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Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System

Jefferson State Community College

GEO 100 World Regional Geography

I. GEO 100 World Regional Geography – 3 Semester Hours
Core Area IV, ASCI TSCI (Lec 3 hrs)

II. Course Description

This course surveys various countries and major regions of the world with respect to location and landscape, world importance and political status, population, type of economy, external and internal organization and relations, problems and potentials.

III. Prerequisite
None

IV. Textbook
Hobbs, Joseph J. and Salter, Christopher L. Essentials of World Regional Geography
6th edition. Brooks Cole Publishing. ISBN: 0-495-38950-1

V. Course Objectives

1. Understand key concepts, generalizations, and methods of inquiry appropriate to the study of geography.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the five basic themes of geography.
3. Understand basic map use – reading, analysis and interpretation.
4. Understand the use of maps, globes, charts, and other graphic material in geographic inquiry.
5. Distinguish the worldwide spatial distributions of landforms, climate, vegetation, soils, and other natural resources.
6. Distinguish the worldwide spatial distributions of major demographic, cultural, economic and political attributes.
7. Investigate the differences between the developed and lesser-developed areas of the world.
8. Understand the knowledge of locations and their characteristics is a key in understanding human (global) interdependence.

VI. Course Outline of Topics

1. Spatial Association of People and Environment
2. Key Topics in the Geographic Interpretation of Countries

3. Environmental and Historical Factors in Europe and British Isles
4. Geographic Personalities of Europe's Outer Regions – Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland
5. Recent Political Relationships of the Soviet Union with East Central Europe
6. Territorial and Cultural Evolution of Russia and the Effects Geography Plays on its Economic System
7. The Middle East; Physical and Religious Setting
8. The Arab World, Gulf Oil, and Israel
9. Population, Settlement and Economy of the Orient
10. Climate and Agricultural Characteristics of India
11. Social and Political Relations of India
12. China's Shifting Economic Patterns
13. Japan's Historical Background and its Phenomenal Growth since 1945
14. The Pacific World and Africa
15. The Diversity of Latin American Regions
16. Canada, Physically Fragmented: Divided Core Region of Ontario and Quebec, the Prairie Region, the Vancouver Region, the Northern Frontier
17. The United States: the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, the West, Alaska, and Hawaii

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Written assessments

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. General Course Competencies

- A. The student will understand that geography is a holistic discipline which unites the physical/biological and social sciences.
- B. The student will know the basic terminology used in the study of geography.
- C. The student will be familiar with the basic methods used for conducting research in the field of geography.
- D. The student will know the basic reference tools in the field of geography.
- E. The student will be familiar with map projections and their interpretations and GIS systems.
- F. The student will be familiar with the earth's physical characteristics, how they change and how they support life.
- G. The student will be familiar with the basic theoretical principles regarding population, organization, growth and distribution.
- H. The student will be familiar with the concept of culture and cultural change.
- I. The student will understand basic elements of the modernization process.
- J. The student will be familiar with some of the ways mankind has affected his environment.
- K. The student will know the major geographic regions and oceans/seas of the world.
- L. The student will know the political organization(s) and capitals, for the world's geographic regions.
- M. The student will know the basic topographical features of the world's geographic regions.

XI. Course Competencies Stated in Performance Terms

- A. The student will understand that geography is a holistic discipline which unites the physical/biological and social sciences.
 1. The student will describe geography's relationships to other academic

- disciplines and their relationship to the social sciences.
2. The student will describe how the concepts of spatial relationships, time and change provide the basis for a holistic approach to the study of geography.
 3. The student will describe the major sub fields of geography.
 4. The student will define a working definition for geography.
- B. The student will know the basic terminology used in the study of geography. The student will be able to define and/or explain the terms and concepts presented in the textbook for this course.
- C. The student will be familiar with the basic methods used for conducting research in the field of geography.
1. The student will use a (GIS) Geographic Information System to create maps.
 2. The student will define cartography and describe map making techniques.
 3. The student will describe the major remote sensing devices/techniques and their use.
- D. The student will know the basic reference tools in the field of geography.
1. The student will identify the major reference tools used in the study of geography i.e.:
 - a. atlases
 - b. dictionaries
 - c. data bases
 - d. the Internet & others
- E. The student will be familiar with map projections and their interpretations.
1. The student will explain the concepts of conformality, equivalence and map projections.
 2. The student will be able to identify and explain the virtues and limitations of the following types of projections:
 - a. Cylindrical (Mercator)
 - b. Elliptical
 - c. Azimuthal
 - d. Conic
- F. The student will be familiar with the earth's physical characteristics , how they change and how they support life.
1. The student explain how the earth's position in the solar system, its rotation, its plane of orbit and rotational axis, its temperature ranges and other physical characteristics and how they change and how they support life.
- G. The student will be familiar with the theoretical principles regarding population organization, growth and distribution.
1. The student will explain the major principles involved in population growth, distribution, and organization.
- H. The student will be familiar with the concepts of culture and cultural change. The student will define the concept of culture and explain those factors which cause cultures to change.
- I. The student will understand basic elements of the modernization process.
1. The student will describe the concepts of :
 - a. Industrialization
 - b. Modernization
 - c. Developed
 - d. Developing their origins and their use by geographers.
- J. The student will understand some of the ways mankind has affected his environment.
1. The student will describe specific examples of how man has affected:
 - a. the atmosphere
 - b. the water
 - c. the soil of the earth.
- K. The student will know the major geographic regions and oceans/seas of the world.

The student will identify the major geographic regions and major oceans/seas of the world.

- L. The student will know the political organization(s) and capitals, for the world's geographic regions.
 - 1. The student will identify the political organizations and capitals:
 - a. in Europe
 - b. in the Russian Federation
 - c. in East Asia
 - d. in South Asia
 - e. in Southwest Asia
 - f. in Southeast Asia
 - g. in North America
 - h. in South America
 - i. in North Africa
 - j. in Southern Africa
 - k. in Central America and the Caribbean
 - l. in Australia and the Pacific Realm
- M. The student will know the basic topographical features of the world's geographic Regions and will identify the major mountain ranges, rivers, river systems, and plateaus:
 - a. in Europe
 - b. in the Russian Federation
 - c. in East Asia
 - d. in South Asia
 - e. in Southwest Asia
 - f. in Southeast Asia
 - g. in North America
 - h. in South America
 - i. in North Africa
 - j. in Southern Africa
 - k. in Central America and the Caribbean
 - l. in Australia and Oceania

X. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

XI. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual's race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

XII. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College. The ADA Accommodations office is located in FSC 300 (205-856-7731).