

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to regional geography is an attempt to study and use geographic concepts and structures in relation to specific regions and countries. Focus is on key countries of the world.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**OBJECTIVES:**

To empower students by helping them achieve a fundamental, multidiscipline, understanding of:

1. Earth's geographic realms, regions, and states.
2. Maps and geocoding.
3. Earth's major landforms, oceans, and ocean currents.
4. Earth's major winds, climates, and biomes.
5. Cultural ecology, how Earth's biosphere and physical environments affect the lives of people and vice versa.
6. Spatial patterns of human movement and development.
7. Cultural landscapes, the imprints of humans on landscapes.
8. Earth's strategic places, break-of-bulk places, central places, core-periphery spatial relationships, and sequent occupation.
9. Borders.
10. Globalization.
11. Geopolitics

**COURSE CALENDAR AND OUTLINE** (GEO112-01 - Spring 2009):

Topics, exams, and dates given in this course calendar and outline are subject to change depending on the news of the day, student interests, the amount and length of classroom discussions, and other factors.

**Week 1** (8/20):

Syllabus review  
Globes and Maps (introduction chapter)  
Latitude and Longitude (introduction chapter)

**Week 2** (8/25 and 8/27):

Plate Tectonics, Erosion, and Earth's Landforms (introduction chapter)

**Week 3** (9/1 and 9/3):

Earth's Major Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation Patterns  
Earth's Major Climate Regions

**Week 4** 9/8 and 9/10):

Earth's Major Biomes (introduction chapter)  
Exam 1 review (if we have time)

**Week 5** (9/15 and 9/17):

Exam 1 (based on lectures, media presentations, discussions, and the textbook's introduction chapter)  
The Subsaharan African Realm (chapter 6)

**Week 6** (9/22 and 9/24):

The Subsaharan African Realm (chapter 6)

**Week 7** (9/29 and 10/1):

The Subsaharan African Realm (chapter 6)  
Exam 2 review (if we have time)  
Exam 2 (based on lectures, media presentations, discussions, and chapter 6)  
The North African and Southwest Asian Realm (chapter 7)

**Week 8** (10/6 and 10/8):

The North African and Southwest Asian Realm (chapter 7)

**Week 9** (10/13 and 10/15):

The North African and Southwest Asian Realm (chapter 7)  
Exam 3 review (if we have time)

**Week 10** (10/20 and 10/22):

Exam 3 (based on lectures, discussions, media presentations, and chapter 7)  
The South Asian Realm (chapter 8)

**Week 11** (10/27 and 10/29):

The South Asian Realm (chapter 8)  
Exam 4 review (if we have time)

**Week 12** (11/3 and 11/5):

Exam 4 (based on lectures, media presentations, discussions, and chapter 8)  
The Russian Realm (chapter 2)

**Week 13** (11/10 and 11/12):

The Russian Realm (chapter 2)  
Exam 5 review (if we have time)

**Week 14** (11/17 and 11/19):

Exam 5 (based on lectures, media presentations, discussions, and chapters 2)  
The South American Realm (chapter 5)

**Week 15** (11/23 through 11/28):

Thanksgiving Break – No Classes

**Week 16** (12/1 and 12/3):

The South American Realm (chapter 5)

**Week 17** (12/28 and 12/10):

The South American Realm (chapter 5)  
Exam 6 Review (if we have time)

**Final Exam Week** (12/12 through 12/12):

The exact date, place, and time of the final exam (exam 6) will be announced in class during weeks 16 and 17.

Exam 6 (based on lectures, media presentations, discussions, and chapter 5)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

## 1. Textbook:

de Blij, H. J. and Peter O. Muller. Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts.  
13<sup>th</sup> ed. 2008. Hoboken New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons.  
ISBN-978-0-470-12905-0.

## 2. College level reading, writing, note taking, research, and discussion.

## 3. Homework:

Students must read the assigned textbook chapters *before* the corresponding topics are covered in class.

## 4. Exams:

- a. There will be four to six exams depending on how much material we cover.
- b. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions based on lectures, assigned textbook chapters, media used during class sessions, and classroom discussion topics. Bring at least two #2 pencils with erasers to every test session for marking your answers on Scantron response cards.
- c. All exams will be graded on a 100 point scale:  
90 - 100 = A  
80 - 89 = B  
70 - 79 = C  
60 - 69 = D  
0 - 59 = E
- d.  $\text{Grade} = (\text{Number of questions answered correctly} \div \text{Number of questions}) * 100$
- e. Do not use cell phones during exams.
- f. Do not wear hats or headphones during exams.
- g. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for this course.

- h. In fairness to students who take exams on time, missing an exam will result in a three point deduction from your make-up exam score in addition to the point deduction due to your absence (see 5. Attendance). Late exam takers will lose another three points for every class session that passes before a make-up exam is taken. A makeup exam for every student who needs one will be available in JALC's Learning Laboratory (room C227) as soon as possible, often by 12:00 PM the next school day. To insure your makeup exam is in JALC's Learning Laboratory when you want to take it, promptly contact your instructor. No makeup exams will be given during or after final exam week.
- i. If you feel part of an exam was unfair or incorrect, please visit me during office hours (9:00 AM to 9:50 AM, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and 11:00 AM to 11:50 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment) in room C220 to talk about it. There, I will give you your Scantron response card and my exam key to review. If you can convince me that something is wrong or tricky with one or more questions, I will give you and all your classmates credit for those questions. Please do not hesitate to do this. When students point out glitches in my exams, I consider that a type of class participation that makes me a better teacher. And, class participation is a factor in your final grade.

#### 5. Attendance:

- a. Section 01 class sessions will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM in room E218.
- b. At the beginning of the semester, every student will receive a 24 point attendance bank added to this or her semester cumulative point score. Six points will be deducted from your semester total point score every time you miss a class session for any reason, including JALC sponsored activities. If you arrive late to a class session, or leave early, points will be deducted from your semester total point score depending on the proportion of the class session you missed. The purpose of the attendance bank is to equitable give all students two weeks of no penalty absences for emergencies, illnesses, and school activities. Students with less than two weeks of absences retain the remaining points as extra credit for good attendance.

#### 6. Class Participation:

Students are required to participate in all class sessions. Your participation or lack of participation, including absences and tardiness, will be a factor in your final grade. Be prepared for class. Read the corresponding textbook chapter(s) *before* we cover a topic. Listen, take notes, ask questions, and get involved in class discussions. Feel free to say what's on your mind, but have respect for your fellow students. You will not be penalized for disagreeing with your instructor,

giving wrong answers, or having unpopular opinions. Currently, there may be no correct or popular answer. Please do not let a perceived dumb question stop you from learning. Trust yourself. Speak up.

### **EARNING EXTRA CREDIT POINTS THROUGH DISCUSSION RESEARCH:**

If we cannot answer a question or resolve an issue during a class session, the student(s) speaking in the discussion of that question or issue may research the answer(s) for extra credit points. Three extra credit points will be awarded for a typed, MLA referenced answer (include paper copies of the source material for your answer), *if you speak to the class about the results of your research at the beginning of the next class session*. Another point can be earned by doing your research through the journals, databases, and other resources in JALC's Learning Resources Center (LRC) and/or their website [www.jalc.edu/lrc.html](http://www.jalc.edu/lrc.html), and submit paper copies of your LRC trail. Late research assignments will not be accepted, unless arrangements are made in advance. Other than appropriate referenced quotes, work you submit to me must be in your own words using correct spelling and grammar. Copying any portion of another person's work without quotation marks and a reference to its source is plagiarism. Students who plagiarize will earn a score of -3 points.

### **METHOD OF FINAL EVALUATION:**

Your final grade = (24 + your total exam points + your total participation points + your total absence points ÷ [total number of exams given in this class \* 100]) \* 100

A = 90 to 100

B = 80 to 89

C = 70 to 79

D = 60 to 69

E = 0 to 59

### **ACADEMIC STRESS:**

Any student who reads the textbook, takes and reviews lecture and media notes, and participates in class sessions should be able to achieve a high grade in this course.

**Success in this class is a cumulative process of daily work.** Intellectual brilliance is neither a prerequisite nor a guarantee of success. Demands placed on you by other courses, athletic interests, job requirements, family, friends, and other social responsibilities may cause you to fall behind in class. If this occurs, you may find it very difficult to catch up. If you are having problems keeping up with the pace of the class, understanding topics, taking notes, completing assignments, or with attendance, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor as soon as possible for help. If you earn a low score on an exam, contact your instructor immediately for help. Don't wait until the semester is almost over. By then, it may be too late. Seek help early and you will find it. JALC offers academic and social services that can help you. If you decide at some point during the semester your cumulative score is too low for you to attain the final grade you desire, you can withdraw from this class. Withdrawal is your responsibility.

Student Success Center. Tutors may be obtained through the Student Success Center. Contact the staff in C219 if this service is desired. John A. Logan College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any student with a disability that may have some impact on work in this class, who feels she/he needs an accommodation, should make an appointment with the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities on campus, Jennifer Frost, Room C219B, Ext. 8516. Before services can be provided, this advisor must determine eligibility and arrange appropriate academic adjustments. ***It is the student's responsibility to register in advance of a school term with this office and to turn in a schedule each term to ensure that there is every opportunity for success in this class.***

English Writing Center/Tutoring. For assistance with writing assignments in any college courses, students are encouraged to visit "The Write Place" in Room E109. English instructors are available for one-on-one tutoring each semester during hours posted at the center.

Financial Aid. Students who receive financial assistance and completely withdraw from classes prior to 60% of the semester being completed (approximately 2-3 weeks after midterm) could be responsible to return a portion of their Federal Pell Grant award. Prior to withdrawing from courses, students should contact the Financial Aid Office.

Course Withdrawal Information. It is expected that you will attend this class regularly. If you stop attending for any reason, you should contact your advisor and withdraw officially to avoid the posting of a failing grade (an E) to your transcript. It is also advisable to discuss the situation with your instructor before dropping.

Course Withdrawal Deadlines. Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> is the last day students can withdraw from classes and receive a 100% tuition refund. Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> is the last day you can withdraw from classes with a W on your academic record for each withdrawal. If you withdraw from classes after Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, you will receive a WP (a passing grade at the time of withdrawal) or WE (a failing grade at the time of withdrawal) on your academic record for each withdrawal. Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> is the last day students can withdraw from classes. Refer to the withdrawal policy and procedure in your college catalog for more details.

### **TEXTBOOK:**

de Blij, H. J. and Peter O. Muller. Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts. 13<sup>th</sup> ed. 2008. Hoboken New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons. ISBN - 978-0-470-12905-0.

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Walter McCarthy  
Office: Room C220  
Office Hours:  
1:30 PM to 2:50 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays  
or by appointment  
Voice Mail: (618) 985-2828 Extension 8787  
E-mail: waltermccarthy@jalc.edu

**DATE:** Fall, 2009

**JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

Carterville and Williamson County .....	985-3741 (operator)
985-2828 (direct extension access)	
Carbondale and Jackson County .....	549-7335 (operator)
457-7676 (direct extension access)	
Du Quoin .....	542-8612
West Frankfort .....	937-3438
Crab Orchard, Gorham, & Trico areas .....	1-800-851-4720
TTY (hearing-impaired access) .....	985-2752

*John A. Logan College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender orientation.*