

**GEO 111**  
**WORLD REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course introduces the regional concept which emphasizes the spatial association of people and their environment. Emphasis is on the physical, cultural, and economic systems that interact to produce the distinct regions of the earth. Upon completion, students should be able to describe variations in physical and cultural features of a region and demonstrate an understanding of their functional relationships. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will be able to:

- a. Understand and apply four key concepts – location, place, link, and region – to geographical issues of spatial organization.
- b. Understand the language of maps – scale, projection, symbolization – and map types – reference & thematic – for use in problems of spatial analyses.
- c. Understand and use basic ideas about basic physical-human processes that interact geographically in the world: environmental settings, population and settlement, cultural patterns, geopolitical frameworks, economic and social development.
- d. Apply these concepts and understandings to describe and analyze the basic physical and human characteristics of a region.
- e. Examine the global consequences of the basic physical-human geographic forces while understanding persistent geographic diversity.

**OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:**

- I. Four cornerstones of geographic understanding
  - A. Location – absolute and relative
  - B. Place – site and situation
  - C. Link – natural, human, time-space convergence
  - D. Region- formal, functional, vernacular
- II. Physical & human processes that shape world regions
  - A. Physical – solar energy, latitude, land/water interactions, pressure systems, wind patterns
    - 1) Climate

- 2) Biomes
  - 3) Environmental challenges
- B. Human
- 1) Cultural coherence and diversity – language, religion, ethnicity
  - 2) Population – growth, migration, settlement
  - 3) Geopolitics – nation states, boundaries and frontiers, international organizations
  - 4) Economic and social development – processes and indicators
- III. Mapping
- A. Language of maps
- 1) Scale
  - 2) Projection
  - 3) Symbols
- B. Types & uses
- 1) Reference map
  - 2) Thematic maps
- IV. Regional geographic profiles – each region studied is profiled by means of the prominent environmental, cultural, demographic political and developmental characteristics that give that region its dimensions, its individuality, and its cohesion.
- V. World regions of study and their focal points
- A. Coreland Europe – relative location, industrial development, unity vs. diversity
  - B. Former Soviet Union – effects of history, political upheaval, & climate
  - C. The Middle East – culture hearths, diffusion, political conflict, effects of dryness
  - D. India – large population vs. sustainable resource and economic base
  - E. China – effects of environmental manipulations; social and economic development
  - F. Sub-Saharan Africa – natural barriers, colonial legacies, medical geography
  - G. Latin America – Mexico & Brazil: global economy & environmental challenges
  - H. North America – water resources, industrial location, and urban sprawl

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:**

To be selected by the Instructor/Discipline Chair.

### **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling

686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.