

GEOG 1303-001

Instructor: Greg Ramzinski (gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu)

Office Hours can be found on Blackboard and posted outside of his office.

Office locations are:

Downtown campus in 1015C

Levelland campus in AD125

Course Description

The course will provide the student with an examination of historical, cultural, religious, and environmental impacts on the development of various cultures around the world. The course will also examine some current events and the local, regional, and global impact of these events. A general breakdown of the topics covered is located at the end of this syllabus.

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 (there is no lab associated with this course)

The course objectives will be obtained in the following manners:

- For face-to-face classes:
 - Interaction with the instructor and classmates through class discussion and participation. Exhibition of understanding of presented material through online quizzes and exams.
- For online classes:
 - Participation in the class by review of materials posted online in Blackboard and exhibition of understanding of class materials through online quizzes and exams.

Course Objectives:

1. **Critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication:** to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Empirical & Quantitative Skills:** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
4. **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
6. **Social Responsibility:** to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence of local, national, and global issues, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

The course objectives will be obtained in the following manners:

- For face-to-face classes:
 - Interaction with the instructor and classmates through class discussion and participation. Exhibition of understanding of presented material through online quizzes and exams.
- For online classes:
 - Participation in the class by review of materials posted online in Blackboard and exhibition of understanding of class materials through online quizzes and exams.

Course Purpose

To provide the students with a familiarization of the cultural, socio-economic, and political environments of the past and present.

Course Evaluation

See instructor's course information for specific grading criteria to evaluate student performance.

Attendance Policy

Each student is expected to participate in each class. If a student is absent from class, proper documentation must be provided to the instructor to receive an excused absence. Excessive absences will result in the student being dropped from the class.

Online classes will be self-paced by the student. Each student will have a specific period of time to complete the posted quizzes and exams. Each quiz/exam will be open from midnight Sunday until the following Sunday. If there are any issues with the quiz/exam, please contact the instructor **immediately** so a solution can be achieved. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture by the student to take the quiz/exam.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, socio-economic, and political environments of the past and present.
2. Describe and explain the impact of various factors impacting the development of cultures through history.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions of various cultures through history and their impact on the development of neighboring and later cultures.
4. Develop a better understanding of current situations impacting the region.

Course Management

1. A student with a disability, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning, who wishes to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office within three weeks after the semester begins so appropriate arrangements can be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide appropriate documentation of the disability. For more information, please call or visit the Disability Service Office in the Student Health & Wellness Office or call 806-716-2577.

2. Assignment extensions and make-up examinations will be made on a case-by-case basis and granted at the discretion of the instructor. A significant and verifiable reason must exist. If an assignment or exam is missed, please contact the instructor by phone or e-mail. For consideration for an extension or make-up exam, the student must contact the instructor before the due date.
3. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated!** Each student is to be familiar with South Plains College's policy on academic integrity. Any violations of these policies will be dealt with in accordance with the current South Plains College policy. If there are questions regarding this policy, please contact your instructor.
4. The syllabus is a living document and can be changed at any time at the discretion of the instructor. If changes are made, the changes will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.
5. Each student is in class to learn. Please respect your fellow students and do not be a distraction during class. The instructor reserves the right to dismiss a student from class for disruption of the learning environment. Examples include eating, talking to others, inappropriate behavior, distracting use of a mobile device, or any other distractions disruptive to a good learning environment.
6. Cell phones are to be placed in a backpack, purse, or other location out of site of the student. All notifications are to be silenced, including vibrate. If you are required to monitor your cell phone for work or other reasons, please discuss this with the instructor before class.
7. Classes will begin promptly at the scheduled time. Studies have shown class attendance and participation reflect a higher grade at the end of the semester. An excused absence does not relieve you of meeting all course requirements. If you are unable to attend class, please notify the instructor ahead of time and/or provide the instructor with an approved excused absence. Excessive absences can result in your dismissal from the course.
8. Plan ahead. If you need to leave class early or be late, please communicate this with your instructor and provide minimal distraction when arriving or departing the classroom.
9. Online courses are designed to be completed within a specified time period. The classes are self-paced, but time management is very important and the student must plan accordingly to complete the assigned coursework, quizzes, and exams in the scheduled time period.

Course Expectations/Policies

1. The classroom is a learning environment. This space is understood to be a location where all are respected and all participants will conduct themselves in a mature and courteous manner permitting open and honest discussion no matter the mannerism, idea, opinion, or belief.
2. College is a privilege, not a right! Take advantage of this opportunity.
3. *Attendance in a college class means active participation in the class.* Ask questions, take notes, raise points for discussion, engage the instructor and your classmates. You will benefit the more you are engaged.

Grading

- Grading will be based on the results of:
 - Three examinations
 - Exam #1 – 100 points
 - Exam #2 – 100 points
 - Exam #3 – 100 points
 - Assignment
 - One assignment – 5 points
 - Project presentation
 - Project proposal – 20 points
 - Project presentation – 80 points
 - Quizzes
 - 14 quizzes – 5 points each for a total of 70 points
 - Total possible points for the class = 475 points
 - Final grades will be determined by dividing the number of points earned during the semester and dividing it by 475.
 - For example:
 - Exam #1 – 88
 - Exam #2 – 92
 - Exam #3 – 94
 - Assignment – 5
 - Quizzes – 65
 - Project presentation - 85
 - $88 + 92 + 94 + 5 + 65 + 85 = 429$
 - $429 \div 475 = .903 \times 100 = 90.3$
- Exams and quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.
- The grading scale will be:
 - $100 - 90 = A$
 - $89 - 80 = B$
 - $79 - 70 = C$
 - $69 - 60 = D$
 - $< 59 = F$
- Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. Extra credit will be offered to the entire class.
 - If a student receives a final grade ending in .5 or higher, the grade will be rounded up to the next whole number (e.g.: 89.5 would be rounded up to 90).
 - If a student received a final grade ending in .4 or lower, the grade will be rounded down to the previous whole number (e.g.: 89.4 would be rounded down to 89).
- All assignments and other coursework will be turned in on Blackboard or uploaded to the link provided in the “Course Resources” section on Blackboard. Due to an increase in phishing, assignments e-mailed to the instructor will not be accepted.

Late Assignments & Extra Credit

- If extra credit is offered, it will be due on the specified day. If the work is late, the student will not receive credit for the extra credit work.
- No late work will be accepted without an approved excuse. Please see the SPC General Catalog under “Class Attendance”
http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=52&navoid=1492&hl=absence&returnto=search#Class_Attendance
 - This will also apply to the missing of quizzes or exams which are open for a limited period of time. If you are unable to access a quiz or exam during the time it is open, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor immediately to rectify the situation.

Course Materials

The materials for this course are all open source. The student will need access to a computer to be able to view the referenced materials and videos used during the course. The material and videos links will be posted on Blackboard.

Drops and Withdrawals

- From the South Plains College Catalog page 21, “Any student withdrawing from all classes on the Levelland Campus must report in person to the Advising Center in the Student Services Building for a withdrawal form. Instructions for obtaining a clearance from some departments of the college will be given at this time. Students who wish to drop a course or withdraw from classes at the South Plains College Reese Center must report, in person, to the Advising Center at the South Plains College Reese Center building 8 for a withdrawal form. Students at the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center should contact the advisor at the center for the withdrawal from. Students at the Plainview Extension Center must contact the Counseling Office in person for a withdrawal form. Students who stop attending a class should go through the procedure for dropping a course; otherwise, they may be administratively withdrawn for lack of attendance and their record will show an “X” or “F” instead of a “W.” Failure to follow college policy by withdrawing according to this procedure will be reflected on a student’s transcript by the presence of “X” or “F” marks, as determined by the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through his or her student online account with Campus Connect. A mark of “W” will be given for student-initiated drops or withdrawals that occur prior to and through “The Last Day to Drop” as indicated in the online academic calendar. A student who quits attending class and is administratively withdrawn from class will receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor through “The Last Day to Drop” as indicated in the online academic calendar. A student administratively dropped by the instructor may be reinstated, with the approval of the appropriate instructor. A student must initiate a request for reinstatement within seven (7) calendar days of the official date of drop by personally contacting the course instructor.”

- Dropping the course: The student must drop this course at the South Plains College registrar's office (there is no on-line drop system so on-line students must take care of this in person at the registrar's office). This is an official procedure which is described in the South Plains College Catalog. Only the student can initiate the drop and it must conform to the procedure for dropping a course. Failure to initiate and finalize the drop procedure will result in an F grade on your transcript. The drop cannot be made retroactive. The drop date can be found on the South Plains College calendar.

Academic Honesty & Integrity

- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act. This includes the submission of work completed by another individual or the purchase and submission of materials completed by another individual as your own work.
- *Any student found to be in violation of the academic honesty policy will immediately be dropped from the course.*

Student Code of Conduct

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Non-Discrimination Statements

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email dburleson@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

Covid-19 Statement

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or test for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376. Proof of a positive test is required. A home test is sufficient but students must submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at dedens@southplainscollege.edu.

A student is clear to return to class without further assessment from DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN if they have completed the 5-day isolation period, symptoms have improved, and they are without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Students must communicate with DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 5-day isolation.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Blackboard Accessibility Standards

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). A third-party conducts audits of our software releases to ensure the accessibility of the products. For Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act using the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®) tool, see the VPAT for Blackboard Learn Release 9.1. For Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP11 conformance statement for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA see Learn Accessibility Conformance Statement. To learn more about Blackboard's commitment to accessibility, see <http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility>. (These resources are available in English only.)

All technological questions should be directed to the South Plains College technology center (their information is on the opening page of Blackboard). I do not solve technological/computer problems!

Student Privacy

South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, the instructor will NOT release or discuss the student's class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but the student. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not gain this information from the instructor – if they need this sort of information, they must ask the student for it. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

Contact Information

- If you have questions during the semester, please contact me sooner rather than later. The sooner we resolve the situation and get your questions answered, the sooner you can proceed in the course. If the presentation of the material is not clear, please ask. Contact information can be found at the top of this syllabus, in the section below and on Blackboard.
- The best way to contact me is by e-mail.

I am available to answer questions in the following manners:

- For face-to-face and hybrid classes, I will be available before and after class to answer questions.
- Feel free to stop by during posted office hours, no appointment is necessary to meet during scheduled office hours. If you let me know you are coming and the topic of discussion, I can be better prepared for our meeting.
- My e-mail is gramzinski@southplainscollege.edu

- I am also able to meet virtually. Please send me an e-mail to set up an online meeting via Zoom or a face-to-face meeting if you prefer a live conversation. I will send you a link for the Zoom meeting or schedule the time to meet face-to-face.

Class Materials

The text we will be using is an open-source textbook, *World Regional Geography* by Caitlin Finlayson, which can be found at <https://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/>

There is no cost to download the book.

It is highly recommended you download the book for ease of reading. The book can be downloaded in several formats. If you have issues downloading the text, please contact the instructor. The text will be used in the course and some questions on the quizzes and exams will come from the textbook.

Topic Schedule

In addition to the readings listed below, links to other resources essential to the completion of the class will be posted on Blackboard.

- Week 1 - Course Introduction
- Week 2 – Europe
- Week 3 – Russia
- Week 4 - North America
- Week 5 – Exam #1
- Week 6 - Middle America
- Week 7 - South America
- Week 8 – Sub-Saharan Africa
- Week 9 - North Africa
- Week 10 – Exam #2
- Week 11 - Southwest Asia
- Week 12 - South Asia
- Week 13 - East Asia
- Week 14 - Southeast Asia
- Week 15 – Oceania
- Week 16 - Exam #3 (Final exam)

Class Schedule

All material for the week will open at 12:00 AM on the Sunday of the week. Please note materials for the week are due no later than 11:59 PM (End of day) the Sunday following their opening, unless otherwise noted. Please check your calendar on Blackboard for specific dates. For example – if an assignment opens on Sunday, August 28, it will be due no later than the end of day on Sunday, September 4.

- Week 1 – Week of August 28
- Week 2 – Week of September 4
- Week 3 – Week of September 11
- Week 4 – Week of September 18
- Week 5 – Week of September 25
- Week 6 – Week of October 2
- Week 7 – Week of October 9
- Week 8 – Week of October 16
- Week 9 – Week of October 23
- Week 10 – Week of October 30
- Week 11 – Week of November 6
- Week 12 – Week of November 13
- Week 13 – Week of November 20
- Week 14 – Week of November 27
- Week 15 – Week of December 4
- Week 16 – Week of December 11 (Finals week)