

## REEDLEY COLLEGE - COURSE SYLLABUS & INFORMATION

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

**Term:** Spring 2016

**Class Meetings:** TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 9.00 to 10.15; PHY 76

**Credit Hours:** 3 (all lecture)

**Course Description:** .This course covers Europe, the post-Soviet Region, the Middle East, and Africa: a study of the physical settings, population patterns, natural resources, and economic and political status of these regions. Geography 40A and 40B together are equivalent to the Fresno City College courses Geography 4A and 4B together.

**Instructor:** Professor Bill Kastanes

**Office Location:** Room #259, Academic Village I(Madera Centre); and FEM 4A (Reedley College)

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**Office Hours:** MON & WED - 12.30 to 13.30 (Madera Centre); TUE & THU - 12.00 to 13.00 (Reedley College);  
FRI - 9.00 to 10.00 (VIRTUAL); or by appointment

### TEXTBOOKS, READING LISTS, ETC

**Required:** De Blij, Muller, & Nijman (2014). *Realms, Regions, and Concepts, 16<sup>th</sup> 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 and places 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.

**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 devises, 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 Number 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.

An 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> Russia	Chapters 2A & 2B	Weeks 5 to 7
<u>Unit III:</u> Europe	Chapters 1A & 1B	Weeks 8 to 11
<u>Unit IV:</u> North Africa/Southwest Asia	Chapters 7A & 7B	Weeks 11 to 15
<u>Unit V:</u> Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapters 6A & 6B	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 Thursday, 19 May, 9.00 to 10.50.

**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 and shall correspond to the regions that are to be studied.

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:

(1) World (Countries)	(3) Europe (Countries)	(5) Middle East	(7) Africa (Cities)
(2) Russia	(4) Europe (Cities)	(6) Africa (Countries)	

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
(a maximum of 175 can be earned)		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.

- The last day to withdraw from the course in order to avoid a "W" is the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week  
in person: Friday 29 January; via Webadvisor: Sunday 31 January
- The last day to withdraw from the course with a "W" is Friday, 11 March (end of 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 5 February (end of 4<sup>th</sup> Week).

**School Holidays:** None