

# **WORLD GEOGRAPHY**

**Mon. & Thur. 9:25-10:40 • Humanities 116**

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## **Course Description**

World Geography introduces students to the field of regional geography through the study of features of the world's regions and countries, as well as the interaction of diverse groups in the process of global integration. The course will address a range of themes, including economic development, population growth, migration patterns, resource use, environmental issues, geopolitical issues and urbanization. While both developed and developing regions will be addressed, the focus will be on the developing world.

## **Course Objectives**

- Students will explore the principal features of the physical environment and their relationship to societies and economies of selected world regions.
- Students will examine the interaction between different ethnic, linguistic and religious groups in specific geographic settings.
- Students will develop well reasoned arguments to explain social, economic, and environmental data as it pertains to selected world regions.
- Students will critically evaluate competing arguments that attempt to explain various social and economic trends and behaviors that are found in selected world regions.

## **Reading Materials**

- Lydia Pulsipher, *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives (w/o Subregions), Fourth Edition*. New York: W.H. Freeman & Company, 2008.

You are expected to purchase a copy of the textbook at the Campus Bookstore and complete all reading assignments in the course schedule. You are also encouraged to complete the reading assignments ahead of time and raise questions during class. There is a set of reading questions to assist you in studying for the exams, which can be found on the corresponding web site for the course <<http://blackboard.newpaltz.edu>>.

## **Lectures**

Lectures are designed to clarify the material in the textbook and expand upon it where appropriate. Lectures will be supplemented with frequent use of multi-media, including the use of PowerPoint presentations, internet sites and videos. If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get the notes from another student in class. In accordance with university policy, attendance is required.

## Workload

Generally speaking, the standard for a college course is two hours of preparation for every one hour of class time. This means that for a regular three credit class, you should be putting in at least six hours of preparation a week if you want to receive a respectable grade. Your preparation outside of class should involve reading the texts, taking notes on the readings, rewriting class notes, synchronizing your notes from class and the textbook, writing out answers to any study guide questions, and completing the map assignments that are due for class. I would strongly suggest that you find a quiet place to study; away from family, friends, cell phones, e-mail, mp3 players, television, and all the other distractions that keep you from being 100 percent focused on your studies.

## Assignments & Grading

### Grading Breakdown:

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Map Exercises	25%

### Grading Scale:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Map Exercises: There will be a set of map exercises that you are expected to complete over the course of the semester, one for each chapter we cover in the book. Part 1 of each exercise is designed to give you a better understanding of the region's physical geography. To complete this exercise you will need to get a map hand-out, available in a file titled Regional Maps under Assignments on the BlackBoard site. Part 2 is designed to enhance student understanding of the maps and graphics in the textbook, which you will need to complete this assignment. The map exercises will be available under Assignments on the BlackBoard site and will be made available as the semester progresses. Keep in mind that the exercises are not timed and your work can be saved if you want to come back to it later. However, you must hit the Submit button in order to receive credit and this can only be done once.

Exams: There will be a mid-term and a final given. The exams will not be cumulative and the last exam will be given during the final exam period. The exams will be a combination of map questions and essays, based on handouts distributed during the semester and available on the corresponding class website <<http://blackboard.newpaltz.edu>>. If there are any potential conflicts with exams, you should come see me ahead of time. After the exam is given there are no make-ups allowed without proper documentation from a health center, hospital or Dean.

**Academic Integrity**

It is unfortunate but violations of academic integrity are all too common on university campuses. It is in fairness to those students that attend lectures and study diligently that any transgressions must be taken seriously. Any student caught cheating will automatically receive a zero for that assignment or exam. A letter will also go to the Dean to be placed in the student's records. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please see the section on Academic Integrity in the Advising Handbook <[http://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/policies\\_integrity.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/policies_integrity.html)>. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please come see me before you hand in any written work.

**Special Needs**

All students at SUNY-New Paltz are entitled to be treated, and evaluated, in a fair manner. Any students with learning or physical disabilities should notify the Disability Resource Center (SUB-205, x3020) as soon as possible to ensure that all necessary accommodations are made. Also, any students for whom English is a second language should also come see me at the start of the semester to discuss potential problems and solutions.

### Class Schedule (tentative)

	Lecture	Readings	Announcements
Week 1 (Jan 19)	Introduction		<i>no class Monday</i> Practice Assignment
Week 2 (Jan 26)	Introduction	Bardhan Easterly	Reading Discussion: Globalization
Week 3 (Feb 2)	Latin America	Chapter 3	Map Exercise: South America
Week 4 (Feb 9)	Latin America	Chapter 3	
Week 5 (Feb 16)	Central Eurasia	Chapter 5	Map Exercise: Russia
Week 6 (Feb 23)	Central Eurasia	Chapter 5	<b>Exam 1</b>
Week 7 (March 2)	East Asia	Chapter 9	Map Exercise: China
Week 8 (March 9)	East Asia	Chapter 9	<i>extra class on Tuesday</i>
Week 9 (March 16)	Spring Break	-----	-----
Week 10 (March 23)	South Asia	Chapter 8	Map Exercise: South Asia
Week 11 (March 30)	South Asia	Chapter 8	<b>Exam 2</b>
Week 12 (April 6)	N Africa & SW Asia	Chapter 6	<i>no class on Thursday</i>
Week 13 (April 13)	N Africa & SW Asia	Chapter 6	Map Exercise: Middle East
Week 14 (April 20)	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 7	
Week 15 (April 27)	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 7	Map Exercise: Africa
Week 16 (May 4)	Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 7	<i>no class on Thursday</i>
<b>Final Exam (Exam 3) • Monday, May 11 • 10:15-12:15</b>			