

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
IDIS 110 WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND GLOBAL ISSUES
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2006

Instructor: Dr. James West, Professor –Economics and Business
Department

Office: Room 215 Comenius Hall; **Telephone:** 610.861.1381; **e-mail**
westj@moravian.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 1:00 -2:30; Tuesday, 10:30-11:30 or
by appointment

Course Description: (Moravian College Catalog)

A broad introduction to the regions of the world using a geographic perspective. The course will involve an investigation of the relationship between place and the following: culture, worldview, politics, economics and society. A problems (poverty, war, health) framework will be used as a tool for understanding both how various regions respond to given dilemmas and how those responses affect the global community. Problems to be discussed will change at the discretion of the instructor. Fulfill M5 LINC guideline.

Course Objectives:

- The student will gain an understanding of what Geography is and how geographical knowledge is fundamental to studying world issues.
- The student will gain an understanding of the role of maps, type of maps, evolution of mapmaking and the influence of maps in understanding worldview and issues. Data collection and graphing techniques will also be explored.
- Students will identify ‘global issues’ and the influence of geography on issues. The role of autonomy and interdependence in approaching issues will be explored.
- Students will employ a regional approach to discover the geography and evolving worldview of the United States and North America.

- Students will gain an appreciation of the divergent views regarding issues of civilization conflict, environment, energy, human rights, economic globalization, poverty and others.
- Students will engage in a team effort to study a region of the world including a focus on the role of Place, Social/ Cultural/Technological, Economic and Political aspects affecting current conditions of the region. Regions will include: Africa, Austral-Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.
- Students will investigate the evolution of regional and global institutions as well as explore the role of evolving global values.
- The course fits within the rubric of the M5 guideline by permitting the study of the interplay of culture and society from the perspective of the integrative discipline of geography. The course involves a study of worldviews including their own and non-Western worldviews. The course raises awareness of common/global issues with an idea to prepare students to contribute positively to our global future.

Required Texts:

Pulsipher, Lydia M. and Alex, World Regional Geography: Global Patterns, Local Lives. 3rd edition. W.H. Freeman and Company, New York, 2006.

Rand McNally Atlas of World Geography, Rand McNally Company, NY 2005

Recommended:

A 'good' national/international newspaper – e.g. NYTimes, Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor

Grading and Class Policies:

There will be two term exams and a final exam at 25% each, a course project(s) and class grade at 25%. Attendance and active participation is required and will be incorporated into the class grade along with any quizzes and homework. Missed quizzes cannot be made up but the lowest grade will be dropped. Lateness to class is disruptive and counts as ½ of an absence.

College policies on Academic Honesty are enforced and can be found in the catalog and student handbook.

This syllabus is subject to change with notice.

Course Outline

August 28 – Preview of the Course: Human Development and World Regional Geography What is the study of World Geography and Global Issues all about? What is Geography, Human Geography? What is a Global Issue? An analytical look at our world: Maps, Data and Graphs . Exploring the concept of worldview. “The clash of civilizations; globalization and localization; the traditional and modern world. The cases for pessimism and optimism; Chapter 1 Text.

September 6 – North America- North America American Worldview: reflections on our time and place. The question of American leadership in the globalizing world. Other issues: population transition, regional differences, wealth and poverty, individualism and mobility. Chapter 2 Text.

September 11 – Middle and South America – Issues to consider: cultural diversity, social structures in society, rural/urban/international migration, external influence on national identity. Chapter 3 Text.

September 17 - Europe – Issues to consider: Economic Union and regional differences, expanded role of the government, Challenges to ‘traditional’ European identity, environmental activism. Chapter 4 Text. Review for Test.

September 25 – (Test 1); September 27 Russia and the Newly Independent States – Issues to consider: transition economies from communism to markets, building institutions of democracy and civil society, environmental crises. Chapter 5 text.

October 2 Russia continued; October 4: Guest Speaker – James Burke

October 9 – Fall Break; October 11 – Project previews

October 16 – North Africa and Southwest Asia – Issues to consider: Islamic culture, oil, water, conflict and violence, the global impact of local issues e.g. Israel/Palestine. Chapter 6 text.

October 23 – Sub-Sahara Africa – Issues to consider: African poverty, issues of population and health, relation to the global economy, gender roles, pursuing development. Chapter 7 text.

October 30 - South Asia – Issues to consider: ancient and layered patterns of cultural influence, social structure and religious diversity, British colonization, urban/rural dynamics, issues of population, poverty and environment. Chapter 8 text.

November 6 (Test 2); – November 8 -Project Presentations

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November 13 – East Asia – Issues to consider: The Rising Sun(s) of rapid economic growth, traditional Chinese thought and influence, regional political powers and transitions, population and environmental issues. Chapter 9 text.

November 20 - - Southeast Asia – Issues to consider: tropical environments, cultural diversity and the challenge to national unity, the ‘tiger’ economies, family structure. Chapter 10 text.

November 22 – No class: Thanksgiving break

November 27 – Southeast Asia continued and Oceania – Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific – Issues to consider: Pacific regional consciousness, the Australian superpower, a unique environment, indigenous peoples and their rights, island societies and economies. Chapter 11 text.

December 4 - Globalization Reconsidered - Project Presentations

December 11 – Project Presentations – Last Day of Class

December 13 - 19 Final Exams as scheduled by the Registrar; 12/12 & 17 Reading Days

IDIS110 – World Geography and Global Issues Fall 2006 - Course Project

The course project for IDIS 110 requires you to take an in depth look at a global issue of your choosing. The topic should be one that might choose to be involved with at some point in your life i.e. a topic that personally interests you. You are encouraged to be creative in your topic selection. (This could also be a local issue with global ramifications). You are also advised **to be specific** in your thesis development so as to avoid being too broad or general in your topic.

The paper should include an abstract and bibliography as well as a well-developed and written presentation. The paper should be double-spaced and presented in **hard copy** on the due date of Monday December 4. Brief presentation of your papers will begin on December 4 though some may present earlier (11/8) on a voluntary basis. Previews of your project are due on October 11.

The paper should be approximately 6-8 pages in length not including the bibliography or abstract. Be prepared to make a brief (5-7 minutes) presentation (no reading of papers). Idea generation and methodology will be discussed further in class.
