

IDIS 110 – World Geography and Global Issues

Fall, 2009 Moravian College

TTh 1:10-2:20; Comenius 309

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Office location: top floor of Reeves Library near elevator

Office hours: Office hours: M: 2:30-4:00; T: 3:00-4:30; Th: 3:00-4:00.

Catalog Description

Relationships between place, location, 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

By the end of the course you should have improved your ability to do the following:

*Think geographically. You should be able to make comparisons and contrasts between the “place” and “location” of different regions of the world. You should be able to explain what geography is and how geographical knowledge is fundamental to studying world issues.

*Discuss a few important global issues. You will be able to demonstrate an understanding of divergent views regarding such global issues as the environment, energy, food security, women’s rights, the global economy, and development.

*Discuss the interplay of different cultures. 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.

*Undertake research in local and global issues. We will spend a good deal of time researching current issues. You 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.

*Formulate a personal schema that accounts for the current situation of the world and possible future directions.

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.

Pulsipher, Lydia Mihelic and Alex Pulsipher, *World Regional Geography Concepts* (New York: W. H. Freeman, 2009). ISBN-13: 987-1429223423

Jackson, Robert, *Global Issues* McGraw-Hill/Dushkin; 25th edition (March 10, 2009) ISBN-13: 978-0078127700

Allen, John L., *Student Atlas of World Geography* McGraw-Hill/Dushkin 6th ed.
ISBN-13: 978-0073527604

World outline. You need a practice map and I need two maps for the quizzes. Thus you will need to pay for three maps at the bookstore, but only pick up one.

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 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. 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%)
- journals (16%) (top four @ 4% each) (you must submit all five)
- reading quizzes (15%) (top five @ 3% each)
- paper (18%) (paper 14%, presentation 4%)
- two examinations (17%, 18%)
- 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 journal 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. Consistently late arrivals will be considered subjectively but fairly by the instructor and may result in 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.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

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

<i>September</i>			
1	Introduction	William D. Pattison, "The Four Traditions of Geography" National Geographic, "The Five Themes of Geography"	Syllabus Map How to read
3	Connections	Pulsipher 3-29	
8	Connections	Pulsipher 29-49	- Journal 1: Using the information about the "four traditions," the "five themes," Pulsiphers' "Connections," and anything you might find on the Internet (which you must cite), construct your own definition of geography. Explain how your sources inform your definition and how your definition includes all or most of the areas that geographers seem to claim as theirs. -Thinking about paper topics
10	Global issues (overview)	"A Special Moment in History," 3-6 "Deflating the World's Bubble Economy," 46-48 Maps 1-13	-Half of class to library -Half Reading quiz -Choosing paper topics -Half bring Atlas to class
15	Global issues (overview)	"A Special Moment in History," 3-6 "Deflating the World's Bubble Economy," 46-48 Maps 1-13	-Half of class to library -Half Reading quiz -Choosing paper topics -Half bring Atlas to class
17	Library/Global Issues (esp. globalization)	"Globalization and its Contents," 67-72 "Why the World Isn't Flat," 78-80 "The Case against the West," 81-85 "The Rise of the Rest," 15-19	
22	North America	Pulsipher 51-93	- Reading quiz
24	Middle and South America	Pulsipher 95-133	- Journal 2: Reflect on the effects of globalization in your own life. For example, what in your life indicates

			that globalization is occurring or is not occurring? Given your own experiences, how far does globalization seem to have advanced? In what ways might globalization make your prospects in life better or worse? What kind of attitude toward globalization might be helpful?
29	Global Issues (esp. development)	“Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?” 7-11 “The Ideology of Development,” 12-13 “The Century Ahead,” 26-28 “The Lost Continent,” 89-92 Maps 14-25	-Reading quiz -Bring Atlas to class
<i>October</i>			
1	Russia and the NIS	Pulsipher 173-203	-Map Quiz
6	Global Issues (esp. energy)	“What Russia Wants,” 127-129 “Ensuring Energy Security,” 102-107 “The Power and the Glory,” 108-110 “Nuclear Now!” 111-116 “Life After Peak Oil,” 116-117	
8	Midterm examination		-Midterm examination
13	Fall break		
15	Europe		
20	Global Issues (esp. conflict and weapons)	“A Mideast Nuclear Chain Reaction,” “Banning the Bomb,” 144-147 “Geneva Conventions,” 157-159 “Terrorist Rivals: Beyond the State-Centric Model,” 120-124 Maps 38-50	Preliminary bibliography for paper due -Bring Atlas to class –
22	North Africa and Southwest Asia	Pulsipher 205-239 (note: include Darfur in the next chapter: 237-238)	

27	Sub-Saharan Africa	Pulsipher 241-281 (plus Darfur: 237-238)	- Journal 3: Pick one of the following “thematic concepts” from our Pulsipher text for your reflection topic: population, urbanization, democratization, or gender. Go to page xiii in this text and look at the questions under your topic to get started. But instead of thinking about one region, as the questions suggest, try to think about your topic in terms of the six regions we’ve studied so far. Are problems similar around the world? Are some regions more affected or more vulnerable than others? Do the issues in one region affect the lives of people in other regions?
29	Global Issues (esp. hunger)	“Africa’s Restless Youth,” 29-34 “The Politics of Death in Darfur,’ 136-143 “Water of Life in Peril,” 57-59 “Still Hungry,” 35-39 “Feminists and Fundamentalists,” 20-23 Maps 51-72	- Reading quiz -Bring Atlas to class
<i>November</i>			
3	South Asia	Pulsipher 283-325	
5	Global Issues (various)	“The Grameen Bank,” 153-156 ““Lifting the Veil,” 130-132 “Is Bigger Better?” 160-161 “Promises and Poverty,” 93-99 “Pandemic Pandemonium,” 40-43	- Reading quiz
5	7:30 pm	Fred Pearce, “When the Rivers Run Dry.”	Prosser Auditorium
10	East Asia	Pulsipher 325-361	- Journal 4: Reflect on what you believe to be the biggest problems in today’s world. What in our readings and class discussions has led you to your conclusions? What possibilities do you see for resolving these problems?
12	Global Issues	“The Long March to Be a Superpower,” 124-	- Reading quiz

	(various)	126 “The Great Leap Backward” 49-57 “Ocean ‘Dead Zones’ Spreading Worldwide,” 60-61 “Drugs,” 99-101 Maps 73-101	-Bring Atlas to class
17	Southeast Asia	Pulsipher 363-399	-Journal 5: Using the maps (1-124) in our atlas as evidence, reflect on how and why the world has developed the way it has. That is, as in the definition of our course, reflect on the relationships between place, location, culture, politics, economics, and society. (Provide the number of any map you refer to.)
19	Global Issues (esp. values)	“And the Winner is...,” 170-174 “Life, Religion and Everything,” 175-179 “The Politics of God” http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/19/magazine/19Religion-t.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print (Mark Lilla, August 19, 2007) Maps 102-124	-Reading quiz -Bring Atlas to class
24	Presentations		Paper due
26	Thanksgiving		
<i>December</i>			
1	Presentations		
3	Presentations		
8	Presentations	Our “State of the World” address	
16	Final Exam 1:30 pm		Final , including retake of Map Quiz

Journals

I'm asking you to write five "journals" of two or three pages each (double spaced, printed). These will give you a chance to think through several important issues and me a chance to get to know you a bit better. A journal is a bit more formal than a diary, but not as formal as a paper or a report. In other words, I'm looking for clear thinking and good writing that makes a point (thesis driven writing), but I won't be as strict in my grading as I might be for a report. You should be able to complete your journals relatively quickly if you are caught up on your course reading.

Papers

You have taken a job with Global Issues Inc., a think tank in Washington, D.C. that prepares nonpartisan public statements on the state of the world. You have been hired because you have a liberal arts education that allows you to undertake research and write on many topics. As your first assignment, you have been entrusted with writing a background report on a global issue. Your report must be both brief (5-6 pages, double-spaced) and clear about your issue. You will also need to cite your sources at the place in the report you use them so readers can know that your information is trustworthy and so they can pursue further reading on your topic.

Your report should attempt to understand on a global scale the issue you have been assigned. For example, for water resources, readers need 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 (geography). Is it the most important water shortage in the world? Why? What other water shortages do we need to pay attention to? Who is affected most by water shortage around the world? 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 (e.g., desalination) 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? Are there different points of view expressed by experts?

Once you have prepared your report, you will meet with other members of the Global Issues Inc. staff (i.e., various classmates) who have topics related to yours. Together, your team will prepare a fifteen- to twenty-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" report for the Global Issues Inc. website.

You need to find varied, reliable, up-to-date and substantial sources for your report. I'd like you to include a selection of at least ten (i) articles from newspapers, peer-reviewed journals, and magazines; (ii) official documents and commentaries from reliable websites; and (iii) books. Part of your task will be to determine which sources are reliable and substantial. In general, magazines and encyclopedias are not considered substantial, but in certain circumstances they might be. Likewise, government agencies (national and

international), reputable non-governmental organizations, and scholars tend to produce reliable information...but not always. 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 a hard copy of your report in class and an electronic copy via e-mail. In your electronic copy, embed web and database 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 10 and 15. 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.

Potential Paper Topics

(The questions in parentheses are not meant to determine what you should cover in your report. Rather they are to help you begin thinking about your topic.)

Environment

1. endangered species/extinction (Cause? Effect? A crisis?)
2. acid rain (What's the problem? Solution?)
3. chemical pollution (What are the problems? Solutions?)
4. plastics (What hazards? What solutions?)
5. climate change (Who will be affected and how? Is the issue urgent?)
6. reclaiming forests and deserts (Is it possible? Affordable? Useful? Necessary?)

Resources

7. energy (Running out of oil? Carbon is too polluting? We know how to fix the problems? Why don't we do it?)
8. water (Some say this will be a greater issue than energy. How so?)
9. food (Is there already enough? Where is there "food insecurity"? Why? How will we get more for the future?)
10. arable land (Is there enough? Who has it? Are we losing it?)
11. population pressures (How do we stop population growth? Or should we care?)
12. oceans (What is the state of the oceans? Who owns ocean resources? Who is responsible for caring for oceans?)
13. natural resource scarcity (excluding land, water, and energy)

Economic development

14. prospects for truly poor countries (Can these countries be saved? How?)
15. global banking (Who has the money? Who can get it?)
16. World Trade Organization (Does it favor the rich? Can it be improved?)

17. protectionism, dumping, and commodity subsidies (Who does it? Why?)
18. digital divide (Who's left behind in the digital age? Does it matter?)
19. blood resources (narcotics, diamonds, gold, coltan,...) (Extent? What to do?)

Political

20. do we need a world government? (Why? Why not? If so, what kind? Are we already well along toward one?)
21. terrorism (Where a problem? Why a problem now? Solution?)
22. corruption (A universal problem? Can/should it be stopped?)
23. borders and immigrants (Should freedom of movement be a human right? What/where are biggest issues?)
24. the International Criminal Court (What success? What issues?)
25. militaries and armaments (How big? Overkill or necessity? Who sells arms to whom? Should sale be regulated? Can there be global disarmament?)
26. refugees (How many? Where? Who takes care of them? When can they return?)

Human development

27. pandemics (Is the world prepared for pandemics? What dangers lurk? medicine resistant diseases?)
28. health care (Who has access? Who doesn't? How can we improve at affordable cost?)
29. children (What are the issues with children worldwide? How should be address them?)
30. education (Who has access? Who doesn't? How can we improve at affordable cost?)
31. age and gender demography (Where are we now? Where are we headed? What issues arise?)
32. effect of modernization on indigenous peoples (Who is affected most? Why and how? Do indigenous people have a right to keep their cultures?)

Map Quiz List

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

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)

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)

Middle and South America: Mexico (Mexico City), El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, 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

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

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)

Sub-Saharan 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

South Asia: India (Delhi), Pakistan (Islamabad), Bangladesh (Dhaka), Sri Lanka, Afghanistan

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

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

South Asia: Ganga (Ganges), Indus

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: Gobi Desert