

GEOG 1003 (Section 2): Human Geography (Africa & Asia)

Sample Syllabus for Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Fahui Wang
Contact: Office phone 225-578-6629, E-mail fwang@lsu.edu
Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 noon-1:30 pm, 130 Howe-Russell-Kniffen
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 -2:30 pm in 262A Howe-Russell-Kniffen
Teaching Assistant: Keenan Robert; Office Hours on Tue & Thu 3:30-5pm in 456 Howe-Russell-Kniffen

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an international perspective on how environment, resources, population, culture, and economic activities are geographically organized and interrelated;
2. To develop an understanding of fundamental concepts and theories in human geography, illustrated with regional foci in Africa and Asia; and
3. To develop basic skills in analyzing and presenting geographic data in GIS and Excel.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

This course may be taken in partial fulfillment of the social sciences general education requirements. As a social science general education course, the learning criteria for GEOG 1003 include the following:

- (1) Demonstrating mastery of factual knowledge of the subject matter
- (2) Describing the patterns by which societies organize how people relate to each other and to the world around them, ranging from relations to their physical environment to relations to the divine
- (3) Explaining diversity of cultures, across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks

Students who complete GEOG 1003 should attain the following learning objectives:

- (1) Demonstrate mastery of factual knowledge of the subject matter;
- (2) Demonstrate understanding of how people relate to each other and to the world around them, ranging from relations to their physical environment to relations to the divine;
- (3) Demonstrate understanding of diversity of cultures, across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks

PHYSICAL OR LEARNING DISABILITIES

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Office of Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Office of Disability Services, 112 Johnston Hall, 225-578-5919. I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.

EVALUATION

- (1) **Six projects**, accounting for 35% of your grade. Projects are designed to build your basic analytical skills of geography and increase your comfort with the major theories and methods discussed in class. All projects will be completed in ArcExplorer (a free GIS program) and/or MS Excel. Students need to submit the reports on the Moodle.
- (2) **Two close-book midterm exams**: each accounting for 15% of your grade for a total of 30%.
- (3) **One close-book final exam (cumulative)**: accounting for 30% of your grade.

(4) **Class attendance and participation:** 5% (Roll will be taken randomly throughout the semester).

Policy:

- Late answers to projects will not be accepted.
- No make-up exams, nor exams in advance, may be scheduled unless you provide evidence for legitimate absence reasons.

A letter grade will be initially assigned to each of the six projects, and the equivalent numerical score (A = 40, A- = 37, B+ = 33, B = 30 ... out of 40) will be reported on the Moodle. The scores for all exams will also be posted on the Moodle. **Please report any disputes to me by May 3 (Thursday).**

A final numerical score for the course is calculated as the weighted average of all four components. Based on the final score, a final letter grade is assigned. Based on my experience in the past, usually the top 25% get A, the next 25% get B, then 25% C, 15% D, and 10% F.

TEXTBOOKS (Required)

Les Rowntree, et al. 2012, *Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment and Development*, 5th Edition, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall [ISBN-10 0-321-71448-2].

COURSE OUTLINES (a tentative plan, subject to change)

1. Geography in Era of Globalization [Chp 1&2]
Project 1. Exploring World Geography in ArcExplorer
2. Sub-Saharan Africa [Chp 6]
Project 2. Geography of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 1st Midterm Exam (February 16, Thursday 12:10-1:30pm)**
3. Middle East and North Africa [Chp 7]
Project 3. Population and Water Scarcity in the Middle East and North Africa
4. East Asia [Chp 11]
Project 4. System of Cities in Japan and Population Density Pattern in Beijing
- 2nd Midterm Exam (March 29, Thursday 12:10-1:30pm)**
5. South Asia [Chp 12]
Project 5. Assessing Regional Inequality in India 1991-2001
6. Southeast Asia [Chp 13]
Project 6. Population Geography of South and Southeast Asia
7. Central Asia [Chp. 10]

Final Exam (Cumulative): Thursday, May 10, 3:00-5:00 pm