

# **GEOGRAPHY OF WORLD REGIONS (GPHY 141SX)**

**~ Spring 2021, Online ~**

**Recurring Zoom Meeting for Thursday 9:30-10:50 a.m.:**

<https://umontana.zoom.us/j/91819179912>

(Meeting ID: 918 1917 9912)

**Instructor:** Dr. Kelly Franklin

E-mail: [kelly.franklin@umontana.edu](mailto:kelly.franklin@umontana.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Lila Osborn

E-mail: [elizabethanne.osborn@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:elizabethanne.osborn@umconnect.umt.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment in the evenings

**Learning Assistant:** Sam Stringer

[samuel.stringer@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:samuel.stringer@umconnect.umt.edu)

\*Portions of syllabus adapted from Dr. Sarah Halvorson (Spring 2021)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*We are living in a fast changing world that is shrinking. We're going to become closer neighbors still. We are going to have to understand each other better. And we'll have to recognize that regardless of where we come from, no matter what our color or background, we all initially sprang from the same source.*

*We'll have to learn to get along with one another. So we should listen to the other person. It will be a matter of accommodation and compromise, knowledge and understanding.*

*Future generations haven't been given much of a legacy, but have been given a great challenge and what they do will determine what their successors will be.*

- Former U.S. Senator and Ambassador Mike Mansfield during his message to American Youth and to The University of Montana Administration, November 1989

How prescient the words of Montanan and U.S. Senator Mike Mansfield were three decades ago. One starting point for meeting what Mansfield describes above as the “great challenge” presented by life in a global society is to build a basic level of geographical literacy. The purpose of this course – Geography of World Regions – is to do just that. “Geographical literacy” in the context of this course does not simply mean memorized facts about regions, countries and capitals. Rather, it means building an understanding of the processes that influence how regions came to be, how they relate to other regions, and how various regions matter in the world today. To appreciate these issues, we will examine specific regions that show how historical, political, social, economic, and environmental factors and forces shape the geography of the

world around us. This is not merely to gain basic competence in a specific body of knowledge, but rather to understand the geographies that those before us have created as well as those we will help to create in the future. The hope is that this type of understanding and geographic perspective will help you be a more informed and civically engaged global citizen.

While the course is ostensibly about world regions, there are also several underlying themes that will be highlighted throughout the semester. These themes include a critical appraisal of: (1) the processes and politics of development; (2) globalization and the increasing interconnectedness of the world; (3) society-environment interactions with special attention to the most pressing water problems that people in the world are confronting; and (4) critical thinking about data and information sources.

In addition to addressing these themes, this course is designed to encourage you to ask questions about regions and our relationship to them. Thus, we will strive to learn a new way of thinking critically about the world that will be meaningful to you beyond the scope of this course.

The course adopts both a historical and current-events perspective on the various geographies of contemporary regions. As such, we will cover a variety of topics and a daunting amount of geographical territory in a short period of time. In order to succeed in this course, it is imperative that you remain on schedule with course readings and assignments.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, it is my hope that you are able to:

1. use and interpret maps and other geographical tools and technologies (for example, charts, graphs, tables, datasets, photographs, etc.) for geographical investigation;
2. communicate fundamental geographical concepts of location, place, region, and globalization;
3. demonstrate a grounding in the study and analysis of human-environment interactions
4. discuss the complexity and diversity of social, cultural, historical, economic, political, religious and environmental conditions and processes that have produced various regional geographies; and
5. appreciate what it means to live in a global society and to be a global citizen.

## **TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS**

We will be using the following eText for this course:

Price, M., Rowntree, L., Lewis, M., and W. Wyckoff (2020). *Globalization and Diversity: Geography of a Changing World, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. New York, New York: Pearson.  
(ISBN-13: 9780135276549)

I suggest purchasing the eText option verses the print as you will have access to embedded videos, ability to add notes/highlight, and listen to the text as an audio.

## **REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES, AND ASSESSMENT**

### ***Map Projects:***

- Map projects are due on the dates posted in the schedule (see below for details). The map projects have three components: a poster, a map, and peer reflection. To complete the map projects, you will be using the eText and consulting an atlas. We will be using a collaborative whiteboard tool, Miro, to share map projects and learn together.
- Eleven map projects will be assigned throughout the semester. Ten projects will count toward your final grade. Your lowest grade will be dropped which implies that you can miss one project during the semester without impacting your overall grade. Late map projects will be marked 2 points off. Late maps will not be accepted two weeks after the deadline. If lateness is due to an unforeseen medical difficulty or a personal or family emergency, then appropriate documentation must be provided stating such in order for late work to be considered for acceptance. The last day to turn in assignments is the last class meeting of the semester.

### ***Participation: Class Reflections & Activities***

In order for us to achieve the goal of acquiring geographical knowledge about the regions of the world, your attendance and active participation in the weekly class sessions on Thursday are absolutely critical. It should be stressed that class sessions will go beyond the material presented in the eText.

Attendance is mandatory on Thursdays and will play a role in your overall grade as you will submit class reflections or complete activities provided in class each week.

- After class on Thursdays, you will post and respond to online discussions or complete activities provided in class. Class participation will be evaluated on how consistent, timely, and thoughtful your reflections are as well as your contributions to our online learning environment.
- Typically, reflections or activities are due the day after class on **Friday**.

### ***Group Presentations:***

- You will work together with 4-6 students to prepare a group presentation which will be presented to the class during the last two weeks of the semester. The presentation should compare and contrast two regions of the world with respect to their relative location and one or more themes (e.g. social, cultural, historical, economic, political, religious and environmental conditions).

### ***Opportunities for Extra Points:***

- Over the course of the semester, you are welcome to earn up to 10 additional points (equivalent to one Map Project) toward your final grade. Options for earning extra credit are posted in Moodle.

**Grading:**

The grading summary is as follows:

Map Projects 10 (of 11) at 10 points each	100 points
Participation/Class Reflections & Activities	50 points
Group Presentations	50 points
<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>200 possible points</b>

The grading scale is consistent with that used widely on the University of Montana campus. The +/- grading system will apply as follows:

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

All courses taken at the University of Montana to satisfy General Education Requirements, both Competency Requirements and Distributional Requirements, must be taken for traditional letter grade. This course is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

**Class Attendance Policies:**

You are expected to attend all class meetings and complete all assignments during the semester. If you are expecting to incur excused absences (for athletic or other University purposes), please consult with me early in the semester to ensure that we plan accordingly for make-up work and to help you maintain momentum in the course. All other excuses (medical, family emergencies, and so forth) need to be verified with documentation. Please keep me informed so that I can make every effort to work with you to help you catch up on missed work.

**Class Policies**

Respect—Geography of World’s Regions is a course that will ask you to think critically and to develop your own ideas about historical and contemporary issues. In order for this class to be a success, I expect that you will treat all opinions fairly and with respect. You may disagree with ideas, but disruptive behavior or disrespectful language in lecture will not be tolerated. In online spaces, it is especially important to monitor one’s tone while communicating. Humor and sarcasm are easily understood when one can see another person’s face, but this is not true in online settings. Accordingly, please be thoughtful to convey respect in your written and verbal comments.

**Academic Honesty:**

All course activities are governed by the Student Conduct Code, which embodies the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, human rights, and responsible citizenship. All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a discipline sanction by the university. Please familiarize yourself with the UM Student Council Code. The Code is available online at: [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page1321).

### **Disability Modifications**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact the ODE at: (406) 243-2243, ode@umontana.edu, or visit [www.umt.edu/disability](http://www.umt.edu/disability) for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so please, do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement an effective accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately if you wish.

### **Course Correspondence:**

University policy requires that all correspondence between faculty and students be conducted using official UM email addresses only. Please feel free to catch me after class on Thursday with questions. I am also available by appointment for office hours.

### **Course Withdrawal Deadlines Statement:**

For full policy, please see the policy at:

<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php>. If you need to drop this course, I recommend that you do so as soon as possible. Please consult the deadlines that apply during the semester. I would be happy to review the details with you as needed.

### **Basic Needs Security Statement:**

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing and believes this may affect performance in the course is urged to contact the Office of Student Success for support. Furthermore, please feel free to notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This would enable me to identify any resources that may be relevant.

## **SCHEDULE**

<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Assignments</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<i>Week 1</i>		
Jan. 20	Class meeting: Introduction: Towards Geographic Literacy in a Globalizing World	Ch. 1
<i>Week 2</i>		
Jan. 27	Class meeting: The Changing Global Environment	Ch. 2
<i>Week 3</i>		
Feb 1	Latin America, <b>Map Project 1 Due</b>	Ch. 4
Feb 3	Class meeting: Latin America	Ch. 4
<i>Week 4</i>		
Feb. 8	The Caribbean, <b>Map Project 2 Due</b>	Ch. 5
Feb. 10	Class meeting: The Caribbean	Ch. 5
<i>Week 5</i>		
Feb. 15	Sub-Saharan Africa, <b>Map Project 3 Due</b>	Ch. 6

Feb. 17	Class meeting: Sub-Saharan Africa	Ch. 6
<i>Week 6</i>		
Feb. 22	Southwest Asia & North Africa, <b>Map Project 4 Due</b>	Ch. 7
Feb. 24	Southwest Asia & North Africa	Ch. 7
<i>Week 7</i>		
March 1	Europe, <b>Map Project 5 Due</b>	Ch. 8
March 3	Europe	Ch. 8
<i>Week 8</i>		
March 8	Eurasia, <b>Map Project 6 Due</b>	Ch. 9
March 10	Eurasia	Ch. 9
<i>Week 9</i>		
March 15	Central Asia, <b>Map Project 7 Due</b>	Ch. 10
March 17	Central Asia	Ch. 10
<i>Week 10</i>		
March 21-25	<b><i>Student Break – No Class Meeting</i></b>	
<i>Week 11</i>		
March 29	East Asia, <b>Map Project 8 Due</b>	Ch. 11
March 31	East Asia	Ch. 11
<i>Week 12</i>		
April 5	South Asia, <b>Map Project 9 Due</b>	
April 7	South Asia	Ch. 12
<i>Week 13</i>		
April 12	Southeast Asia, <b>Map Project 10 Due</b>	Ch. 12
April 14	Southeast Asia	Ch. 13
<i>Week 14</i>		
April 19	Australia & Oceania, <b>Map Project 11 Due</b>	Ch. 13
April 21	Australia & Oceania	Ch. 14
<i>Week 15</i>		
April 28	Group Presentations	
<i>Week 16</i>		
<i>May 5</i>	Group Presentations Final Reflections on Globalization, Development and Environmental Change	
<i>Finals Week</i>		
May 9-13	No final	