WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY
GEA 2000-B51

Fall Term 2013  Biscayne Bay Campus  Wolfe Center Room 223  Tuesday-Thursday 11:00 to 12:15
Professor Peter R. Craumer
office: Academic 1 Room 313  craumerp@fiu.edu  305-919-5818
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 to 4:30, and by appointment at other times

If you need to get in touch with me to ask a simple question use my regular e-mail address (craumerp@fiu.edu). Do not leave messages for me in Blackboard. Email also is a much better way to reach me than voicemail. Do not treat email as if it were a text message and expect an immediate reply. I will normally answer your emails within a day or two. Questions that I will not answer by e-mail are open-ended ones such as requests to summarize lectures that you missed or questions that require very lengthy explanations that are better answered in person during office hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

In this course we study the spatial variations of the natural and human worlds, and their interactions, across the earth. The geographical concepts that help to explain these patterns will be our emphasis, with the goal of achieving a better understanding of why places not only differ so much from each other in their environmental and social features, but why there are so many similarities among them. We will not neglect, however, the special characteristics of place, which give every spot on the earth a unique flavor, and provide an interesting contrast to the seeming homogenization of the processes of globalization. By the end of the course you will have a much deeper understanding of the “what is where” on the earth, and why, and will see major patterns and themes that will help you to make some sense out of the astounding diversity of the earth’s lands and cultures.

This understanding of the patterns of the natural and human worlds will give you a greater Global Awareness, which is one of the three main goals of the University’s Global Learning initiative. In fact, this course fulfills both the Societies and Identities requirement of the University’s Core Curriculum, and the foundational Global Learning requirement. In addition to Global Awareness, however, we will also examine the world from multiple perspectives, which can range from those of different disciplines to those of different places, cultures, and societies, as well as considering how our own perspectives compare to those. This will fulfill the second goal of Global Learning, that of gaining greater Global Perspective. Finally, we will discuss various problems and issues of world regions and try to understand not only how to address the problems in those regions, but their relevance to our own region, and to ourselves. This will fulfill the third goal of Global Learning, that of Global Engagement.

REQUIRED TEXTS


All other required readings will be posted on the Blackboard site.

COURSE TOPICS AND SCHEDULE

The outline below is only a preliminary schedule, as topics may take more or less time than indicated. All of the specific material for the class will be updated at least weekly in Blackboard, so you should look there instead of this syllabus for dates and assignments for each week. THE DATES OF EXAMS 1 and 2 ARE ESTIMATED AND ARE PROVIDED JUST TO GIVE YOU A GENERAL IDEA OF WHEN THEY MIGHT BE. The readings listed below are only those of the assigned texts; additional readings will be posted in Blackboard.
I. CONCEPTS IN WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY
We will cover the following topics: principles of maps and map making; concepts of physical geography (climate, vegetation, soils, plate tectonics); principles of development and population.
De Blij et al.: read the Introduction.
Atlas: look at pages 8-84 (read the pages that are relevant to the lecture topics)
Readings are also provided through direct links available on the course Blackboard site. Please do not wait until just before the first exam to read them, because often some web links disappear unexpectedly for reasons beyond my control.

EXAM 1 (Geography Concepts) possible date September 24. This exam will include Map Quiz 1 on N. America

II. NORTH AMERICA.
De Blij et al.: Chapters 3A and 3B, plus pp. 603-605 (Geopolitics in the Arctic)
Atlas: pages 85-139

III. EUROPE.
De Blij et al.: Chapters 1A and 1B
Atlas: pages 174-205

IV. FORMER SOVIET UNION.
De Blij et al.: Chapters 2A and 2B, plus section on Turkestan, pp. 394-399
Atlas: pages 206-216, 218-219, 226-227, 176-195, plus the relevant Europe maps listed above

EXAM 2 (Europe and Former USSR) possible date October 29. This exam will include Map Quiz 2 on Europe and the Former Soviet Union.

V. LATIN AMERICA. Map Quiz on Latin America on November 5
De Blij et al.: Chapters 4A and 4B; 5A and 5B
Atlas: pages 140-150, 157-173

VII. NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA.
De Blij et al.: Chapters 7A and 7B
Atlas: pages 228-233, plus the relevant pages for Africa and Asia

FINAL EXAM (Developing World, sections V-VIII) December 12, 9:45-11:45am. [verify in your class schedule] 
Map quiz make-ups will all be done during this period.

PLEASE NOTE: No final exams will be given earlier than this date. Do not make travel plans for an earlier time and expect that I will be able to accommodate you, as that will NOT happen!
This exam is on the last part of the course and will not be cumulative for the entire semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grades are based on: Exam 1, 20%; Exam 2, 25%; Exam 3, 25%; Map Quizzes, 15%; co-curricular activity and report, 5%; class attendance 10%. Grading scale: A 94-100; A- 90-93; B+ 87-89; B 84-86; B- 80-83; C+ 77-79; C 74-76; C- 70-73; D+ 67-69; D 64-66; D- 60-63. These will be the only means of evaluation: extra-credit work to replace poor or failing exam grades is NEVER allowed, so please do not ask to do it. Experience shows that the best way to improve your grade
in the class is to spend more time on the material we are covering, rather than doing other work that doesn’t pertain directly to the exams.

**Map Quizzes**

15% of the course grade will be based on a series of 5 map tests. These will consist of the identification of places or features on a series of regional maps. A list of place names for which you will be responsible is available on the Blackboard site, as are outline maps from which you may make copies to practice on. The number of places you will be asked to learn varies from region to region, and the weight of the quizzes will reflect those differences. There will be a total of 51 places on the quizzes [North America 10; Europe and former USSR 14; Latin America 7; Africa and SW Asia 12; China and remaining countries 8 (for this class you must know all countries, and the remaining countries that we don’t cover by separate map exams are of South and Southeast Asia)]. Please note: with the map quiz counting 15% of the final grade, failure to study the maps will lower your final course grade by about 1 ½ grade levels. Experience shows that, although these quizzes are remedial work to make up for what should have been learned in school, few students will get more than a very small percentage correct without serious study. Please take these quizzes seriously. Aside from not coming to class the best way to fail this course is not to study the maps. There will be no make-ups for map quizzes, with the following exception: at the time of the final exam I will give a make-up quiz for each of the quizzes that we have previously had. At that time only you may choose to take (or re-take) any TWO of the five map quizzes. These make-ups will consist of different places from those used on the original map quizzes. At the end of the semester before the final exam period I will pass around a sign-up sheet for those quizzes. You must sign that sheet with your preferences if you wish to take any of the make-up quizzes. **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER MAKE-UPS FOR MAP QUIZZES, FOR ANY REASON.** If you are late for class and the quiz has been completed you will not be allowed to take the quiz that day, but can choose to do it as one of your two make-ups.

**Co-Curricular Activity**

As one of the Global Learning requirements, you must attend an outside activity that connects to the material of the class, and write a one-page (single-spaced) report that shows you have thought about this integration and how it helps you to develop a global perspective. A wide variety of possible activities that take place during the semester, on either campus, are acceptable for this assignment. I will announce ones that come up during the term, but you aren’t limited to these. You MUST get my permission in advance, however, before using any of these other FIU activities (ones I haven’t posted), and may also propose others in the community. More specific instructions for this activity will be posted on Blackboard. If you wait until the end of the semester to do this activity you might find that none is available because events are often fewer at that time.

**MAKE-UP EXAMS**

In general, there will be no make-up exams for any of the course exams. The only exception will be if you have an official excuse such as from a doctor or Dean, or if you discuss it with me in advance and get my approval. Leaving a voice mail or e-mail message at the last minute before the exam saying that you won’t be coming doesn’t mean that you have my approval to miss the exam. Make-up exams will be an essay consisting of the following question: "Please summarize all of the material that we have covered in class for this exam. You will be graded based on your ability to determine what are the most important facts and concepts and to discuss them clearly and concisely." The exam review sheet can be helpful in determining which material to include in your essay. As with the regular exams, this essay test will be closed book, but it would be extremely helpful to practice writing out this test in advance and memorizing an outline of what you will write. You will then bring a blue book and take the essay exam, writing as much as you possibly can in the length of one class period. If I agree to let you take this make-up, it will be YOUR responsibility to arrange with me a time and to do the exam as soon as possible, normally within a week or two. If you have not done the exam by then, normally your grade will be a zero unless we have agreed on a later date. If you miss an exam and do not make it up, you should consider dropping the class as soon as possible, because you are unlikely to receive a passing grade if you miss one of the exams.

**ATTENDANCE**

Regular class attendance is **REQUIRED** and will be significant part of your course grade. Students who miss class frequently should expect to receive low or failing grades, because much of the material is presented only in class and is NOT in the texts. Furthermore, while much of the material on the exams is in the texts and readings, it will not usually be
in the same order or format in which it appears in the lectures. Therefore, coming to class is absolutely essential: Do not even consider taking this course if you plan to miss class often.

Students should also be aware that frequent and extreme lateness in coming to class will be noted by the professor, as it is in every class. The best way to convince your instructor that you don’t care about the class is to be late or absent, which will not win you any points when grades are determined. Habitual extreme lateness is rude, disruptive, selfish, and immature. The correlation between high grades and punctual attendance is very high in just about all classes.

The material covered in this class is very extensive, as is appropriate for an introductory level class in which the goal is to give students as broad a background in the subject as possible. In order to do well you will have to master the material covered in the lectures, meaning that you MUST be able to take detailed and thorough notes of what is discussed. If you are not a good note-taker you should tape the class so that you will have time to review the contents at your leisure.

**INCOMPLETE GRADES**

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol given at the discretion of the instructor for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student’s own negligence. In any case, more than half of the work of the course has to have been completed. An incomplete grade must be made up as quickly as possible, but no later than two consecutive semesters or it will automatically default to the grade the student earned in the course (which is normally an F in the absence of all work completed). There is no extension to the two consecutive semester deadline. The student must not register again for the course to make up the incomplete. In order to receive an incomplete for this class, valid documentation must be provided for the reason the student is requesting the incomplete. The reason, again, must be out of the student’s control.

**THE BLACKBOARD SITE** ([http://online.fiu.edu/login/ecampus](http://online.fiu.edu/login/ecampus))

The class website is supported by Blackboard Learn, which is now the standard course software used by all FIU classes. If you have not used Blackboard before you might want to do an online or an in class training, which you can find out about from the main Blackboard page. From that page you can log in to this course. When you log in, you will find your available courses listed. **The course Blackboard page is your essential source of all course information so you must use it.**