Virginia Western Community College
GEO 220
World Regional Geography

Prerequisites
None

Course Description
General Description:
Studies physical and cultural characteristics of selected geographical regions of the world. Focuses upon significant problems within each of the regions, and examines the geographical background of those problems. Introduces the student to types and uses of maps.

This course provides an introduction to the diverse academic discipline of geography, through the physical, environmental, demographic, political, and economic landscape. It uses geographic/spatial methods to assess the dominant geographic aspects of the world, events, and issues. It further examines traditional geographic concepts, ideas, and terms, while broadening the students' worldview through highlighting physical and human diversity involved in the study of the planet. Analyzes the major world realms and introduces the student to the concept of region. Moreover, it provides an outlet for discussion and critical analysis of the changing world, such as the major new issues of globalization and environmental geography. Interpret maps and understand basic map fundamentals.

Students will strengthen skills in interdisciplinary studies and global awareness.

This course is generally an elective.

Semester Credits: 3 **Lecture Hours: 3**

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

Textbook:
White, George, Dymond, Chacko, Scheidt, Bradshaw et al. Essentials of World Regional Geography, 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill, New York. ISBN: 9780073369358.

Other Required Materials:
None

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Identify the location of world realms and major states on a map or globe.
- Critically consider the geographic issues of each realm and region through arguing a position for or against a current issue.
- Use and define geographic terms such as nation, State, development, site and situation, carrying capacity, assimilation, centripetal and centrifugal forces, desertification, fair trade, ethnic cleansing, hearths, NAFTA, supranational organizations, border, globalization, megalopolis, primate city, and less-developed country to name a few.
- Interpret thematic maps of regional issues such as ethnicity, language, economies, populations, political boundaries, landscapes, and tourism.
- Select specific regional issues for analysis and critical argument.
- Understand basic history of the world's realms and regions.
- Trace changes on the landscape (historical geography).
- Understand both a global and local view of space and place.
- Compare and contrast world regions based on geographic concepts including physical, economic, political, demographic, and environmental perspectives.

Topical Description

1	**Geography—An Exploration of Connections**: Population, gender, development, food, urbanization, globalization, democratization, water, global climate change, physical geographic perspectives, and human geographic perspectives.
2	**North America**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of New England and the Atlantic Provinces; Québec; the Old Economic Core; the American South; the Great Plains; the continental interior; the Pacific Northwest; and Southern California and the Southwest.
3	**Middle and South America**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of the Caribbean; Mexico; Central America; the Northern Andes and Caribbean Coast; the central Andes; the Southern Cone; and Brazil.
4	**Europe**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of West, South, North, and Central Europe.
5	**Russia and the Post-Soviet States**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of Russia; Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine; Caucasia; and the Central Asian States.
6	**North Africa and Southwest Asia**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of Maghreb, the Nile, the Arabian Peninsula, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Northeast.
7	**Sub-Saharan Africa**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of West, Central, East, and Southern Africa.
8	**South Asia**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of Afghanistan/Pakistan, Himalayan Country, Northwest India, Northeastern South Asia, Central India, and Southern South Asia.
9	**East Asia**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of China, Mongolia, Koreas, Japan, and Taiwan.
10	**Southeast Asia**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of Burma and Thailand; Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam; Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei; Indonesia and Timor-Leste; and the Philippines.
11	**Oceania**: The geographic setting, current geographic issues, and subregions of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific.

Notes to Instructors

- Map studies available as well as globes for in-class use.

ADA Statement (PDF)
Title IX Statement (PDF)