Unless otherwise instructed, your written analysis and conclusion for Part 1 should be between approximately 500–600-words. Any viewpoint you choose to defend is valid as long as you present your thoughts clearly and support them well.

Part 2:

Throughout the course, a number of videos in the series, *Families of the World*, will be presented on the course site. Write a 150-200-word reflection comparing the region's culture to one's own culture.

For further grading information, see the Essay Rubric on the course site.

Quizzes (CO-1,4)

At the end of each of the ten regions studied in this course, complete a quiz that tests knowledge of essential human and physical components of regional geography. Each quiz contains 25 multiple-choice, true/false, or matching questions, and are open-book. You must complete each quiz individually and may not seek assistance from another person. To prepare for the quizzes, read and take notes on the materials provided for each unit and become familiar with the list of important terms.

Identifying Quality Websites (CO-5)

Throughout this course, a variety of resources will be used to learn about the human, physical, and economic makeups of regions around the world. Assignments in the course require analysis and interpretation of written and visual representations of information and data. Therefore, it is important to have the skills necessary to identify quality resources and recognize the characteristics of reliable sources.

For this assignment, three websites will be provided that give information about Greece's economy. Using the "Evaluating Websites" video (on the course site) as a guide, write an analysis of the reliability of the websites provided.

Further instructions are provided on the course site. For further grading information, see the Identifying Quality Websites grading criteria on the course site.

World Religions Presentations (CO-3)

Religion is a major part of the life and culture of any people. Most wars throughout history have been fought over the two causes of land boundary disputes OR religion. Understanding any area's religion gives insight into their history, challenges, and conflicts.

During Week 1, sign up to create two presentations for two world regions of your choice; one during Weeks 3-7 and the other during Weeks 8–14. Each presentation will describe a nation's major religions and religious and/or humanitarian outreaches that effect that nation. Each region is limited to a maximum of eight presentations and is assigned on a first come first serve basis.

Further instructions are provided on the course site. For further grading information, see the World Religions Presentations Rubric on the course site.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Format

Everything needed to successfully complete this course in fifteen weeks is explained on the course site. Each assignment has been designed to work together during each week. When studying, be sure to follow the suggested format explained for each lesson.

For this course, students will receive access to each week's work as the semester progresses. There will be due dates during the week, but most weekly assignments will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday. Please refer to the schedule for the due dates of assignments.

Generally, for college-level work, students should expect to have an average of 7 hours of homework per week.

The last official class day in Week 15 varies from semester to semester. Please refer to the Semester Calendar found in the Academic Information section at the top of the course site for the actual last day of class. All course work must be completed and submitted by that day.

Due Dates

All written assignments (outlined below) are to be submitted on the course site by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sundays at the end of each week in which they are assigned, unless otherwise noted.

For any questions regarding these assignments, contact the instructor.

Orientation

- Read the Getting Started Page
- Participate in the Introductions Forum
- View and Complete Understanding Plagiarism Presentation and Quiz
- Complete Student Responsibilities Exercise

Week 1: Introduction

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read "World Religions Presentations Directions" at the top of the course site
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 1: Introduction
- Read "Introduction Notes"
- Read "Five Themes of Geography"
- Read Nagel, "Geography: The Essential Skill for the 21st Century"
- Read "Interesting Facts About Earth"
- Read "Map Projections and Distortion"
- Review the Chapter 1 Important Terms

Due Wednesday

- Sign up for both World Religions Presentations
- Participate initially in the
 - Chapter 1 Discussion Forum
 - Practice VoiceThread Presentation

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the
 - Chapter 1 Discussion Forum
 - Practice VoiceThread Presentation
- Complete Chapter 1 Quiz

Week 2: Europe

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 2: Europe
- Read “United Nations”
- Review the Chapter 2 Important Terms

Due Wednesday

- Participate initially in the Chapter 2 Discussion Forum

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the Chapter 2 Discussion Forum
- Submit Identifying Quality Websites
- Complete Chapter 2 Quiz

Week 3: Europe Cont.

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View “Families of the World: France & Germany” (54:42)

Due Wednesday

- For those who signed up for Europe, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: Europe Forum.

Due Friday

- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: Europe Forum
- Submit Chapter 2 Essay

Week 4: Russia

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 3: Russia
- Review the Chapter 3 Important Terms

Due Wednesday

- Participate initially in the Chapter 3 Discussion Forum

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the Chapter 3 Discussion Forum
- Complete Chapter 3 Quiz

Week 5: Russia Cont.

- Read the Weekly Overview

- View “Families of the World: Russia” (27:44)

Due Wednesday

- For those who signed up for Russia, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: Russia Forum.

Due Friday

- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: Russia Forum
- Submit Chapter 3 Essay

Week 6: North America

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 4: North America
- Review the Chapter 4 Important Terms
- View “Families of the World: Canada” (28:58)

Due Wednesday

- For those who signed up for North America, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: North America Forum.

Due Friday

- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: North America Forum
- Complete Chapter 4 Quiz
- Submit Chapter 4 Essay

Week 7: Middle and South America

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 5: Middle and South America
- Review the Chapter 5 Important Terms
- View “Families of the World: Brazil” (27:59)

Due Wednesday

- Participate initially in the Chapter 5 Discussion Forum
- For those who signed up for Middle and South America, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: Middle and South America Forum.

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the Chapter 5 Discussion Forum
- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: Middle and South America Forum
- Complete Chapter 5 Quiz

Week 8: Sub-Saharan Africa

- Read the Weekly Overview

- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 6: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Review the Chapter 6 Important Terms
- View “Families of the World: Kenya” (28:09)

Due Wednesday

- Participate initially in the Chapter 6 Discussion Forum
- For those who signed up for Sub-Saharan Africa, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: Sub-Saharan Africa.

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the Chapter 6 Discussion Forum
- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: Sub-Saharan Africa Forum
- Complete Chapter 6 Quiz

Week 9: North Africa and Southwest Asia

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 7: North Africa and Southwest Asia
- Review the Chapter 7 Important Terms

Due Wednesday

- Participate initially in the Chapter 7 Discussion Forum

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the Chapter 7 Discussion Forum
- Complete Chapter 7 Quiz

Week 10: North Africa and Southwest Asia Cont.

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View “Families of the World: Egypt, Israel & Afghanistan” (79:46)

Due Wednesday

- For those who signed up for North Africa and Southwest Asia, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: North Africa and Southwest Asia Forum.

Due Friday

- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: North Africa and Southwest Asia Forum
- Submit Chapter 7 Essay

Week 11: South Asia

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 8: South Asia
- Review the Chapter 8 Important Terms

Due Wednesday

- Participate initially in the Chapter 8 Discussion Forum

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the Chapter 8 Discussion Forum
- Complete Chapter 8 Quiz

Week 12: South Asia Cont.

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View “Families of the World: India” (28:10)

Due Wednesday

- For those who signed up for South Asia, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: South Asia Forum.

Due Friday

- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: South Asia Forum
- Submit Chapter 8 Essay

Week 13: East and Southeast Asia

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 9: East and Southeast Asia
- Review the Chapter 9 Important Terms

Due Wednesday

- Participate initially in the Chapter 9 Discussion Forum

Due Friday

- Complete participation in the Chapter 9 Discussion Forum
- Complete Chapter 9 Quiz

Week 14: East and Southeast Asia Cont.

- Read the Weekly Overview
- View “Families of the World: Korea & China” (56:25)

Due Wednesday

- For those who signed up for East and Southeast Asia, post your presentation in the World Religions Presentation: East and Southeast Asia Forum.

Due Friday

- View and respond to two presentations in the World Religions Presentation: East and Southeast Asia Forum
- Submit Chapter 9 Essay

Week 15: Oceania

The final week varies in length based on the semester. Please refer to the Semester Calendars found in the Academic Information section at the top of the course site for details.

- Read the Weekly Overview
- Read *World Regional Geography*, Chapter 10: Oceania
- Review the Chapter 10 Important Terms
- View “Families of the World: Australia” (28:09)

Due the last day of the course

- Complete Chapter 10 Quiz
- Submit Final Essay