

REEDLEY COLLEGE - COURSE SYLLABUS & INFORMATION

Course Title and Number: WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY B (GEOG 40B)

Term: Spring 2015

Class Meetings:

Section 55269 - TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 13.00 to 14.15, BUS 43

Section 55710 - TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 14.30 to 15.45, BUS 43

Credit Hours: 3 (all lecture)

Course Description: This course covers (Monsoon) Asia, the Americas, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. A study of the physical settings, population patterns, natural resources, and economic and political status of these regions.

Instructor: Professor Bill Kastanes

Office Location: Room #259, Academic Village I, Madera Centre

Office Telephone: 559.675.4833 (speak loudly and clearly on the answer phone)

E-mail Address: Bill.Kastanes@scccd.edu (**NO INTERNET CHAT/TEXTING LANGUAGE**)

Office Hours: MON & WED - 12.30 to 13.45; TUE & THU - 9.30 to 11.00 (VIRTUAL); or by appointment

TEXTBOOKS, READING LISTS, ETC

Required: De Blij, Muller, & Nijman (2014). *Realms, Regions, and Concepts, 16th Edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc: New York.

Recommended: Any world atlas; periodicals focusing on current issues and events.

The student is expected to read the text, especially the parts that correspond to the material discussed in class. Also, the student ought to be aware of current events through the reading of or listening to news media, books, publications, etc.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, the student shall:

- (a) become familiarised with the absolute and relative locations of major countries, cities, physical features in the world;
- (b) be able to read and interpret various types of maps;
- (c) be able to analyse and interpret spatial data;
- (d) better understand the interrelationships and interdependence between and within regions of the world;
- (e) become familiarised with the physical, social, political, and economic characteristics and issues of world regions; and
- (f) appreciate geography, with its emphasis on spatial relationships, as an important method in examining phenomena.

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Class Attendance/Participation: Attendance is critical for this course and is taken during each class session. The student is expected to attend every class session and is responsible for any material missed in class. Importantly, a student who is absent for at least two weeks of class meetings during the first nine weeks of the term may be withdrawn from the course. Furthermore, a student who is failing the class during the ninth week of the term may be withdrawn from the course.

Student Conduct: The student is responsible for proper behaviour and courtesy towards fellow students and the instructor during class. The student ought to remain in his/her seat during the entire class session and tardiness to class must be avoided. Sleeping, conversing with fellow students, leaving before a class session ends, etc, shall not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviour by a student shall result in removal from class and perhaps withdrawal from the course. Moreover, mobile telephones, electronic devices, etc, ought to be disengaged during class.

Academic Dishonesty: If the student is found cheating or plagiarising at any time during the course, s/he shall receive a grade of "zero" for the assignment may be subject to further disciplinary action by the college.

Academic Support: The college provides various support services that are available to the student. If the student has a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc) per the American With disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the instructor ought to be contacted as soon as possible.

Furthermore, per Title V Regulation 58170(e), the instructor is referring each student in need of academic support to tutorial services. The reasons for this is for the student to master the content, the study skills, and the basic skills of the course through the use of trained peer tutors.

Importantly, proper COMMUNICATION is vital for positive student-instructor relationships. The instructor ought to be contacted as soon as possible if any issues emerge during the semester.

Finally, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this course syllabus and general information document.

GRADING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Unit Exams: There are five (5) unit exams given during this course. Each exam is worth 100 points and shall be composed of either: (a) only multiple-choice questions; OR (b) multiple-choice questions and a written portion. Notes used by the student during an exam are restricted to a 3" by 5" index card; both sides of the card can be used. The student is required to bring either one blank Scantron, Form Number 882-E, OR one blank Scantron, Form 886-E (886-E Lovas is also acceptable), which is also known as a "Mini Essay Book". These can be purchased at the College Bookshop.

A unit exam shall be given at the end of each unit below and be based on the following tentative course schedule:

<u>Unit I:</u> World Regional Geography	Introductory Chapter	Weeks 1 to 4
<u>Unit II:</u> Middle America & South America	Chapters 4 & 5	Weeks 4 to 7
<u>Unit III:</u> South Asia & Southeast Asia	Chapters 8 & 10	Weeks 8 to 11
<u>Unit IV:</u> East Asia	Chapter 9	Weeks 12 to 14
<u>Unit V:</u> North America	Chapter 3	Weeks 15 to 17

Make-up Final Exam: In the occurrence of the student missing one of the five unit exams, s/he shall be allowed to take a comprehensive make-up exam during Final Exam Week. This exam is worth 100 points and is composed of several questions that require written responses. The student must also bring a Blue Examination Book ("Blue Book") to the exam, which is closed book/atlas/notes, etc. The Make-up Final Exam shall be given on Tuesday, 19 May, 13.00 to 14.50 (for the 1.00 pm class) and Thursday, 21 May, 14.00 to 15.50 (for the 2.30 pm class).

Map Tests: There are seven (7) map tests given during this course, with each test worth 25 points. Since the final letter grade is based on 6 map tests, any points greater than 150 are considered bonus ones. Administration of the Map Tests shall be spaced appropriately throughout the term.

All Map Tests are closed book/atlas/notes, etc. The purpose of map tests is to help the student improve his/her mental map of the world and the regions that are examined. Importantly, any score less than 20 points on a test shall be assigned a zero (0). The regions for the tests are:

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|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| (1) World (Countries) | (3) South America | (5) Asia (Cities) | (7) Canada |
| (2) Middle America | (4) Asia (Countries) | (6) United States (States) | |

The lists of places to be learned for each map test are provided on the instructor's Blackboard site. Maps for "practise" may be purchased at the College Bookshop. The instructor shall provide the appropriate map during testing.

Final Letter Grade Determination: All grades during this course are determined using a point system. The final letter grade for the student shall be based on the following point distribution and marking system:

<u>Course Activities</u>		<u>Final Letter Grade</u>	
Unit Exams	500 points	585 points and greater	A
Map Tests	150 points	520 to 584 points	B
<i>(a maximum of 175 can be earned)</i>		455 to 519 points	C
	-----	390 to 454 points	D
	650 points	0 to 389 points	F

Make-up Policy: There are no make-up map tests. A student who misses a unit exam shall have the opportunity to take the make-up final exam, which is comprehensive.

Course Withdrawal: The following deadlines ought to be noted in regards to withdrawal from the course.

- (a) The last day to withdraw from the course in order to avoid a "W" is the end of the 3rd Week
in person: Friday 30 January; via Webadvisor: Sunday 1 February
- (b) The last day to withdraw from the course with a "W" is Friday, 13 March (end of 9th Week).

A final letter grade of "incomplete" is given only under "extraordinary" circumstances.

Pass/No Pass Policy: A student who is enrolled in this course with the pass/no pass option is expected to complete all course work. A minimum final letter grade of "C" is needed for a passing grade. The last day to change a class from a pass/no pass basis to a letter grade one, or vice versa, is Friday, 6 February (end of 4th Week).

School Holidays: Spring Recess (TUE 31 MAR and THU 2 APR)