

IDIS 110 – World Geography and Global Issues

Fall, 2008 Moravian College
TTh 2:20-3:30; Comenius 305

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office door.

Catalog Description

Relationships between place and culture, politics, economics, and society. How various regions respond to problems such as poverty, war, and health care and how their responses affect the global community. Topics change at the discretion of the instructor.

Goals

- *Students will be able to explain what geography is and how geographical knowledge is fundamental to studying world issues.
- *Students will demonstrate an understanding of divergent views regarding such global issues as the environment, energy, food security, human rights, the global economy, and development.
- *Students will specialize in one global issue and be able to demonstrate how culture and geography shape the global community's discussion of and response to this issue.
- *Students will formulate a personal schema that accounts for the current situation of the world and possible future directions.
- *The course fits within the rubric of the M5 guideline by permitting study of the interplay of cultures from the perspective of the integrative discipline of geography. The course involves study of various worldviews and raises awareness of common global issues, thus enabling students to join civic conversations about contemporary world affairs.

Texts

The books listed below serve as texts for the course. Additional readings will be assigned and put on reserve in the library or on Blackboard.

Lydia Mihelic Pulsipher and Alex Pulsipher, *World Regional Geography. Global Patterns, Local Lives* (without subregions), 4th ed., (New York: W. H. Freeman, 2008)

Rand McNally *Atlas of World Geography* (New York: Rand McNally Co., 2005)
Annual Editions, *Global Issues* 08/09 (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009)

Class

Reading assigned for a class is to be completed before that class. Reading the material before the class is essential for understanding and for useful discussions. I recommend reading both before and after class for the daily assignments (i.e. not for the novels or the epic) and taking notes and outlining (rather than highlighting or underlining). I also recommend spending time at every study session quickly reviewing lecture and reading notes.

Students are encouraged to speak to me about academic or other subjects. Office hours will be announced and they are posted on my office door. You may also make an appointment. If you try to call me in my office and there is no answer during weekdays, let my phone ring for voice mail. Or, call me evenings or weekends at home. I am also on the network during most weekdays.

Participation in class is an important part of this course and of college education; attendance will be taken regularly and your speaking in class is encouraged.

Evaluation

- Evaluation will be based on
 - map quiz (10%)
 - reading quizzes (top six @ 4% each)
 - paper (20%) (preliminary bibliography 3%, paper 13%, presentation 4%)
 - two examinations (18%, 22%)
 - class participation (6%)

The final examination is not cumulative, except as it assumes general knowledge of the first half of the course.

Makeups for quizzes or exams are given with great reluctance, and only when an arrangement has been made with me prior to the test or for verifiable emergencies. Late papers will be penalized. On paper assignments, some papers will be returned for rewriting.

Attendance does not receive a grade, but after 2 absences each absence will result in 2 points being subtracted from your final grade.

Plagiarism will be treated consistent with the Student Handbook and may result in failure in the course. As with all courses, you are expected to keep all notes and drafts until the final grade is assigned.

While I intend to follow the syllabus closely, it is sometimes helpful or necessary to change schedules, assignments, or evaluation procedures. Thus I reserve the right to do so.

Schedule of classes

IDIS 110 World Geography and Global Issues

<i>August</i>		
26	Intro	Syllabus Map Reading

28	Connections	Pulsipher 1-28	
<i>September</i>			
2	Connections	Pulsipher 28-51	
4	Global issues	"It's a Flat World, After All," 7 "Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?" 12 "The Ideology of Development," 17 "Globalization and its Contents," 68 "Why the World Isn't Flat," 74	-Reading quiz -Thinking about paper topics
9	Library/Global Issues	On-line searching "Unipolar Stability," 24 "Bittersweet Harvest," 41 "Deflating the World's Bubble Economy," 46	-Half of class to library -Map Quiz -Thinking about paper topics
11	Library/Global Issues	On-line searching "Unipolar Stability," 24 "Bittersweet Harvest," 41 "Deflating the World's Bubble Economy," 46	-Half of class to library -Map Quiz -Student conferences re paper topics
16	North America	Pulsipher 52-97	
18	Middle and South America	Pulsipher 98-143	
23		"A Special Moment in History," 3 "The Lost Continent," 77 "Where the Money Went," 92	-Reading quiz
25	Europe	Pulsipher 145-185	
30		"Feminists and Fundamentalists," 20 "Europe as a Global Player," 154 "The Politics of God," 174	
<i>October</i>			
2	Midterm examination		-Midterm examination
7	Fall break		
9	North Africa and Southwest Asia	Pulsipher 225-265	Video
14		"Terrorist Rivals," 113 "Lifting the Veil," 126 "Men of Principle," 144	Preliminary bibliography for paper due
16	Atlas		Bring atlas to class
21	Russia and the NIS	Pulsipher 187-223	
23		"Political Graft: The Russian Way," 81 "Ensuring Energy Security," 97	-Reading quiz

		“Nuclear Now!” 103 “Looking Into the Sun,” 108 “Banning the Bomb,” 148	
28	Sub-Saharan Africa	Pulsipher 367-315	
30		“Africa’s Restless Youth,” 33 “Promises and Poverty,” 86 “The Politics of Darfur,” 131 “The Grameen Bank,” 157	-Reading quiz
<i>November</i>			
4	South Asia	Pulsipher 317-359	
6		“Water is Running Out,” 57 “Plastic Bags are Killing Us,” 81 “Cry of the Wild,” 64	-Reading quiz
11	East Asia	Pulsipher 361-397	
13		“The Long March to Be a Superpower,” 119 “Changing Course on Nuclear Talks,” 129 “Asia’s Forgotten Crisis,” 139 “Banning the Bomb,” 148	-Reading quiz
18	Southeast Asia	Pulsipher 399-435	
20		“The Search for Solutions,” 161 “Teamwork Urged on Bird Flu,” 165 “Humanity’s Common Values,” 168 “A Deeper Shade of Green,” 185	-Reading quiz
25	Presentations		Paper due
27	Thanksgiving		
<i>December</i>			
2	Presentations		
4	Presentations		
9	Presentations	Our “State of the World” address	
19	Final Exam 8:30 am		Including retake of Map Quiz

Papers

Congratulations, you have been chosen as part of the campaign team for your favorite presidential candidate, with a promise to be on the transition team once he is our president elect. The candidate has decided that he will give a “State of the World” speech soon after becoming president. As a liberal arts student, you have been entrusted with writing a background report on one of the global issues that your candidate must understand, both for the debates and for his post-inauguration speech. Naturally, your candidate doesn’t have a lot of time, so you need to be brief (5-6 pages, double-spaced) and clear about the issue you have been assigned. You will also need to cite your sources

at the place in the report you use them so the candidate can assure reporters and the public that his information is trustworthy.

Your report should attempt to understand on a global scale the issue you have been assigned. For example, for water resources, your candidate needs to know about the state of water resources worldwide. Thus while a water shortage in Southwest Asia is important, it needs to be discussed in the context of global water supplies. Is it the most important water shortage in the world? Why? What other water shortages do we need to pay attention to? Who does water shortage around the world affect most? The rich? The poor? What history does the world have in paying attention to water shortages? What is being done now? What is likely the future of global water supplies? Is there a likely institutional (e.g., the United Nations) or technological fix for water shortages? What problems might such a fix cause? Are there specific examples that illustrate your main points? How do different cultures affect the way that various peoples see water shortages?

Once you have prepared your report, you will meet with other members of the candidate's staff (i.e., various classmates) who have topics related to yours. Together, your team will prepare a fifteen-minute presentation for the entire staff (class) that synthesizes the main points of your reports. Once the reports have been presented, the entire staff / class will discuss a potential "State of the World" address for the future president and decide which points the candidate / president needs to concentrate on most.

You need to find varied, reliable, and substantial sources for your report. I'd like you to include a selection of at least ten articles from newspapers, peer-reviewed journals, and magazines; official documents and commentaries from reliable websites; and books. Because of the broad nature of these topics, you are more likely to find too much information than too little. Thus you will have to be selective, looking for the highest quality sources. Submit your report via e-mail and embed citations as live web links. Include a "Sources" section at the end of the report. The reference librarians will offer us a bibliography search tutorial on September 11. They are also available to help by appointment and I am available too.

Grammar, spelling and the like are important. So too is style. I would like to see a paper that shows evidence of your pride in your work. Begin with a thesis paragraph and proceed in an orderly way to *demonstrate* that your thesis is true. If you need help after you have read your materials and reflected on them, I will be happy to talk to you about how to state a thesis or how to present your arguments. I will read drafts of papers and make general comments, but they must reach me at least one week before they are due.

Map Quiz List

Political units (capitals and/or major cities) (Be able to locate countries, colonies, and US states, and to write names of cities in their corresponding political units.):

Europe: United Kingdom (London), Ireland (Dublin), Denmark (Copenhagen), Sweden (Stockholm), France (Paris), Germany (Berlin), Netherlands (Amsterdam), Belgium (Brussels), Austria (Vienna), Portugal (Lisbon), Spain (Madrid), Italy (Rome), Greece (Athens), Poland (Warsaw), Czech Republic (Prague), Hungary (Budapest), Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia (Belgrade)

North America (Washington, D.C.), Maine, Massachusetts (Boston), New York (NY City), Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), Georgia (Atlanta), Florida (Miami), Mississippi, Louisiana, Illinois (Chicago), Missouri (St. Louis), Arizona, California (Los Angeles, San Francisco), Washington, Texas (Houston, Dallas), Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico (territory), Canada (Ottawa)

Middle and South America: Mexico (Mexico City), El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua (Managua), Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia (Bogotá/Santa Fe de Bogotá), Ecuador, Peru, Chile (Santiago), Venezuela (Caracas), Brazil (Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro), Argentina (Buenos Aires), Uruguay, Paraguay

Western Pacific Basin: China (Beijing), Japan (Tokyo), South Korea (Seoul), Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Laos, Vietnam (Hanoi), Thailand (Bangkok), Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia/Kampuchea, Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur), Philippines (Manila), Indonesia (Jakarta), Australia (Melbourne, Sydney), New Zealand, Micronesia

Africa: Mozambique, South Africa (Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town), Zimbabwe (Harare), Namibia, Angola, Congo (Kinshasa), Kenya (Nairobi), Tanzania, Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), Sudan, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria (Lagos), Senegal (Dakar), Mali, Madagascar

Southwest Asia and N. Africa: Iraq (Baghdad), Jordan (Amman), Kuwait, Lebanon (Beirut), Oman, Saudi Arabia (Riyadh), Syria (Damascus), Algeria, Egypt (Cairo), Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Iran (Tehran), Israel (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem), Turkey (Istanbul)

Russia and NIS: Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg/formerly Leningrad), Ukraine (Kiev), Belarus (Minsk), Georgia, Kazakhstan

Rivers:

Europe: Rhine, Danube

North America: Mississippi, Ohio, Colorado, St. Lawrence
Middle and South America: Amazon (Rio Amazonas)
Africa: Niger, Congo/Zaire, Nile, Zambezi
Southwest Asia: Tigris, Euphrates
Western Pacific: Huang/Yellow, Yangtze/Chang
Russia: Volga

Mountains:

Europe: Alps, Pyrenees
North America: Rocky Mountains, Appalachians, Sierra Nevadas, Mt. McKinley
Middle and South America: Andes, Sierra Madres
Africa: Kilimanjaro
Asia: Himalayas
Russia and NIS: Urals (divide Europe and Asia), Carpathians, Balkans, Caucasus

Bodies of water:

Europe: North Sea, Baltic Sea, Adriatic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, English Channel, Straits of Gibraltar
North America: Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Chesapeake Bay, Gulf of Mexico
Middle and South America: Panama Canal, Caribbean Sea, Magellan Straits (Estrecho de Magallanes)
Africa: Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika (second deepest in world)
Western Pacific: Sea of Japan, South China Sea, Straits of Malacca
Southwest Asia: Persian Gulf, Straits of Hormuz, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Dead Sea, Jordan River
South Asia: Indian Ocean
Russia and NIS: Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal (deepest in world), Baltic Sea

Other:

Middle and South America: Tierra del Fuego, Galapagos Islands, Yucatan Peninsula
Africa: Sahara Desert
Asia: Spratly Islands, Gobi Desert

Potential Paper Topics (preliminary)

Environment

endangered species/extinction
air pollution
chemical pollution
plastic
climate change

Resources

energy
water
food
population pressures
oceans
natural resource availability (excluding water and energy)

Economic development

globalization
development definitions
development success and failure
global banking
world trade

Political

religion
terrorism
corruption
borders
human rights and genocide
militaries and armaments

Regions

China
Africa
Latin America

Human development

disease
ethnicity
education
age and gender demography
women
modernization and indigenous peoples
medicines
nutrition