Course 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. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To provide an understanding of the comparisons and interconnections between world regions based on common geographic themes.

This world regional geography course acknowledges the geographic changes accompanying today's rapid rate of globalization, emphasizing both the homogenizing and diversifying forces inherent to the globalization process challenging students to make critical comparisons between the regions of the world and to understand more fully the interconnections that bind these regions together. The course is organized around and employs a thematic structure for regions of the world with the following themes:

- Environmental Geography
- Population and Settlement
- Cultural Coherence and Diversity
- Geopolitical Framework
- Economic and Social Development

The structure allows a more penetrating treatment of themes and concepts than the traditional country-by-country approach and facilitates comparisons of specific topics between regions.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

No prerequisites required.

Course Objectives

The general objectives for this course are:

The student will be able to identify the twelve regions and be able to describe thematic issues related to each region, to include:

Environmental Geography of the regions - the physical geography of each region as well as current environmental issues.

- Population and Settlement Geography of the regions - in which demography, land use, and settlement (including cities) are discussed.
- Cultural Coherence and Diversity of the regions - which examines the geography of language and religion, and explores current cultural tensions resulting from the interplay of globalization and diversity.
- Geopolitical Framework of the regions - the dynamic political geography of the region, including micro-regionalism, separatism, ethnic conflicts, global terrorism, and supranational organizations.
- Economic and Social Development of the regions - analyzing each region’s economic framework as well as its social geography, including gender issues.
Major Topics to be Covered

- Globalization and Diversity
- The Changing Global Environment
- North America
- Latin America
- The Caribbean
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Southwest Asia and North Africa
- Europe
- The Russian Domain
- Central Asia
- East Asia
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Australia and Oceania