

Colonnade Program Course Proposal: Explorations Category

1. What course does the department plan to offer in Explorations? Which subcategory are you proposing for this course? (Arts and Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Natural and Physical Sciences)

The Department of Geography and Geology plans to offer GEOG 110, World Regional Geography, in the Social and Behavioral Sciences subcategory.

2. How will this course meet the specific learning objectives of the appropriate subcategory. Please address **all** of the learning outcomes listed for the appropriate subcategory.

1. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.

In this course, students will increase their geographic literacy and acquire new geographic tools and analytical skills to use to better understand the complexities of the world in which we live. Students will explore geographical relationships by reading and interpreting maps and spatial data. They will develop a working knowledge of the global geography framework and the concepts geographers use to examine interrelationships among world regions and how those relationships change over time.

2. Apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.

Students will apply fundamental concepts of geography, such as place, scale, region, and diffusion, to analyze patterns of human activity around the world. They will apply geographic theories and research methodologies to such topics as population growth, gender, economic development, globalization, natural resource use, and climate change, among others, as well as to address ethical issues inherent to global and local diversity.

3. Understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the social and behavioral science conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experiences.

Students will explore changing scientific and societal understandings of race, ethnicity, and gender as expressed in the spatial dynamics of cultural identity influenced by demographics, migration, and the formation of multicultural societies.

4. Integrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences into issues of personal or public importance.

Students will gain capacity to act as an informed world citizen and participate in decision-making with the knowledge that the local affects regional and global issues.

5. Communicate effectively using the language and terminology germane to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences.

Students will learn the meanings and applications of geography terminology and effectively use geographic terminology in written and oral communications.

3. Syllabus statement of learning outcomes for course. NOTE: In multi-section courses, the same statement of learning outcomes must appear on every section's syllabus.

This course is an introduction to geographical concepts as they apply to the world's regions. During the semester we will engage in a general survey of the political, social, economic, physical, and ecological systems of the world while applying the five main themes of geography: Location, Place, Human Environment Interaction, Movement, and Regions. The text and associated lectures are intended to help you develop an appreciation for the diversity and uniqueness of world's cultures as well as a deeper understanding of the complex geophysical differences of the world. Our goals are to explore world regions, understand how each of these regions relate to other regions in the world, and how we influence and are influenced by these seemingly distant places. You will be challenged to view the world in new and innovative ways and to think critically about current global issues.

4. Brief description of how the department will assess the course for these learning objectives.

Each semester, students in each section of GEOG 110 will be given a pre-test at the beginning of the semester that includes questions centered on the major themes and content areas covered in this course. The exam will include multiple choice questions on content areas such as population, gender, political geography, culture, economic development, globalization, natural resource use, and climate change, as well as a section on place locations to test basic geographic literacy.

An assessment exam based on the pre-test will be administered in each section of GEOG 110 during the 12th or 13th week of the semester. A random sample of 25% of the assessment exams will be selected and graded. A passing grade of 70% is required to meet basic learning expectations for this course.

The results will be shared with all of the GEOG 110 instructors, the department head, and other department members for further analysis. From these analyses, it will be determined if any changes should be made to our teaching methods or course content to meet the expected learning outcomes for the course.

5. How many sections of this course will your department offer each semester?

We plan on offering six to ten sections of GEOG 110.

6. Please attach sample syllabus for the course.

See attachment.

Please send your proposal to: robert.dietle@wku.edu

SAMPLE SYLLABUS
WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 110 Section 001, Fall 2014
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:35-10:55am, EST 337, 3 Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Geography

OFFICE: EST 300 **PHONE:** 270-555-5555 **E-MAIL:** dr.geography@wku.edu

OFFICE HOURS: (TBA) **Note:** You are *strongly* encouraged to meet the instructor if you have any questions or problems and *appointments are available at times other than listed here*. Every attempt will be made to meet your needs.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Pulsipher, Lydia Mihelic and Alex Pulsipher, *World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives. (Without sub-regions) Sixth Edition (W.H. Freeman: New York) 2013.*

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT: All students must regularly access to their personal e-mail/computer accounts. We will be using Internet resources throughout the semester. Blackboard will be used extensively as a course resource. All supplemental course materials such as place location lists, assignments, and study guides will be accessed through the course website. I will also post important announcements, updates and other information on the course website. You should check your e-mail and Blackboard on a regular basis for information pertaining to this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is an introduction to geographical concepts as they apply to the world's regions. During the semester we will engage in a general survey of the political, social, economic, physical, and ecological systems of the world while applying the five main themes of geography: Location, Place, Human Environment Interaction, Movement, and Regions. The text and associated lectures are intended to help you develop an appreciation for the diversity and uniqueness of world's cultures as well as a deeper understanding of the complex geophysical differences of the world. Our goals are to explore world regions, understand how each of these regions relate to other regions in the world, and how we influence and are influenced by these seemingly distant places. You will be challenged to view the world in new and innovative ways and to think critically about current global issues.

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED: Your final grade will reflect your performance on three exams and three assignments. Exams consist of questions drawn from the lectures, maps, readings, class discussions, assignments---essentially anything that happens from the time the class begins until the end of class is fair game for the test. There are 400 possible points that can be earned in the course. There are three exams worth 100 points each for a total of 300 points. There are three assignments, and, when added together, are worth 100 points, equal to one exam. The assignments are individual and/or group projects.

The following is the point scale used to calculate your final grade in the class.

400-360 = A

359-320 = B

319-280 = C

279-240 = D

239- 0 = F

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY POLICY:

The Department of Geography and Geology strictly adheres to University policies, procedures, and deadlines regarding student schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will the deadline be waived. The Student Schedule Exceptional Appeal Form shall be used to initiate all waivers. This form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, and undocumented general stress factors are not considered as legitimate circumstances.

EXTRA CREDIT: There are **NO extra credit options** available for individual students to improve their grades. No exceptions.

LATE WORK: Late work will be penalized according to its degree of lateness but it is better to hand something in late than not at all. Late work must be submitted in person and the work must be in hard copy form. Under no circumstances may work be submitted electronically—i.e. **no assignments will be accepted via e-mail.**

DISABILITY STATEMENT: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, DUC A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270)745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. Please **DO NOT** request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services."

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you are late, you will be counted absent so please, be on time so you won't be left off the day's roll.

ADDITIONAL HELP: The Learning Center (DUC A330) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. For more information, or to schedule a tutoring appointment, please call TLC at (270) 745 - 6254 or log onto www.wku.edu/tlc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**AUGUST****Week 1****Chapter 1: Introduction to World Regional Geography**

Topics: Maps, Cartography, Geographic Coordinates, Population, Food, Urbanization, Globalization, Environments, Water, Weather, Climate Change, Landforms, Plate Tectonics, Agriculture, Gender, and Culture

SEPTEMBER**Week 2****Chapter 2: North America**

Topics: Environment, Population, Climate Change, Rural vs. Urban Development, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Service Economies, Technology, Race, Ethnicity, Language, Religion, Natural Resources, Globalization, U.S. and Canadian Relationships

Week 3**Chapter 3: Middle and South America**

Topics: Environment, Population, Tropical Climates, Colonialism, Resources, Development

Current Issues in North and South America: Immigration, Borders, Drug Trade, Biodiversity, Economic Challenges, Political Geographies, Remittances

EXAM I

Week 4

Chapter 4: Europe

Topics: Environment, Population, Urbanization, Industrial Revolution, Effects of Wars, European Union, Demographic Change

Week 5

Chapter 5: Russia and Post-Soviet States

Topics: Environment, Population, Empires, Soviet Union, Cold War, Natural Resources, Climate Change, Cultural Landscape

OCTOBER

Week 6

Current Geographic Issues in European Regions: Social and Public Health Issues, Globalization, Immigration and Migration, Changing Gender Roles, Demographics, Social Welfare Systems, Pollution, Legacies of Nuclear Power, Environmental Degradation, Corruption and Crime, Religious Revivalism

Week 7

Chapter 6: North Africa and Southwest Asia

Topics: Environment, Population, Colonialism, Agriculture, Ethnicity, Religion, Language, Cultural Diversity, Urbanization, Climate Change

Week 8

Chapter 7: Sub-Saharan Africa

Topics: Environment, Population, Climate Change, Agriculture, Industry, Colonialism, Slave Trade, Wildlife, Gender Relationships, Political Geographies, Ethnicity, Language, Religion

Week 9

Current Geographic Issues in Africa: Desertification, Religious and Ethnic Conflicts, Post-Colonial Conditions, Political Corruption, Changing Gender Roles and Gendered Spaces, Cultural Conflicts, Globalization

EXAM II

NOVEMBER

Week 10

Chapter 8: South Asia

Topics: Environment, Population, Settlement Patterns, Indus Valley, Legacies of Colonial Rule, Partition, Village Life, Urbanization, Green Revolution, Economic Development, Micro-Credits, Agriculture, Language, Religion, Cultural Diffusion, Religious Nationalism

Week 11

Chapter 9: East Asia

Topics: Environment, Population, Climate Change, Pollution, Economic Development, Chinese Cultural Traditions, Confucianism, Japanese Imperialism, Communism, Agriculture, Three Gorges Dam, Urbanization, Korean Conflicts, Globalization

Week 12

Chapter 10: Southeast Asia

Topics: Environment, Population, Demographic Change, Climate Change, Deforestation, Political Conflicts and Change, Colonialism, French Indochina, Vietnam War, Sex Tourism and HIV/AIDS, New Economies

Week 13

Current Geographic Issues in Asia: Globalization and Competitiveness, Caste Conflicts, Demographic Change, Environmental Degradation, Natural Resources, Economic Revolutions, Gender and Globalization, Natural Disasters, Regional Trade, Manufacturing, Regional Conflicts and Hostilities

DECEMBER

Week 14

Chapter 11: Oceania

Topics: Environment, Population, Climate Change, Legacies of Colonial Era, Aborigines, Maori, Introduction of Exotic Plants and Animals, Pacific Islands, Urbanization, Migration, Sea Level Rise, Great Barrier Reef, Polynesian Culture, Natural Resources

Current Geographic Issues: Endangered Wildlife, Aborigines "Stolen Generation," Maori Culture, Resource Exploitation and Exports, Foreign Investment, Refugee Resettlement

Review for Final Exam (Exam III)

Week 15

Final Exam